

Survey Findings

Iowa Voters Likely to Attend Democratic Presidential Caucus in 2020
September 17th, 2019

Biden and Warren in close race to lead Iowa 2020 Democratic caucus. Buttigieg now in 3rd, ahead of Sanders and Klobuchar.

- Compared to the most recent poll in July, gains have been seen for Biden, Warren, Buttigieg and Klobuchar, while support for Sanders and Harris has fallen. Tom Steyer receives 3% in the first time his name was included in the menu of candidates.

	2020 Iowa Caucus				
	Sept. 2018	Dec. 2018	Mar 2019	July 2019	Sept 2019
Joe Biden	37%	30%	25%	17%	25%
Elizabeth Warren	16	9	8	20	23
Pete Buttigieg	--	--	6	10	12
Bernie Sanders	12	13	17	12	9
Amy Klobuchar	--	10	6	4	8
Kamala Harris	10	7	9	18	5
Tom Steyer	--	--	--	--	3
Cory Booker	8	6	7	2	2
Andrew Yang	--	--	1	1	2
Steve Bullock	<1	--	<1	1	1
Julian Castro	--	--	1	1	1
John Delaney	1	1	3	1	1
Tulsi Gabbard	--	--	1	1	1
Beto O'Rourke	--	11	6	1	1
Wayne Messam	--	--	--	0	<1
Michael Bennet	--	--	0	1	0
Bill deBlasio	--	--	--	1	0
Tim Ryan	--	--	--	<1	0
Joe Sestak	--	--	--	--	0
Marianne Williamson	--	--	<1	1	0
Someone else	5	7	<1	<1	0
Undecided	9	6	7	9	6

Eight candidates have positive ratings of over two-thirds of voters, led by Warren and Buttigieg.

- Warren and Buttigieg have positive ratings of over 80%.
- Five other candidates have positive ratings in the 70s: Biden, Booker, Harris, Sanders and Klobuchar.
- Compared to the previous survey in July, the biggest gain in favorability was seen by Yang, from 32% to 48% positive. Bullock also showed substantial movement, from 25% to 38% positive opinion.
- Significant declines in positive ratings were seen from Harris (down from 82% in July to 71% now), and Castro (from 61% in July to 49% now). The percent of voters with a negative opinion of Castro doubled (from 14% in July to 29% now).

	Percent with Positive Opinion			
	Dec. 2018	Mar 2019	July 2019	Sept 2019
Elizabeth Warren	82%	83%	88%	84%
Pete Buttigieg	--	44	80	81
Joe Biden	90	88	74	76
Cory Booker	69	79	77	75
Kamala Harris	54	73	82	71
Bernie Sanders	82	83	73	71
Amy Klobuchar	52	62	66	70
Beto O'Rourke	62	68	60	68
Tom Steyer	--	--	--	50
Julian Castro	34	48	61	49
Andrew Yang	--	21	32	48
Tulsi Gabbard	22	32	45	46
Steve Bullock	5	9	25	38
John Delaney	24	47	36	35
Michael Bennet	5	8	24	30
Bill deBlasio	--	--	35	27
Tim Ryan	--	--	20	23
Marianne Williamson	--	7	15	16
Joe Sestak	--	--	--	9
Wayne Messam	--	--	5	2

Among the ten candidates on the last debate stage, Yang and Castro are most likely to be ruled out by voters. Warren and Buttigieg have the highest proportion of voters saying they are under active consideration for their vote.

- Yang and Castro appear to have the least room to grow, as they have already been ruled out of contention by 60% or more of Iowa likely caucusgoers, and are only being considered by less than 20%. This compares to Warren and Buttigieg who are actively considered by 60% or more of likely voters, and only ruled out by less than 30%.

	RULED OUT	Actively Considering
Andrew Yang	64	16
Julian Castro	60	19
Bernie Sanders	46	43
Beto O'Rourke	46	33
Amy Klobuchar	42	40
Cory Booker	38	44
Kamala Harris	37	48
Joe Biden	32	58
Pete Buttigieg	27	60
Elizabeth Warren	21	70

The candidate debate of September 12, 2019 had less of an impact on the opinions of Iowa Democratic caucus goers than the first debate in June.

- 30% of likely Iowa caucus goers say they watched all of the September debate, compared to 35% in June.
- 74% say that they have seen or heard 'quite a bit' or 'some' media coverage of the debate, compared to 83% in June.

Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren gained support after the debate, while Julian Castro was hurt the most by the debate.

- 12% say they are now actively considering Biden for their vote based on his debate performance on September 12th. 11% say the same about Elizabeth Warren.
- 18% say they have now ruled out Julian Castro based on his debate performance.

Iowa Democratic caucus goers are highly concerned about President Trump’s decision to allow waivers to oil refineries.

- Voters don’t believe that President Trump allowing year-round E15 is enough to fix his Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) decision to give small refinery waivers to oil refineries, like Exxon and Chevron. 76 percent believe the Trump Administration actions will hurt Iowa’s farmers and rural economy.

Iowa Democrats think it would be a huge mistake to cede rural areas of the state to President Trump and strongly believe Democratic candidates should make their case to rural Iowans.

- 89 percent of voters believe that it is important Democratic candidates bring up the issue of the Trump oil company waivers and its effects for Iowa, with 57 percent saying that it is extremely or very important. Additionally, 83 percent of Iowa Democratic voters believe that Democrats should campaign in rural areas and make their case to rural residents.

Methodology

David Binder Research conducted 500 interviews by cell phone and landline on September 14th – 17th, 2019 with registered voters in Iowa who stated they were likely to participate in the Democratic Presidential caucuses of 2020. All participants were recruited from official Iowa voter lists.

Results are subject to a margin of error of no greater than $\pm 4.4\%$.