

University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll – Topline Results
April 22, 2011
April 2011 poll of U.S. respondents

Sample: 867 participants, margin of error for full sample is +/- 3.3 percent

The Hawkeye Poll was in the field April 4-11, 2011. It was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of UI faculty, graduate and undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science. The poll is with the cooperation and facilities of the Iowa Social Science Research Center, directed by UI Sociology Professor Kevin Leicht. Faculty adviser for the poll is UI Associate Professor of Political Science Frederick Boehmke. The poll is a teaching, research and service project of the UI Department of Political Science. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost fund the poll.

STORY SOURCE: University of Iowa News Services, 300 Plaza Centre One, Suite 371, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-2500

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Respondent Identification: A household sample was acquired of households of 48 states throughout the United States. An initial attempt was made on answering the phone to reach the “youngest male who is 18 years or older.” Alternatively an available female age 18 or older was interviewed. All of those who stated they were over age 18 and willing to participate in the survey were included.

Weighting: The survey was weighted according to state population age 18 and over.

On the topic of Social Security, recent government reports indicate that unless changes are made to the current system, the resources available to the social security program will be insufficient to pay full benefits by the year 2039. Considering this fact, do you support or oppose each of the following changes under consideration:

Increasing the payroll tax rate by 2 percentage points?

Support	48.27%
Oppose	40.88%
Don't Know	9.42%

Raising the full retirement age by up to 3 years?

Support	50.31%
Oppose	42.68%
Don't Know	5.93%

Reducing benefits?

Support	17.42%
Oppose	77.71%
Don't Know	3.48%

Reducing adjustments to the estimated cost of living?

Support	29.55%
Oppose	60.13%
Don't Know	8.94%

Increasing the income ceiling on Social Security taxes?

Support	54.72%
Oppose	32.98%
Don't Know	10.39%

Support for increasing the payroll tax by 2% by partisanship

	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Other	Total
Support	58.85%	50.22%	24.22%	54.75%	48.27%
Oppose	27.24%	39.24%	68.19%	39.98%	40.88%
Don't Know	13.47%	9.66%	6.55%	0.46%	9.42%

Support raising the income ceiling on Social Security benefits by partisanship

	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Other	Total
Support	66.23%	60.33%	40.25%	3.91%	54.72%
Oppose	24.08%	33.52%	42.91%	58.21%	32.98%
Don't Know	9.16%	5.79%	13.25%	2.03%	10.39%

Support increasing the retirement age by partisanship

	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Other	Total
Support	45.48%	4.36%	63.58%	61.51%	50.31%
Oppose	48.41%	46.53%	34.57%	25.71%	42.68%
Don't Know	5.67%	9.86%	0.12%	12.12%	5.93%

Support for reducing Social Security benefits by partisanship

	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Other	Total
Support	9.52%	2.48%	24.27%	10.93%	17.42%
Oppose	85.25%	74.21%	67.43%	8.84%	77.71%
Don't Know	4.79%	0.98%	6.61%	20.44%	3.48%

Support for adjusting benefits to the cost of living by partisanship

	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Other	Total
Support	20.46%	39.83%	34.93%	28.12%	29.55%
Oppose	64.96%	55.65%	5.24%	70.99%	60.13%
Don't Know	14.14%	4.32%	10.99%	0.22%	8.94%

Support increasing payroll taxes by 2% by age group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 or older	Total
Support	53.03%	56.91%	30.34%	32.56%	48.27%
Oppose	23.26%	40.28%	60.21%	60.97%	40.88%
Don't Know	21.94%	2.42%	5.67%	6.47%	9.42%

Support increasing the retirement age by 3 years by age group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 or older	Total
Support	40.38%	41.93%	49.78%	58.22%	50.31%
Oppose	41.01%	56.49%	36.84%	39.43%	42.68%
Don't Know	17.52%	0.12%	8.12%	2.36%	5.93%

Support reducing Social Security benefits by age group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 or older	Total
Support	1.34%	12.74%	2.45%	35.75%	17.42%
Oppose	76.57%	85.86%	70.27%	61.98%	77.71%
Don't Know	9.17%	1.03%	.16%	2.27%	3.48%

Support adjusting benefits to the cost of living by age group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 or older	Total
Support	31.22%	17.87%	53.91%	66.56%	29.55%
Oppose	49.81%	79.15%	32.93%	25.49%	60.13%
Don't Know	18.15%	0.26%	8.09%	7.95%	8.94%

Support increasing the income ceiling by age group

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70 or older	Total
Support	40.38%	68.96%	49.78%	50.36%	54.72%
Oppose	41.01%	2.53%	36.84%	31.96%	32.98%
Don't Know	17.52%	4.33%	8.12%	17.67%	10.39%

