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IOWA: TRUMP TAKES CAUCUS LEAD

Cruz in second

West Long Branch, NJ – In a poll conducted largely before the announcement that he would not participate in the final debate prior to Iowa’s caucuses, Donald Trump leads Ted Cruz in the first contest of 2016. The latest **Monmouth University Poll** of likely Iowa Republican caucusgoers finds that turnout will be a significant factor in determining who emerges victorious.

Donald Trump earns 30% support and Ted Cruz has 23% support when likely caucusgoers are asked who they will caucus for on February 1st. Marco Rubio (16%) and Ben Carson (10%) are in the field’s second tier. The remaining candidates earn less than 5% support each, including Jeb Bush (4%), Mike Huckabee (3%), John Kasich (3%), Rand Paul (3%), Chris Christie (2%), and Carly Fiorina (2%).

Cruz’s support has basically held steady since his 24% showing in December when he led the field, while Trump’s support has grown substantially from 19% last month. The current result is Trump’s best showing in any Monmouth Iowa caucus poll since he entered the race. Rubio is off by one point and Carson is down by 3 points since last month’s poll.

Cruz does particularly well among registered Republicans who have a history of voting in state primaries. He leads Trump by a 28% to 23% margin among this group of regular party voters, with Rubio at 14% and Carson at 13%. Trump does better among those who do not have a history of taking part in party elections. This includes 44% support among registered Republicans who are general election voters and 50% support among registered independents who say they will attend their local Republican caucus on Monday. Rubio comes in second among non-primary GOP voters at 20% with Cruz at 13%. Rubio also places second among independents who will caucus at 14% with Cruz at 10%.

Since Trump draws a disproportionate amount of support from voters who are not political diehards, he will need a strong turnout to emerge victorious on February 1st. Based on past voting history and voters’ stated intentions to attend this year’s caucuses, the current poll estimates turnout will be

approximately 170,000 voters, which would far surpass the 122,000 record GOP turnout from four years ago. Increasing the poll's turnout projection to 200,000 voters widens Trump's lead to 32% over 21% for Cruz, with Rubio at 16% and Carson at 9%. Decreasing the turnout projection to 130,000 voters, which would still be a record level, puts the race in a tie at 26% for Trump and 26% for Cruz, with Rubio at 15% and Carson at 12%.

"Turnout is basically what separates Trump and Cruz right now," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ. "Trump's victory hinges on having a high number of self-motivated, lone wolf caucusgoers show up Monday night."

Nearly half (45%) of likely caucusgoers report having been contacted by a campaign to obtain their support. This includes 25% who have been contacted by the Cruz campaign, 17% by Rubio, 12% by Carson, and 13% by Trump. Among those who have been contacted by a campaign, 28% say they are caucusing for Cruz and 25% support Trump. Among those who have not received a campaign contact, 35% will be caucusing for Trump and 19% for Cruz.

A majority (54%) of voters say they will be attending their local caucus with another person, while 42% will be going alone. Among those who will be caucusing with a friend or family member, 27% support Cruz and 27% support Trump. Among those who will be caucusing alone, Trump gets 33% support to 20% for Cruz.

Nearly half (48%) of likely caucusgoers say they are completely decided on who they will support, which is up significantly from 20% who said the same last month. Another 38% say they have a strong preference but are still willing to keep their mind open in the final days. Just 1-in-7 have only a slight preferences at this late date (7%) or say they are still really undecided (8%). Majorities of Trump (54%), Cruz (60%), and Carson (59%) supporters say their minds are completely made up while just 37% of Rubio voters say the same.

One thing Trump still has going for him is that 6-in-10 GOP voters in Iowa would be content to see him as their party's nominee – including 29% who would be enthusiastic about this outcome and 31% who would be satisfied. Another 20% would be dissatisfied and just 19% say they would be upset. However, slightly more say the same about Cruz – 23% would be enthusiastic and 44% would be satisfied if Cruz was the nominee, with 21% dissatisfied and just 9% upset. Similarly, 18% would be enthusiastic and 49% satisfied if Rubio became the nominee, with 21% dissatisfied and 7% upset. On the other hand, only 4-in-10 would be enthusiastic (8%) or satisfied (35%) if Bush got the GOP nomination, with 34% dissatisfied and 20% upset.

The major candidates have all seen their personal ratings dip in the past month. Trump holds a favorable rating of 50% – down 4 points since December – and a 39% unfavorable rating. Cruz holds a favorable rating of 59% – down 8 points since December – and a 31% unfavorable rating. Rubio holds a

favorable rating of 62% – down 8 points since December – and an unfavorable rating of just 22%. Bush holds a favorable rating of only 30% – down 8 points since December – and a 53% unfavorable rating.

Iowa governor Terry Branstad recently called on Iowa voters not to support Cruz because of the candidate's stand on ethanol. Nearly 9-in-10 (88%) voters have heard about their governor's statement, but the vast majority (67%) say it will have no bearing on their vote. The remainder are split, with 17% saying the governor's statement makes them less likely to support Cruz and 15% saying it actually makes them more likely to support Cruz.

--Key demographics in caucus support--

Very conservative voters prefer Cruz (36%) over Trump (27%), followed by Rubio (15%) and Carson (10%). Somewhat conservative voters choose Trump (34%) over Cruz (16%), Rubio (14%), and Carson (11%). Moderate voters prefer Trump (29%) and Rubio (21%), followed by Bush (10%), with Cruz (7%) and Carson (7%) registering in the single digits.

Evangelical voters, who make up a majority of the Iowa GOP caucus electorate, back Cruz (32%) over Trump (25%). Trump currently has a 36% to 12% edge over Cruz among non-evangelical voters, with Rubio standing at 15% among this group. Cruz maintains an advantage among tea party supporters. He commands 41% support among this group compared to 27% for Trump. Trump leads Cruz by 33% to 11%, with Rubio clocking in at 19%, among voters who do not support the tea party movement.

Trump draws similar support among voters under age 50 (28%) and those age 50 and older (31%). Cruz has slightly stronger support among voters under 50 (28%) than those 50 and older (21%). Likewise, Trump draws fairly equally among men (32%) and women (28%), as does Cruz – 22% men and 24% women.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from January 23 to 26, 2016 with 500 Iowa voters likely to attend the Republican presidential caucuses in February 2016. This sample has a margin of error of ± 4.4 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

- Who would you support if the presidential caucus was being held today and the candidates for the Republican nomination were – [NAMES WERE ROTATED]

	January 2016	December 2015	October 2015	August 2015	July 2015
Donald Trump	30%	19%	18%	23%	13%
Ted Cruz	23%	24%	10%	9%	7%
Marco Rubio	16%	17%	10%	4%	5%
Ben Carson	10%	13%	32%	23%	8%
Jeb Bush	4%	6%	8%	5%	7%
Rand Paul	3%	4%	3%	3%	5%
John Kasich	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%
Mike Huckabee	3%	2%	2%	2%	6%
Chris Christie	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Carly Fiorina	2%	3%	5%	10%	3%
Rick Santorum	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Jim Gilmore	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
(VOL) Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lindsey Graham	n/a	<1%	0%	0%	0%
Bobby Jindal	n/a	n/a	2%	1%	4%
George Pataki	n/a	0%	0%	<1%	<1%
Rick Perry	n/a	n/a	n/a	1%	3%
Scott Walker	n/a	n/a	n/a	7%	22%
(VOL) "Uncommitted"	0%	1%	1%	n/a	n/a
(VOL) Undecided	3%	4%	5%	5%	11%
(n)	500	425	400	405	452

- And who would be your second choice?

	January 2016	December 2015	October 2015	August 2015	July 2015
Ted Cruz	20%	18%	14%	13%	7%
Marco Rubio	16%	17%	14%	8%	9%
Ben Carson	11%	10%	19%	12%	6%
Donald Trump	9%	14%	12%	10%	9%
Jeb Bush	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%
Carly Fiorina	5%	6%	8%	8%	3%
Chris Christie	5%	5%	1%	3%	2%
Mike Huckabee	5%	4%	2%	5%	5%
Rand Paul	4%	2%	<1%	3%	4%
John Kasich	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Rick Santorum	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Jim Gilmore	0%	0%	0%	0%	<1%
(VOL) Other	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lindsey Graham	n/a	0%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Bobby Jindal	n/a	n/a	6%	6%	8%
George Pataki	n/a	0%	0%	0%	<1%
Rick Perry	n/a	n/a	n/a	2%	5%
Scott Walker	n/a	n/a	n/a	9%	13%
(VOL) No one	9%	7%	6%	6%	4%
(VOL) Undecided	8%	8%	9%	7%	15%
(n)	500	425	400	405	452

3. Which of the following best describes where your decision stands at this moment: I am completely decided on which candidate I will support, I have a strong preference right now but I am willing to consider other candidates, I have a slight preference among a group of candidates I like, or I am really undecided among a number of candidates?

	January 2016	December 2015	October 2015	August 2015
Completely decided	48%	20%	19%	12%
Strong preference	38%	49%	43%	42%
Slight preference	7%	18%	19%	27%
Undecided	8%	13%	18%	20%

4. I'm going to read you a few names of people who are running for president in 2016. Please tell me if your general impression of each is favorable or unfavorable, or if you don't really have an opinion. *[NAMES WERE ROTATED]*

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
Jeb Bush	30%	53%	17%
--December 2015	38	45	16
--October 2015	42	46	12
--August 2015	32	51	17
--July 2015	40	42	18
Ted Cruz	59%	31%	10%
--December 2015	67	19	13
--October 2015	59	24	18
--August 2015	58	21	21
--July 2015	53	17	29
Marco Rubio	62%	22%	15%
--December 2015	70	16	15
--October 2015	65	16	19
--August 2015	64	13	23
--July 2015	64	14	22
Donald Trump	50%	39%	11%
--December 2015	54	36	9
--October 2015	53	38	9
--August 2015	52	33	14
--July 2015	47	35	18

[QUESTIONS 5 TO 8 WERE ROTATED]

5. How would you feel if Donald Trump became the Republican nominee – enthusiastic, satisfied, dissatisfied, or upset?

	January 2016	December 2015
Enthusiastic	29%	17%
Satisfied	31%	44%
Dissatisfied	20%	20%
Upset	19%	17%
(VOL) Don't know	1%	2%

6. How would you feel if Ted Cruz became the Republican nominee – enthusiastic, satisfied, dissatisfied, or upset?

	January 2016
Enthusiastic	23%
Satisfied	44%
Dissatisfied	21%
Upset	9%
(VOL) Don't know	2%

7. How would you feel if Marco Rubio became the Republican nominee – enthusiastic, satisfied, dissatisfied, or upset?

	January 2016
Enthusiastic	18%
Satisfied	49%
Dissatisfied	21%
Upset	7%
(VOL) Don't know	4%

8. How would you feel if Jeb Bush became the Republican nominee – enthusiastic, satisfied, dissatisfied, or upset?

	January 2016
Enthusiastic	8%
Satisfied	35%
Dissatisfied	34%
Upset	20%
(VOL) Don't know	3%

9. Did anyone contact you personally to ask you to caucus for a particular candidate?

	January 2016
Yes	45%
No	54%
(VOL) Don't know	0%

10. If YES: For which candidate were you asked to caucus? [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

	January 2016
Jeb Bush	9%
Ben Carson	12%
Chris Christie	5%
Ted Cruz	25%
Carly Fiorina	8%
Jim Gilmore	4%
Mike Huckabee	7%
John Kasich	4%
Rand Paul	9%
Marco Rubio	17%
Rick Santorum	5%
Donald Trump	13%
(VOL) Other	1%
(VOL) Don't know	3%

11. Do you plan to go to your local caucus with someone else or will you go on your own?

	January 2016
With someone else	54%
On own	42%
(VOL) Don't know	3

12. Governor Branstad recently asked Iowans not to support Ted Cruz because of his position on ethanol. Have you heard about this or not?

	January 2016
Yes	88%
No	12%
(VOL) Don't know	0%

13. Does Branstad's statement make you more likely or less likely to support Cruz, or does it have no impact on who you will caucus for?

	January 2016
More likely	15%
Less likely	17%
No impact	67%
(VOL) Don't know	1%

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from January 23 to 26, 2015 with a statewide random sample of 500 Iowa voters drawn from a list of registered voters who voted in at least one of the last two state primary elections, voted in both the 2012 and 2014 general elections, or have registered to vote in the past year. Results in this report are based on voters who say they are likely to attend the Republican presidential caucuses in February 2016 (including voters already registered as Republicans and voters who say they will declare themselves as Republicans for the caucuses). This includes 348 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 152 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for age and gender based on state registration list information on the pool of all voters who meet the initial selection criteria. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and Aristotle (voter list). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)		
54% Male	10% 18-34	55% Evangelical Christian
46% Female	21% 35-49	45% Not evangelical
	38% 50-64	
	31% 65+	

MARGIN OF ERROR										
	LIKELY CAUCUS-GOER	GENDER		TEA PARTY SUPPORTER		POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			EVANGELICAL	
		Male	Female	Yes	No	Very cons.	Somewhat cons.	Mod/ Lib	Yes	No
Unweighted N	500	309	191	207	270	228	151	108	268	217
moe	4.4%	5.6%	7.1%	6.8%	6.0%	6.5%	8.0%	9.4%	6.0%	6.7%

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