

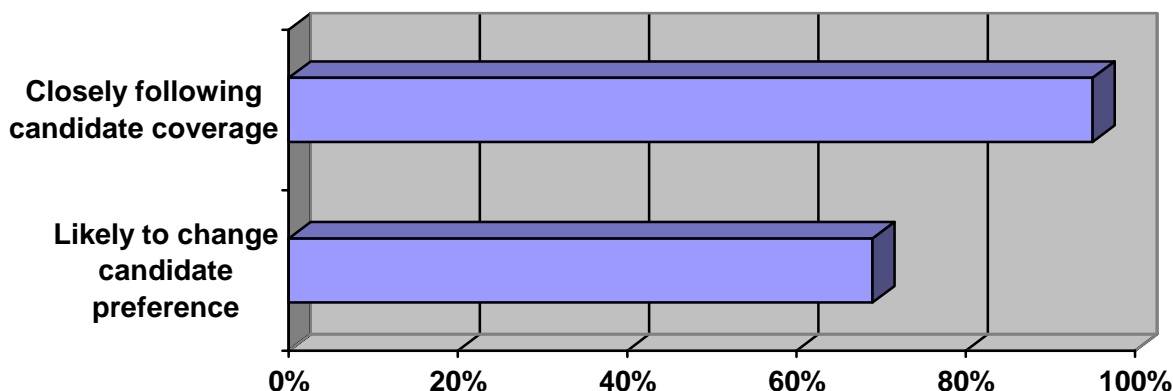
Iowa Election Issues Survey: Democratic Caucus Attendees' Views¹



AARP commissioned this election issues survey of 503 Iowa AARP members who attended Democratic caucuses in the past and who will absolutely, very likely, or possibly attend the 2008 Democratic presidential caucus². The telephone survey was conducted between September 24 and September 26, 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, over nine in ten likely caucus attendees in Iowa's Democratic presidential primary are following the candidate coverage closely (56% very closely and 39% somewhat closely).
- Although AARP members are clearly engaged, they are far from settled in their candidate preferences. Among potential Democratic primary caucus attendees, 23% are very likely and 46% are somewhat likely to change their candidate preferences as they learn more about the issues.
- After the issue of the war in Iraq (46%), these likely caucus attendees consider health care (21%), and economy and jobs (3%), as the most important domestic issues facing the country.

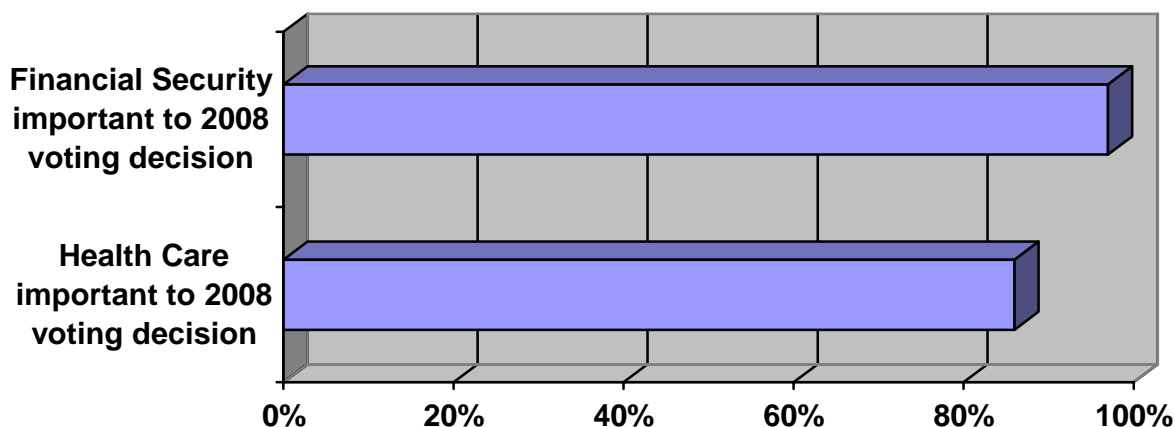


- Almost all potential Democratic caucus attendees say that issues related to financial security such as Social Security, incentives for savings and investment, and pension protection will be very (73%) or somewhat (24%) important to their vote.
- When asked to rate each Democratic candidate on how well he or she had addressed financial security issues, more than half of potential caucus attendees could not rate four of the eight candidates because they do not know enough about their positions.

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 Democratic caucus since 1988 according to records obtained from the Iowa Democratic 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 (23%), very likely (38%), or absolutely certain (40%) 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 500 AARP members who are potential Republican caucus attendees is scheduled for fielding in late October, 2007.

- When asked to choose the one candidate who best addressed financial security, 61% say they do not know enough about candidates' positions to make a decision. The only candidates named by five percent or more were Senator Clinton and former Senator Edwards (both at 12%).
- 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 -- about one-third (39%) did not know enough to judge, but four candidates were named by at least five percent: Senator Obama (18%), Senator Clinton (16%), former Senator Edwards (13%), and Governor Richardson (5%).



- Virtually all likely Democratic caucus attendees say that health care will be important to their 2008 voting decision (75% very important and 24% somewhat important).
- However, more than half were unable to rate three of the eight Democratic candidates on health care because they did not know enough about their positions.
- About three in ten potential Democratic caucus attendees (29%) do not know enough about candidate positions to say which one candidate best addresses health care. Senator Clinton (36%), former Senator Edwards (16%), and Senator Obama (7%) were the only candidates named by five percent or more.
- About one in five potential Democratic caucus attendees (21%) 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 Democrats are named by five percent or more: Senator Clinton (25%), former Senator Edwards (18%), Senator Obama (18%), and Governor Richardson (5%).
- Potential Democratic caucus attendees have gotten information about the candidates and candidates' positions on issues from TV news (89%), newspapers (85%), televised candidate debates (75%), campaign mailings (71%), TV talk shows (60%), and friends and family (53%).

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