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KBUR Poll Shows Hubbell with Wide Lead in Democratic Primary Race for Iowa Governor

Schools and health care top list of most important issues

With less than a month to go until the June 5th primary election, retired Des Moines businessman Fred Hubbell has moved to the top of the six-person Democratic field in the race to compete against incumbent Republican Governor Kim Reynolds, according to a poll completed by KBUR AM/FM, Burlington, Iowa.

The poll of 2,315 likely Democratic primary voters shows Hubbell with a lead of more than two-to-one over the next closest challenger, State Senator Nate Boulton, 46% to 20%. The other four candidates are under ten percent.

“Hubbell’s support is widespread across the board by gender, region, age, philosophical self-identification and congressional district,” said Steve Hexom, KBUR Program Director and host of the Morning Show. “His support is well above the 35% threshold for a state convention, which is somewhat of a surprise in this multi-candidate field.”

“The strong lead for Hubbell is likely related to his advantage in TV advertising which boosts name recognition,” said Robin Johnson, host of KBUR’s Heartland Politics show. “According to an *Iowa Starting Line* analysis on April 18, Hubbell was the first candidate to start TV advertising and had outspent his next closest rival, Sen. Boulton, on TV by about a five-to-one margin.”

Below are the support levels for each candidate:

Fred Hubbell	46%
Nate Boulton	20%
Cathy Glasson	7%
John Norris	5%
Andy McGuire	3%
Ross Wilburn	1%
Undecided	18%

Among other key findings in the poll:

- Hubbell's support is highest among voters 50+ while Boulton leads among voters 30-39. Hubbell maintains strong leads in all four Iowa congressional districts and there is little variation by gender or among progressives and moderates.
- The top issues for Iowa Democrats are education (24%) and health care (21%). Women's rights was the third most important issue (13%). Next highest were jobs/economy (9%), infrastructure (8%) and taxes (7%). Glasson performs slightly better among voters concerned about the economy.
- Seven percent of likely voting Democrats have a favorable opinion of President Trump, which is in line with estimates of the number of Obama-Trump voters after the 2016 election. Iowa had the most Obama-Trump counties of any state in the nation. Favorable opinions of Trump were more likely among blue collar and conservative Democrats.
- Iowa Democrats by a two to one margin identify themselves as blue collar versus white collar (61% to 31%).
- In a pop culture question similar to previous KBUR polls, the most popular type of music among Iowa Democrats is country (26%), followed by rock (19%), and classical (15%). Next were pop and jazz at 8%, Christian (5%) and rap (2%). Hubbell leads among all categories of music except rap, where Boulton is ahead.

The poll was conducted May 5-6 by Remington Research Group, Kansas City, MO. The survey was weighted to match expected turnout demographics for the 2018 Democratic Primary Election. Margin of Error is +/-2.04% with a 95% level of confidence.