



From: Tom Jensen, Director of Public Policy Polling

Subject: Braley leads Ernst by 1 in Iowa Senate race, voters disagree with Ernst on EPA

Date: October 17, 2014

Public Policy Polling's newest Iowa survey finds Bruce Braley retaking a small lead in the race for the first time since May. He is at 48% to 47% for Joni Ernst with just 5% of voters remaining undecided. Ernst had held a 2 point lead on PPP's previous two polls of the race.

Key findings from the survey include:

-Braley is leading Ernst based on a 46/42 advantage with independent voters, erasing a 44/34 lead Ernst had with them three weeks ago. This is a race where independents truly will make the difference because both candidates are up by an identical spread within their own party- 83/15 for Braley with Democrats, 83/15 for Ernst with Republicans.

-One stance that may be causing Ernst a lot of trouble is her support for shutting down the Environmental Protection Agency, which the League of Conservative Voters has been spotlighting in its latest television ads. Only 29% of voters agree with Ernst's position in regards to the EPA, with 54% saying they oppose her on that issue. Both Democrats (78/14) and independents (60/24) overwhelmingly dissent from Ernst on the issue, and even within her own party just 47% of Republicans agree with her.

-Ernst and Braley now have nearly identical favorability ratings, with Ernst's at 48% and Braley's at 47%. This represents progress for Braley- on our last poll in late September, Ernst had a favorability rating 5 points higher than his.

PPP interviewed 714 likely voters on October 15th and 16th on behalf of the League of Conservation Voters. The poll's margin of error is +/-3.6%.

