



2025 IOWA

Homelessness Poll

1. Do you think homelessness in Iowa is increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Increasing</i>	45%	52%	64%	53%
<i>Decreasing</i>	5%	3%	3%	4%
<i>Staying About the Same</i>	34%	29%	21%	29%
<i>Unsure</i>	16%	16%	11%	15%

2. Do you think homeless encampments on streets and in other public places pose a threat to public safety?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	67%	37%	28%	46%
<i>No</i>	14%	37%	40%	29%
<i>Unsure</i>	19%	25%	32%	25%

3. How often do you avoid areas where individuals are living in tents on the streets and in other public places?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Always</i>	41%	15%	11%	24%
<i>Usually</i>	13%	15%	16%	14%
<i>Sometimes</i>	15%	21%	28%	21%
<i>Never</i>	17%	30%	29%	24%
<i>Unsure</i>	14%	19%	16%	16%

4. How often do you avoid gas stations or convenience stores where there are aggressive panhandlers on the property?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Always</i>	47%	17%	15%	28%
<i>Usually</i>	12%	18%	17%	15%
<i>Sometimes</i>	14%	21%	26%	20%
<i>Never</i>	18%	31%	33%	26%
<i>Unsure</i>	10%	13%	10%	11%

5. Some cities around the country have outlawed panhandling. Should Iowa outlaw panhandling?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	64%	44%	31%	48%
<i>No</i>	14%	23%	41%	25%
<i>Unsure</i>	22%	33%	28%	27%

6. Would you support or oppose requiring cities to enforce their bans on street camping as a condition of receiving increased homelessness funding?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Support</i>	59%	39%	26%	43%
<i>Oppose</i>	14%	24%	35%	23%
<i>Unsure</i>	28%	37%	39%	34%

7. Would you support or oppose requiring the state to audit taxpayer-funded homeless service organizations for how they spend their money?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Support</i>	64%	39%	34%	47%
<i>Oppose</i>	12%	22%	34%	22%
<i>Unsure</i>	24%	39%	32%	31%

8. What do you think is the biggest root cause of homelessness: addiction and mental illness or lack of good-paying jobs and affordable housing?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Addiction & Mental Illness</i>	67%	40%	45%	52%
<i>Lack of Jobs & Housing</i>	18%	42%	42%	33%
<i>Unsure</i>	15%	18%	13%	15%

9. Which of the following two taxpayer-funded programs do you think is more helpful in reducing long-term, chronic homelessness: subsidized housing programs or mental health and substance abuse programs?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Subsidized Housing</i>	17%	29%	40%	28%
<i>Wellness Programs</i>	63%	50%	42%	53%
<i>Unsure</i>	19%	21%	18%	19%

10. Do you think individuals suffering from unmanaged, severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia, should be legally compelled to enter a healthcare setting where they can be treated and stabilized?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	67%	55%	44%	56%
<i>No</i>	10%	16%	27%	17%
<i>Unsure</i>	23%	30%	29%	27%

11. Should homeless individuals have a right to camp on the streets or in public places, such as parks?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	18%	25%	37%	26%
<i>No</i>	71%	50%	37%	55%
<i>Unsure</i>	11%	25%	25%	20%

12. Should Iowa prohibit camping on streets and sidewalks?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	73%	55%	40%	57%
<i>No</i>	20%	24%	43%	28%
<i>Unsure</i>	7%	21%	18%	15%

13. Would you be more likely to support a ban on street camping if there were increased access to homeless shelters and camps with access to security, sanitation, and medical treatment away from residential areas?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	67%	66%	74%	69%
<i>No</i>	13%	11%	11%	12%
<i>Unsure</i>	19%	23%	16%	19%

14. New research indicates that nearly 40 percent of unsheltered homeless individuals may be registered sex offenders. Knowing this, do you think law enforcement should have more authority to identify homeless individuals and remove street encampments?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	75%	54%	42%	59%
<i>No</i>	9%	14%	30%	17%
<i>Unsure</i>	16%	31%	28%	24%

15. Do you think it is more compassionate to allow homeless individuals to set up camp wherever they choose or move them to secure camping locations with access to water and hygiene facilities?

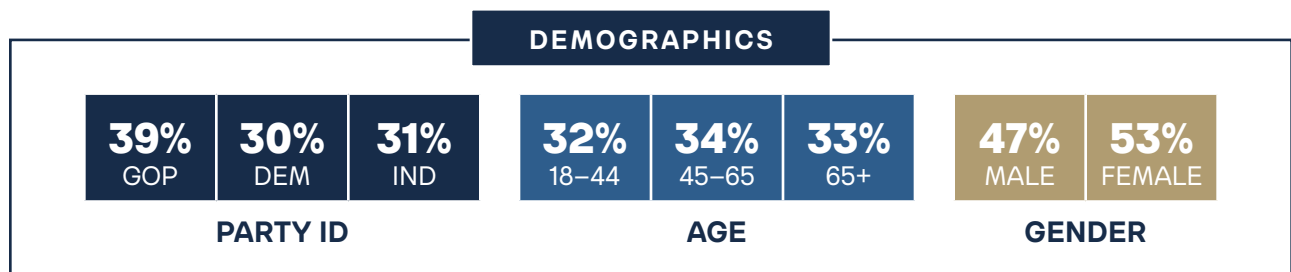
	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Camp Wherever They Choose</i>	8%	8%	8%	8%
<i>Secure Camping Locations</i>	84%	78%	83%	82%
<i>Unsure</i>	8%	15%	9%	10%

16. Do you think elected leaders in Des Moines are doing enough to help reduce homelessness in the city?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Doing Enough</i>	15%	8%	2%	9%
<i>Not Doing Enough</i>	42%	60%	74%	57%
<i>Unsure</i>	43%	32%	24%	34%

17. Generally speaking, do you think laws that criminalize homelessness would help improve public safety in Iowa?

	GOP	IND	DEM	ALL VOTERS
<i>Yes</i>	46%	25%	8%	28%
<i>No</i>	27%	53%	73%	49%
<i>Unsure</i>	27%	22%	18%	23%



Results for this poll were collected using a sampling frame that gathered responses from 1,117 likely Iowa voters during live calls, online panels, and automated telephone interviews conducted by Cor Strategies, Inc.

The survey was conducted January 28–February 1, 2025. The margin of sampling error is ±2.93 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher or lower for subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data were post-stratified using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and the state election authorities.

Demographic information for actual voters in past elections was used to construct sample target weights.

Cicero Institute paid for all costs associated with this survey.

