



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

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**The University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll  
Department of Political Science**

**2008 Johnson County, Iowa Exit Poll**  
Co-Sponsored by the Daily Iowan

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The Exit Poll was administered at 15 randomly selected precincts in Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty and Penn Township. In general, every fourth person leaving the polls was asked to complete the survey instrument. A total of 1153 respondents completed surveys with an estimated response rate of 50%. Exit Polls generally do not include a margin of error because the sampling process is not fully random. The best assessment of an exit poll is the extent to which it mirrors known results, such as the actual vote.

This exit poll included only voters who actually went to their precinct to cast a vote on election day. Early voters are not included, and thus technically we can only generalize to those who voted on election day. However, there is no reason to believe that the results for most of the questions asked would differ significantly except to the extent that partisan differences appear in early voting.

Exit Poll interviewers were students in two political science classes at the University of Iowa. Students were trained and provided a script for soliciting interviews.

**Comparison to relevant voting results for Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty and Penn Township**

	Exit Poll		Actual	
<b>U.S. President</b>	<b>Obama</b> 65%	<b>McCain</b> 32%	<b>Obama</b> 62%	<b>McCain</b> 36%
<b>U.S. Senate</b>	<b>Harkin</b> 69%	<b>Reed</b> 29%	<b>Harkin</b> 71%	<b>Reed</b> 29%
<b>U.S. House</b>	<b>Loebsack</b> 58%	<b>Miller-Meeks</b> 36%	<b>Loebsack</b> 61%	<b>Miller-Meeks</b> 33%

<b>Partisan Breakdown</b>	Exit Poll			Johnson County Actual		
	<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>R</b>
	43%	33%	24%	47%	34%	19%

**Which quality in a candidate matters most?**

14%	Stands up for his/her beliefs	23%	Strong leadership qualities
16%	Cares about people like me	0%	Can win
8%	Has the right experience	15%	Trust him/her more
4%	Most liberal	13%	Fair and just
6%	True conservative		

**Which one or two issues mattered most in your vote for *President*? (Check ONE or TWO)**

41%	Condition of the Natl Economy	6%	Abortion
8%	Environmental Concerns	9%	Health Care/Prescription Drugs
22%	Character of the Candidates	9%	Foreign Policy
31%	Vision for the Future	14%	War in Iraq
10%	Education	3%	Gay Marriage/Civil Unions
9%	Homeland Security/Terrorism	4%	Personal Financial Situation

**What is the SINGLE most important problem our *local* area needs to solve? (Check only ONE)**

7%	Crime	5%	Air and Water Quality
13%	Education	10%	High Taxes
24%	Economy/Jobs	2%	Corruption
2%	Racial and Ethnic Tension	1%	Traffic
6%	Parking	3%	Housing
8%	Growth and Sprawl	6%	Health Care Availability
12%	Flood Recovery		

**Did you register to vote today?**

15%	Yes
85%	No

**Which of the following statements best reflects your opinion on students, bars, and drinking?**

- 40% The drinking age should remain at 21 and bar access limited to those old enough to drink
- 25% The drinking age should remain at 21, but students under 21 should be able to enter bars
- 35% The drinking age should be lowered to 18

**Who do you think should be MOST responsible for addressing binge drinking in Iowa City?**

- 17% The University of Iowa
- 18% The City Council
- 16% Local Bar Owners
- 49% Students themselves

**How high a priority is addressing the binge drinking issue relative to other things that might need to be done?**

- 9% Highest Priority
- 44% Medium Priority
- 38% Low Priority
- 9% Should not be a priority at all

**Are you personally feeling the effects of the credit crunch?**

- 45% Yes
- 55% No

**Do you believe the media has been biased in its reporting on Barack Obama based upon his race?**

- 41% Yes
- 59% No

**Do you consider yourself**

- 35% Liberal
- 41% Moderate
- 24% Conservative

**Do you think of yourself as a (an)**

- 43% Democrat
- 33% Independent (Incl Green/Liberarian/Other)
- 24% Republican

**Please indicate your sex:**

- 53% Female
- 47% Male

**What is your race?**

- 4% African-American
- 92% White/Caucasian
- 2% Asian-American
- 3% Other Not Listed

**First time Voter?**

- 14% Yes
- 86% No