

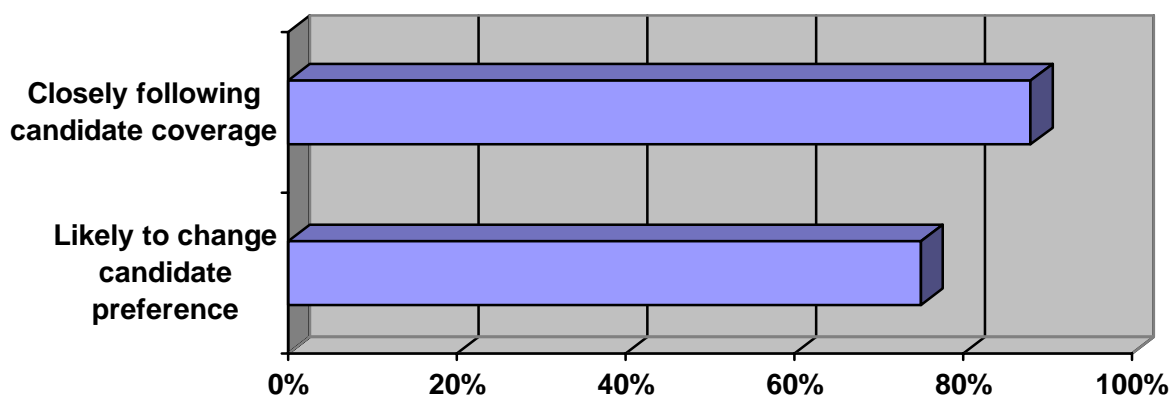
Iowa Election Issues Survey: Republican Caucus Attendees' Views¹



AARP commissioned this election issues survey of 501 Iowa AARP members who attended Republican caucuses in the past and who will absolutely, very likely, or possibly attend the 2008 Republican presidential caucus². The telephone survey was conducted between October 30 and October 31, 2007 by Woelfel Research, Inc. The margin of error for potential caucus attendees is ± 4.4 percent.

Key Findings

- At this point in the election cycle, almost nine in ten likely caucus attendees in Iowa's Republican presidential primary are following the candidate coverage closely (37% very closely and 51% somewhat closely).
- Although AARP members are clearly engaged, they are far from settled in their candidate preferences. Among potential Republican primary caucus attendees, 27% are very likely and 49% are somewhat likely to change their candidate preferences as they learn more about the issues.

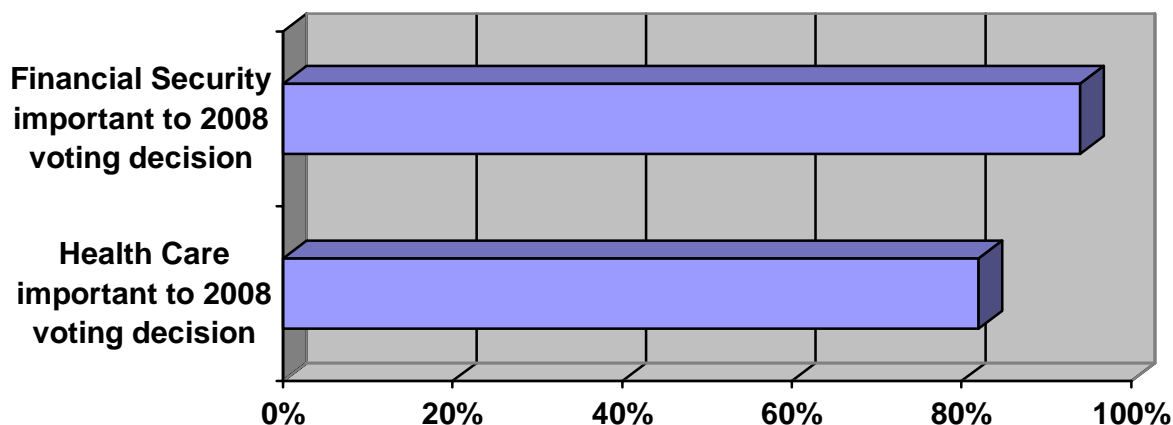


- After the issue of the war in Iraq (18%), these likely caucus attendees consider health care (10%), the economy and jobs (9%), immigration (8%), terrorism (7%), war in general (5%), and national security or homeland security (5%) as the most important issues facing the country.
- A plurality (46%) say things in this country are headed in the right direction, although 38% say they are on the wrong track.
- Almost all potential Republican primary caucus attendees say that issues related to financial security such as Social Security, incentives for savings and investment, and pension protection will be very (53%) or somewhat (41%) important to their vote in 2008.

¹ AARP neither endorses candidates for public office nor makes political contributions.

² Surveys were conducted with a random sample of members drawn from AARP's member database who had attended any Republican caucus since 1988 according to records obtained from the Iowa Republican Party. Members were screened on both voter registration and intention to attend the presidential caucus for 2008. To qualify, a member needed to be a currently registered voter who was possibly (38%), very likely (40%), or absolutely certain (23%) to participate in Iowa's 2008 presidential caucuses. The sample of this survey differs from the previous Iowa AARP member poll in that respondents to the previous poll said they would possibly or likely attend a caucus, but their past participation in the caucuses was not confirmed. A parallel survey of 503 AARP members who were potential Democratic caucus attendees was fielded in September, 2007.

- When asked to rate each Republican candidate on how well he had addressed financial security issues, more than half of potential caucus attendees could not rate five of the eight candidates because they do not know enough about their positions.
- When asked to choose the one candidate who best addressed financial security, 60% say they do not know enough about candidates' positions to make a decision. The candidates named by five percent or more were Romney (18%), McCain (6%), and Huckabee (5%).
- In response to a slightly different question -- which candidate is best able to break through special interest and partisan gridlock to make real progress on ensuring that all Americans can build financial security for their entire lifetime -- 47% did not know enough to judge, but four candidates were named by at least five percent: Romney (20%), Giuliani (9%), Huckabee (9%), and McCain (7%).



- More than eight in ten likely Republican caucus attendees say that health care will be important to their 2008 voting decision (37% very important and 46% somewhat important).
- However, more than half were unable to rate four of the eight Republican candidates on health care because they did not know enough about their positions.
- About two-thirds of potential Republican caucus attendees (66%) do not know enough about candidate positions to say which one candidate best addresses health care. Romney (13%), Huckabee (6%), and Giuliani (5%) were the only candidates named by five percent or more.
- Almost half of potential Republican caucus attendees (46%) don't know enough about candidate positions on health care to assess who could best break through special interest and partisan gridlock to make real progress in ensuring all Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare. Four Republicans are named by five percent or more: Romney (20%), Huckabee (8%), Giuliani (7%), and McCain (7%).
- A majority of potential Republican caucus attendees have gotten information about the candidates and candidates' positions on issues from TV news (86%), newspapers (76%), campaign mailings (66%), televised candidate debates (57%), and new radio (55%). Other information sources used by somewhat smaller proportions include TV talk shows (48%), talk radio (44%), friends and family (37%), candidate forums (36%), campaign websites (11%), and other internet sites (9%).

For more information about this or other Divided We Fail surveys, please contact Jeffrey Love, Ph.D., Research Director, AARP at (202) 434-6279 or jlove@aarp.org or Gretchen Straw, Ph.D., Director Research Integration and Operations, AARP at (202) 434-6334 or gstraw@aarp.org.

AARP Issues poll

Samples: 501 AARP members –previous Republican Iowa Caucus voters who are likely to attend 2008 caucus

1. Are you currently registered to vote in (STATE)?

%		
100	1.	Yes
-	2.	No (TERMINATE)
-	3.	Don't Know (TERMINATE)

2. Even though the Iowa presidential caucus is next year, how closely have you been following the coverage of your party's presidential candidates?

%		
37	1.	Very closely
51	2.	Somewhat closely
9	3.	Not too closely
3	4.	Not at all closely
<1	9.	DK/Refused [VOLUNTEERED]

3. In 2008, Iowa will hold statewide caucuses so that each party can select its own candidate for President. How likely are you to attend one of these caucuses?

%		
23	1.	Absolutely certain
40	2.	Very likely
38	3.	Possibly
-	4.	Not very likely TERMINATE
-	5.	Not at all likely TERMINATE
-	6.	Don't know TERMINATE

4. If you were to attend one of your state's political caucuses, would you attend a Democrat caucus or a Republican caucus?

%			
-	1.	Democrat CODE AS DEM PRIMARY VOTER	
100	2.	Republican CODE AS REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTER	
-	3.	Don't know / no plan to vote (DO NOT READ	TERMINATE

5. What do you believe is the most important issue facing the country? **OPEN END WITH PRE CODES**

%		
2	1.	abortion
1	2.	balance the budget
-	3.	budget cuts
-	4.	campaign finance reform
-	5.	crime
<1	6.	corruption
-	7.	discrimination/bigotry/racism
-	8.	drugs
9	9.	economy/jobs
<1	10.	education
-	11.	the environment
-	12.	guns/gun violence – need for gun control
-	13.	guns – too much regulation
10	14.	healthcare
-	15.	homelessness
<1	16.	housing
8	17.	immigration
18	18.	Iraq
4	19.	morality/family values
1	20.	Medicare
-	21.	pension reform
1	22.	politics as usual
<1	23.	prescription drugs
2	24.	protecting Social Security
2	25.	taxes
-	26.	teen violence
7	27.	terrorism
-	28.	retirement
17	29.	Other SPECIFY
5		War (not specific to war in Iraq)
5		National security/Homeland security
7	30.	99) Don't know DO NOT READ

6. Overall, do you think things in the country are generally headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

%		
46	1.	Right direction
38	2.	Wrong track
16	9.	Don't know [VOLUNTEERED]

7a. In making your decision about who to vote for in 2008, will the issue of health care be very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

%		
37	1.	Very important
46	2.	Somewhat important
13	3.	Not too important
4	4.	Not at all important
1	9.	Don't know [VOLUNTEERED]

7b. Based on what you know about the republican presidential candidates, how would you rate (INSERT CANDIDATE NAME FROM APPROPRIATE PARTY LIST) in terms of how well (he/she) has addressed the issue of ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare? (PRESENT RANDOMLY)

<u>Ask for Republican likely caucus attendees</u>
Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
Former Gov. Mike Huckabee
Rep. Duncan Hunter
Sen. John McCain
Rep. Ron Paul
Former Gov. Mitt Romney
Rep. Tom Tancredo
Former Sen. Fred Thompson

Would you say (INSERT CANDIDATE NAME FROM APPROPRIATE PARTY LIST) has addressed this issue very well, somewhat well, not too well, not at all well, or do you not know enough about (CANDIDATE NAME) on this issue?

Republicans				
Giuliani	Huckabee	Hunter	McCain	
9	12	2	12	Very well
39	28	6	39	Somewhat well
10	5	4	8	Not too well
4	2	2	3	Not at all well
32	48	76	33	Don't know enough about candidate on this issue
6	6	9	6	DK/Refused [VOLUNTEERED]

Paul	Romney	Tancredo	Fred Thompson	
4	24	4	4	Very well
10	39	12	22	Somewhat well
5	4	6	12	Not too well
5	1	3	4	Not at all well
69	27	67	53	Don't know enough about candidate on this issue
7	4	8	6	DK/Refused [VOLUNTEERED]

7c. Which candidate do you feel has best addressed health care, or do you not know enough about their positions on health care to make a judgment?

(DO NOT READ LIST; CODE CANDIDATE NAMES or Code "Do not know enough to judge")

%	
5	Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
6	Former Gov. Mike Huckabee
-	Rep. Duncan Hunter
3	Sen. John McCain
<1	Rep. Ron Paul
13	Former Gov. Mitt Romney
1	Rep. Tom Tancredo
1	Former Sen. Fred Thompson
1	Other
4	Don't know
66	Don't know enough to judge

8. Based on what you know about the republican presidential candidates, which candidate do you feel has the best ability to break through special interest and partisan gridlock to make real progress in ensuring all Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare, or do you not know enough about the candidates to make a choice?

%	
7	Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
8	Former Gov. Mike Huckabee
<1	Rep. Duncan Hunter
7	Sen. John McCain
<1	Rep. Ron Paul
20	Former Gov. Mitt Romney
1	Rep. Tom Tancredo
2	Former Sen. Fred Thompson
3	Other
5	Don't know
46	Don't know enough to judge

9a. In making your decision about who to vote for in 2008, will issues related to financial security such as Social Security, incentives for savings and investment, and

pension protection be very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

%		
53	1.	Very important
41	2.	Somewhat important
5	3.	Not too important
<1	4.	Not at all important
<1	9.	Don't know [VOLUNTEERED]

9b. Based on what you know about the republican presidential candidates, how would you rate (INSERT CANDIDATE NAME FROM APPROPRIATE PARTY LIST) in terms of how well (he/she) has addressed the issue of ensuring that all Americans can build financial security for their entire lifetimes? (PRESENT RANDOMLY)

<u>Ask for Republican likely caucus attendees</u>
Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
Former Gov. Mike Huckabee
Rep. Duncan Hunter
Sen. John McCain
Rep. Ron Paul
Former Gov. Mitt Romney
Rep. Tom Tancredo
Former Sen. Fred Thompson

Would you say (INSERT CANDIDATE NAME FROM APPROPRIATE PARTY LIST) has addressed this issue very well, somewhat well, not too well, not at all well, or do you not know enough about (CANDIDATE NAME) on this issue?

	Republicans				
	Giuliani	Huckabee	Hunter	McCain	
	10	10	2	10	Very well
	36	24	9	36	Somewhat well
	7	4	4	7	Not too well
	3	1	2	3	Not at all well
	38	54	74	38	Don't know enough about candidate on this issue
	6	7	9	6	DK/Refused [VOLUNTEERED]

Paul	Romney	Tancredo	Fred Thompson	
3	19	3	5	Very well
9	39	11	21	Somewhat well
6	4	5	7	Not too well
4	2	3	4	Not at all well
71	32	70	56	Don't know enough about candidate on this issue
8	5	8	7	DK/Refused [VOLUNTEERED]

9c. Which candidate do you feel has best addressed financial security issues, or do you not know enough about their positions on financial security issues to make a judgment?

(DO NOT READ LIST; CODE CANDIDATE NAMES, or Code "Do not know enough to judge.")

%	
4	Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
5	Former Gov. Mike Huckabee
<1	Rep. Duncan Hunter
6	Sen. John McCain
<1	Rep. Ron Paul
18	Former Gov. Mitt Romney
1	Rep. Tom Tancredo
2	Former Sen. Fred Thompson
1	Other
3	Don't know
60	Don't know enough to judge

10. Based on what you know about the republican presidential candidates, which candidate do you feel has the best ability to break through special interest and partisan gridlock to make real progress in ensuring that all Americans can build financial security for their entire lifetimes, **or do you not know enough about the candidates to make a choice?**

%	
9	Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani
9	Former Gov. Mike Huckabee
<1	Rep. Duncan Hunter
7	Sen. John McCain
<1	Rep. Ron Paul
20	Former Gov. Mitt Romney
<1	Rep. Tom Tancredo
2	Former Sen. Fred Thompson
3	Other
3	Don't know
47	Don't know enough to judge

11. How likely are you to change your candidate preference as you learn more about the issues between now and the election?

%		
27	1.	Very likely
49	2.	Somewhat likely
15	3.	Not very likely
6	4.	Not at all likely
4	5.	Don't know (volunteered)

12. Please tell me if you have gotten any information about the candidates and their position on issues from: (Code yes/no for each)

% Yes	
76	Newspapers
86	TV news
48	TV talk shows
57	Televised candidate debates
55	News radio
44	Talk radio
36	Candidate forums
66	Campaign mailings
37	Friends and family
11	Campaign websites
9	Other internet sites
9	Other (specify)

13. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

%		
86	1.	A Republican
<1	2.	A Democrat
13	3.	An Independent
1	4. (DO NOT READ)	Other
-	5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know
-	6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused

(SCRAMBLE CODES 1-3)

14. Generally speaking, would you characterize your political views as being...?
(READ LIST. ENTER ONE ONLY)

%		
66	1.	Conservative
31	2.	Moderate
1	3.	Liberal
<1	4. (DO NOT READ)	None of the Above
1	5. (DO NOT READ)	Don't know
<1	6. (DO NOT READ)	Refused

Demographics

D1. What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS]

%	
1	1. Under 50
16	2. 50-59
50	3. 60-74
30	4. 75+
29	5. 50-64
67	6. 65+
3	7. Refused [DO NOT READ]

D2. What is your marital status? Are you currently....

%	
79	1. Married,
5	2. Divorced,
-	3. Separated,
14	4. Widowed,
2	5. Or have you never been married?
-	6. Living with partner [DO NOT READ]
-	7. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
1	8. Refused [DO NOT READ]

D3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [READ LIST]

%	
<1	1. Less than high school
21	2. High school graduate or equivalent
26	3. Some college or technical training beyond high school
32	4. College graduate
20	5. Or, Post-graduate or professional degree
<1	6. Don't know [DO NOT READ]
<1	7. Refused [DO NOT READ]

D4. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you currently....[READ LIST]

%	
17	1. Employed full-time
12	2. Employed part-time
64	3. Retired and not working
<1	4. Unemployed and looking for work
3	5. Homemaker
<1	6. Disabled
<1	7. Student
3	8. Or something else [Specify: _____]
-	9. Don't Know [DO NOT READ]
<1	10. Refused [DO NOT READ]

D5. For statistical purposes only, please stop me when I get to the category That includes your household's income before taxes in 2006. Was it... [READ LIST]

%		
<1	1.	Less than \$10,000
4	2.	\$10,000 but less than \$20,000
7	3.	\$20,000 but less than \$30,000
14	4.	\$30,000 but less than \$40,000
13	5.	\$40,000 but less than \$50,000
18	6.	\$50,000 but less than \$75,000
10	7.	\$75,000 but less than \$100,000
12	8.	\$100,000 or more
2	9.	Don't know [DO NOT READ]
20	10.	Refused [DO NOT READ]

D6. Are you Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic?

%		
1	1.	Yes
98	2.	No
-	3.	Don't Know
1	4.	Refused

D7. Which of the following groups best describes your race? [READ LIST]

%		
98	1.	White
-	2.	Black or African-American
-	3.	Asian
<1	4.	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
-	5.	American Indian or Alaska Native
<1	6.	Other
-	7.	Don't know
1	8.	Refused

D8. What is your gender?

%		
45	1.	Male
55	2.	Female

D9. Finally, what is your 5-digit zip code?
