

Methodology

The New York Times/Siena College Research Institute survey of 1,689 registered voters in Iowa, including 584 Democratic caucus-goers, was conducted from Jan. 20 to Jan. 23.

The survey is a response-rate adjusted stratified sample selected from active registered voters on the L2 voter file. Registered Democrats were oversampled and represented 54 percent of respondents.

The probability of selection was equal to the reciprocal of telephone coverage in a respondent's strata and their modeled probability of responding to the survey, based on data from a Times/Siena poll of Iowa conducted in Oct. 2018.

Voters were contacted on cellular and landline telephones. Interviewers asked for the person named on the voter file, and ended the interview if the intended respondent was not available. Over all, 51 percent of respondents were reached on a cell phone, and 49 percent were reached on a landline. Quotas were defined by the interaction between party, region and whether a voter was age 45 or older.

The sample was split by party registration and each partisan subgroup was weighted to match the composition of active registered voters by party for age, race, region, turnout, self-reported education, and the interaction of gender and whether a respondent was over age 45.

The estimates for the educational composition of each partisan subgroup was based on a model of self-reported education in the previous Times/Siena poll of Iowa, adjusted to match estimates for the educational attainment of all registered voters, based on data from the American Community Survey (2016, 2017 and 2018 1-year data, extrapolated to the present) and the voting and registration supplement to the Census Current Population Survey (November 2018).

The final registered voter weight balanced the three partisan groups to match their share of active registered voters on the L2 voter file.

The likely Iowa Democratic caucus electorate was defined in two steps.

First, registered voters were asked whether they were likelier to participate in the Democratic caucus, Republican caucus, or wouldn't caucus.

Second, voters who said they were likelier to participate in the Democratic caucus were asked about their likelihood of caucusing, and they were assigned a probability of caucusing based on the relationship between self-reported likelihood of voting and validated turnout in Times/Siena surveys from 2018.

The margin of error due to sampling, including the design effect, is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points for registered voters and plus or minus 4.8 percentage points percent for the Democratic caucus electorate.