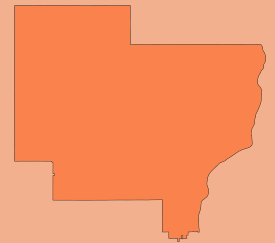




Iowa



2026 general election poll: State Senate District 35

Likely-voter survey of the November 3, 2026 general election | Clinton, Jackson & Scott Counties

SD-35 **D** Mike Zimmer **R** Joe Stutting

GOVERNOR **D** Rob Sand **R** Zach Lahn

At a glance

ELECTION DATE	FIELD DATES	SAMPLE SIZE	MARGIN OF ERROR
November 3, 2026	September 29-October 1, 2026	407 likely voters	±4.9 points

Methodology

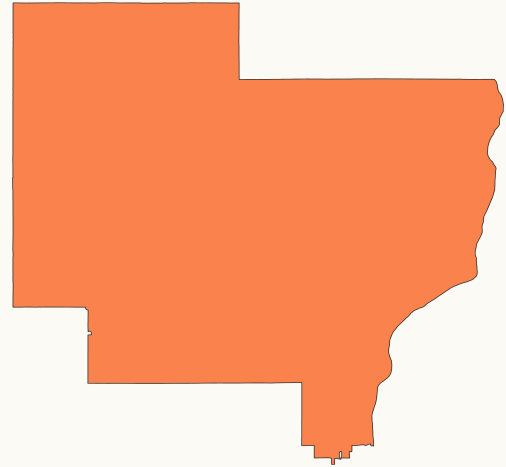
State Navigate surveyed 407 likely voters in Iowa's 35th State Senate District from September 29-October 1, 2026. Text messages were sent to voters by AllianceForge, which directed them to an online survey hosted on the SurveyMonkey platform. The sample was drawn from a voter file provided by L2 and results were weighted by gender, race, age, education, party registration, and 2024 presidential vote recall within each region of the district to reflect the likely November 2026 general electorate. The margin of error is 4.9% at a 95% confidence level. This survey was designed and conducted by the State Navigate Polling Team, and was not sponsored by any candidate or candidate's committee.

District DNA | SD-35 (LV)



STATE SENATE DISTRICT 35

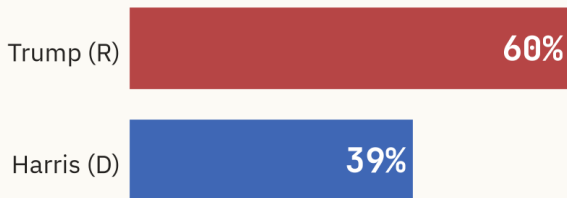
An Iowa State Senate district along the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa, anchored by the cities of Clinton and Camanche and also including DeWitt, Maquoketa, and rural parts of Clinton, Jackson, and Scott Counties; it is made up of State House Districts 69 and 70. Democratic incumbent Mike Zimmer, who flipped the seat in a January 2025 special election, faces Republican Joe Stutting.



Recent election results in SD-35

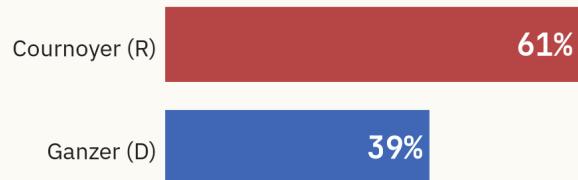
2024 President: Trump +21.1

2024 U.S. House: Miller-Meeks +9.4



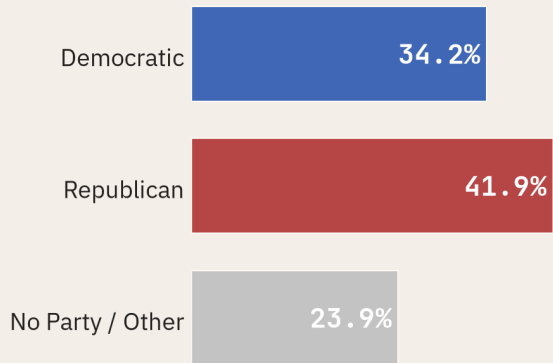
2025 SD-35 Special: Zimmer +3.6

2022 State Senate: Cournoyer +22.0

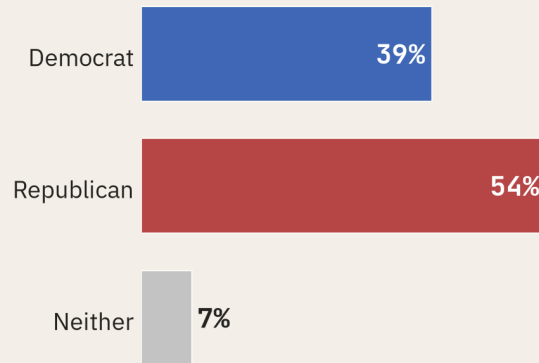


District DNA | Survey demographics

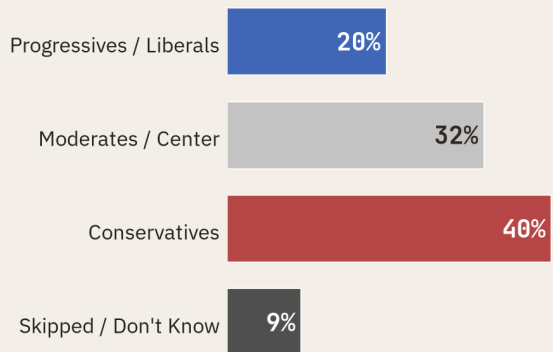
PARTY REGISTRATION



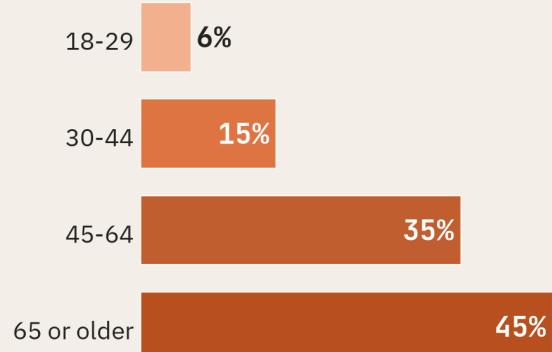
PARTY ID (WITH LEANERS)



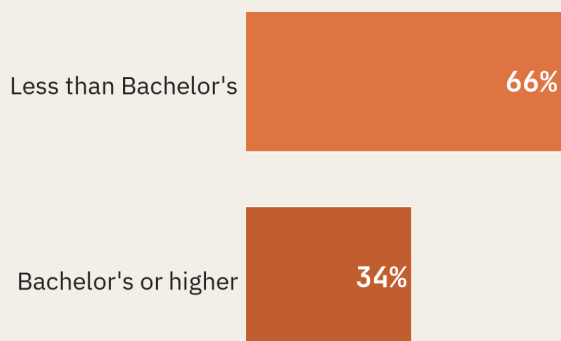
IDEOLOGICAL SELF-ID (0-10)



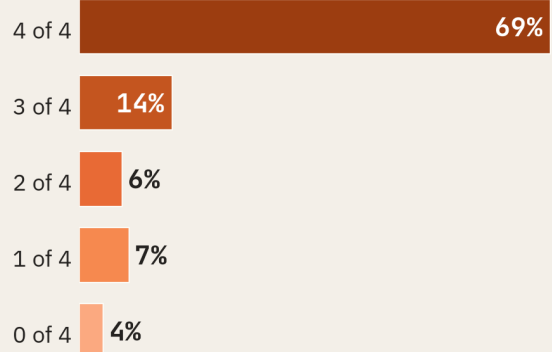
AGE



EDUCATION



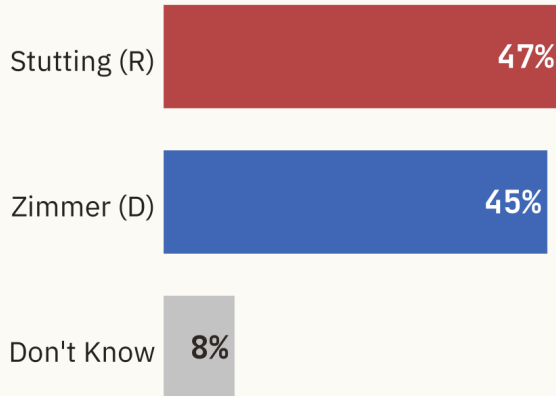
VOTE HISTORY (LAST 4 GENERALS)



The snapshots

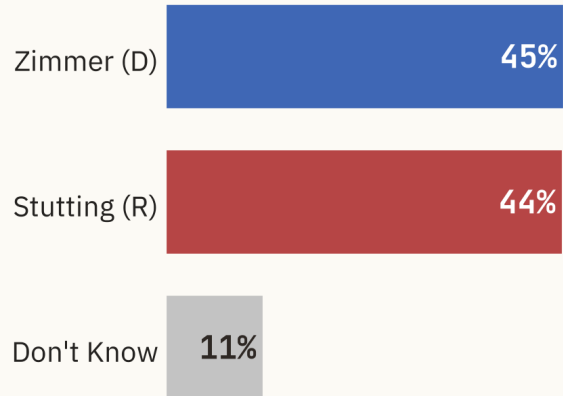
SD-35 with leaners

If the election for Iowa State Senate District 35 were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (undecideds allocated via leaner follow-up)



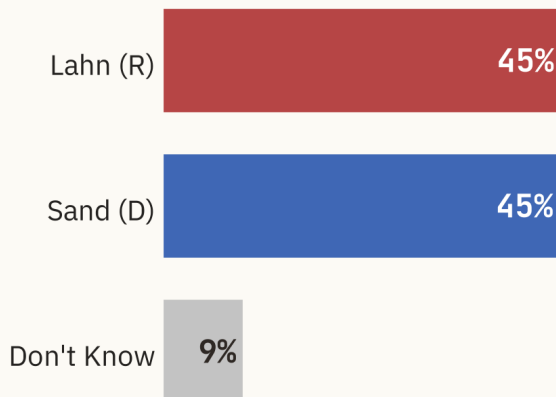
SD-35 before undecided push

If the election for Iowa State Senate District 35 were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (initial ballot, before leaner follow-up)



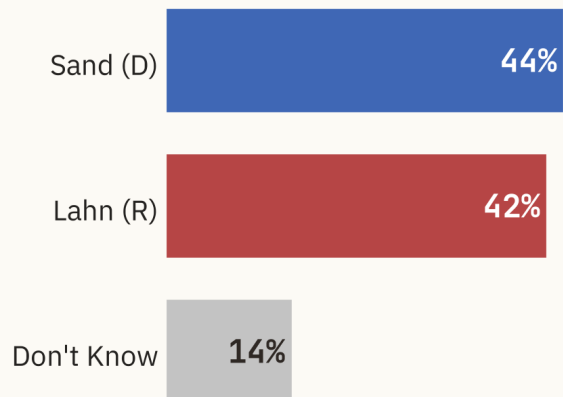
Governor with leaners

If the election for Governor were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (undecideds allocated via leaner follow-up)



Governor before undecided push

If the election for Governor were held today, which candidate would you vote for? (initial ballot, before leaner follow-up)

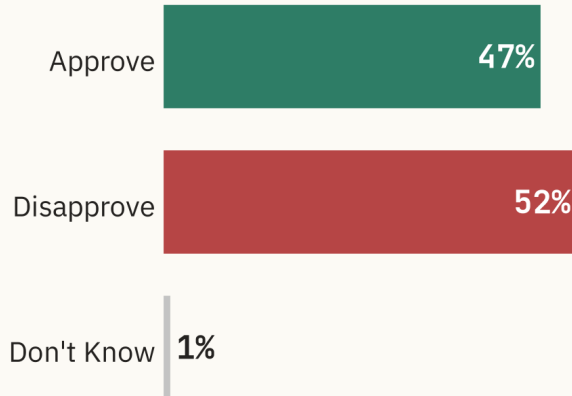


Joe Stutting (R) leads 47-45 with leaners in SD-35, with 8% undecided. At the top of the ticket, the Governor's race is tied at 45%.

Executive approvals

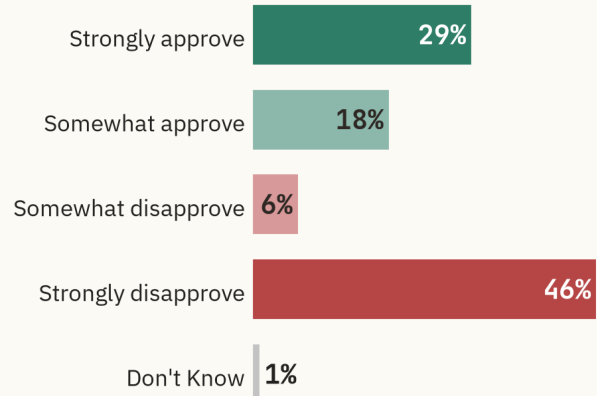
President Trump job approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



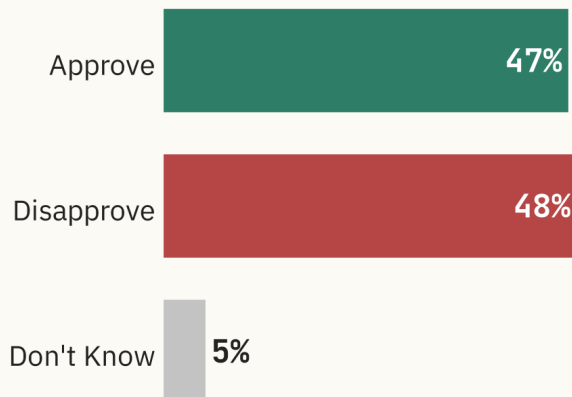
President Trump job approval (detailed)

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?



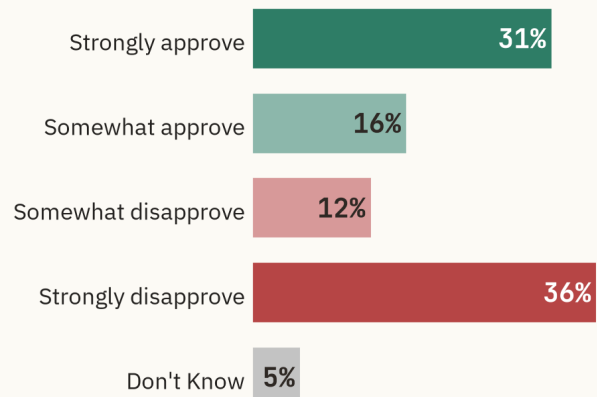
Gov. Reynolds job approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Kim Reynolds is doing as Governor?



Gov. Reynolds job approval (detailed)

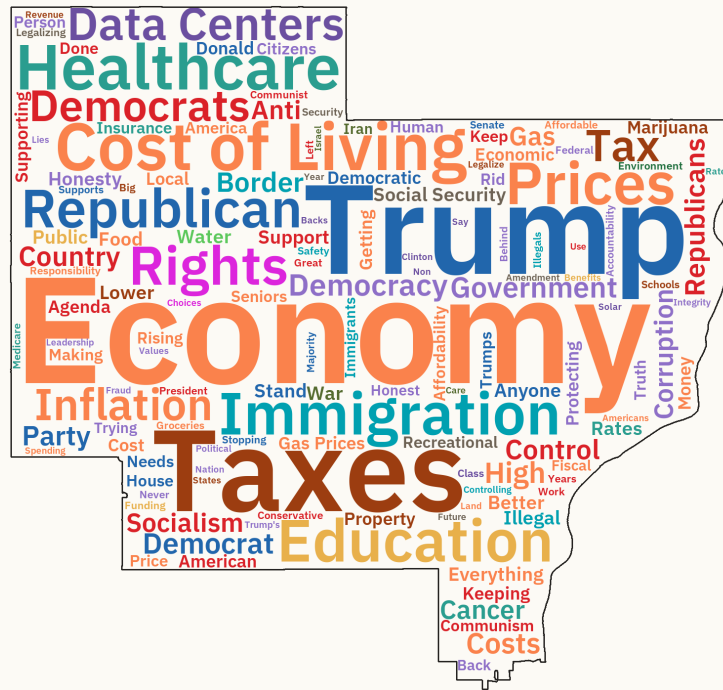
Do you approve or disapprove of the job Kim Reynolds is doing as Governor?



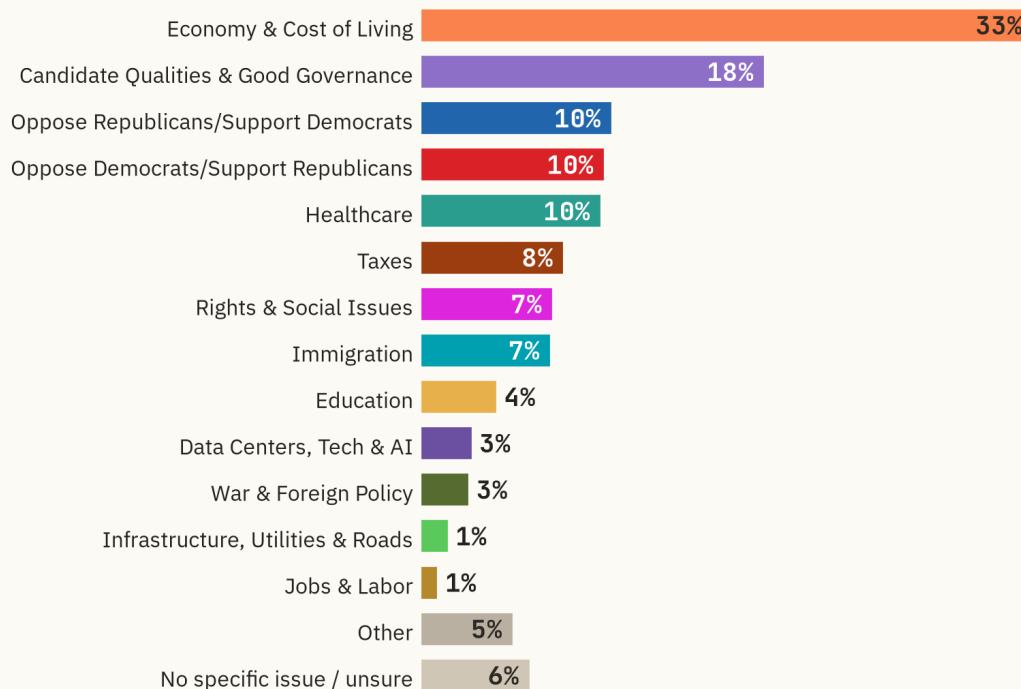
President Trump is underwater in SD-35 (47% approve / 52% disapprove), while Gov. Reynolds sits at 47% approve / 48% disapprove. The detailed breakdowns show how much of each number is strongly held versus soft.

Issues impacting vote choice

If you choose to vote in November, what is the number one issue that will impact who you vote for?



By theme | Share of respondents mentioning (weighted)



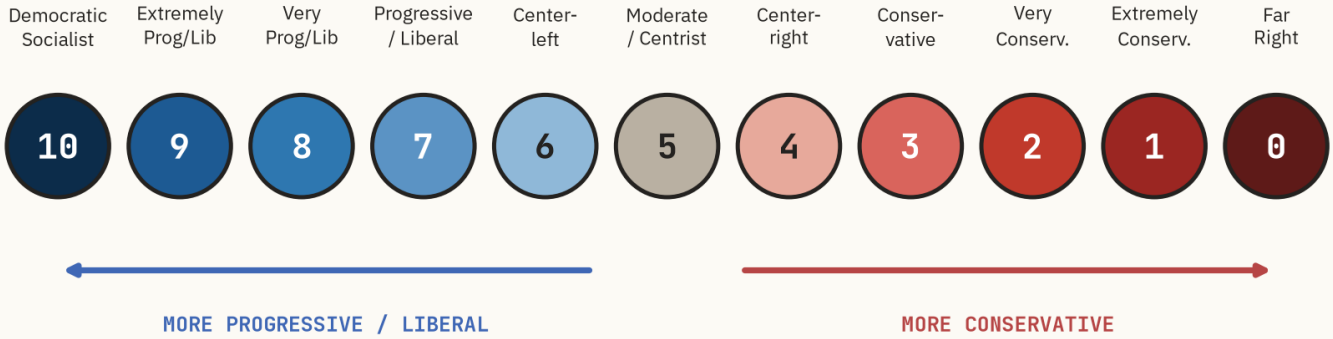
Open-ended responses from 392 respondents (342 weighted LV) who answered. Responses naming more than one issue count toward each theme, so shares sum to more than 100%. Themes follow the State Navigate issue taxonomy.

Survey ideology

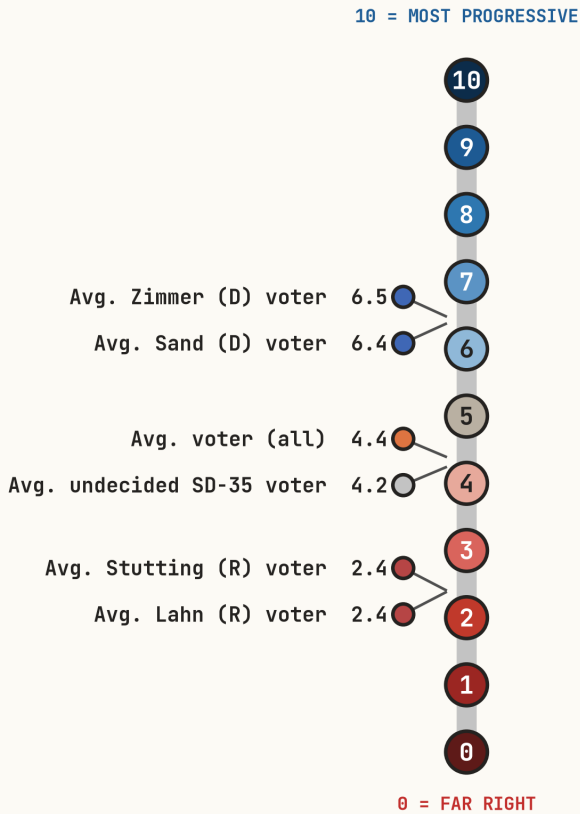
The self-placement scale

IDEOLOGICAL SELF-PLACEMENT SCALE

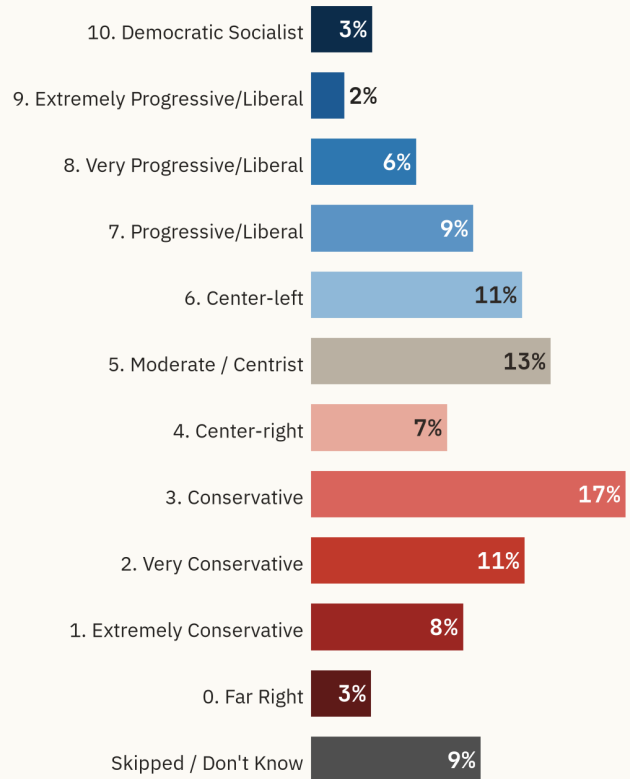
Place yourself — and each candidate — somewhere on the 0–10 scale.



AVERAGE BY VOTER GROUP



DETAILED SELF-PLACEMENT (ALL RESPONDENTS)

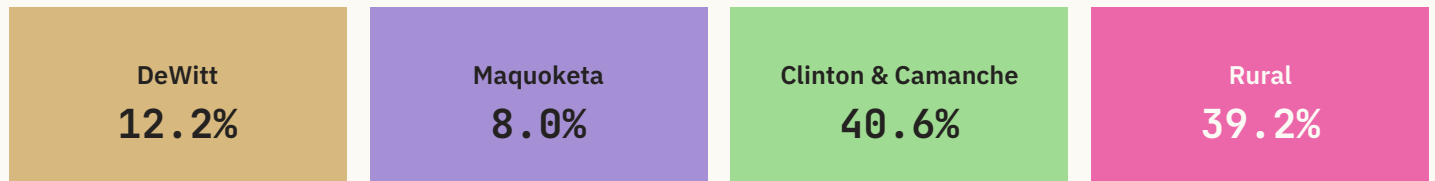


Ideology is respondents' self-placement on a 0-10 scale (10 = most progressive, 0 = far right). Detailed shares are of all respondents; 9.1% skipped the question. Group averages are weighted and computed among those who placed themselves (overall mean 4.4).

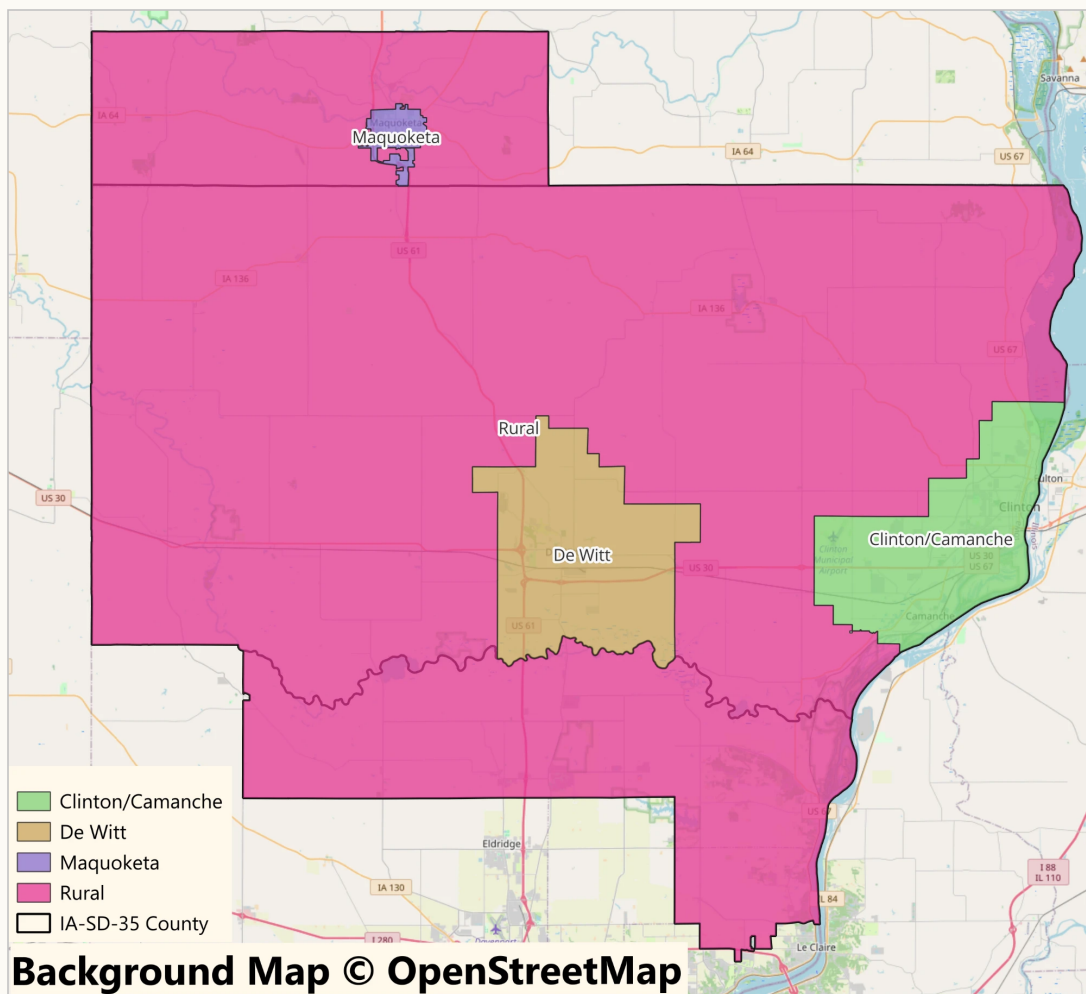
Appendix | Regions & weights

State Senate District 35 was weighted by region. Cards show each region's share of the weighted likely-voter sample.

Region weights | Share of weighted sample



SD-35 by region



Team notes & analysis

The following analysis from the State Navigate polling team examines the forces shaping this race.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE | ON CROSSOVER VOTING

Zimmer is winning Trump voters at the same rate as Sand.

Once our results are weighted to recalled 2024 presidential vote in each part of the district, Joe Stutting leads Mike Zimmer by less than 2 points with leaners (47% to 45%), while Zach Lahn and Rob Sand are tied in the Governor's race at 45% each. Zimmer is keeping pace with the top of the ticket thanks to crossover support: among voters who say they voted for Donald Trump in 2024, Zimmer wins 9%, the same share Sand gets, while Stutting wins just 2% of voters who say they voted for Kamala Harris. Ticket-splitting between the Governor and State Senate races is rare in both directions: about 1.5% of likely voters back both Sand and Stutting, and fewer than 1% back both Lahn and Zimmer. Most of the remaining gap between Zimmer and Sand comes from Sand voters who are still undecided in the State Senate race, about 2% of likely voters; if they come home, Zimmer should run right alongside Sand's margin.

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE | ON WEIGHTING BY REGION

Our sample's problem is geographic, so we weighted for it geographically.

Donald Trump carried SD-35 by 21 points in 2024, but in our standard version of this poll, which isn't weighted to recalled vote, likely voters recall a Trump win of just 7 points. That gap isn't spread evenly across the district. In that version, respondents in Clinton and Camanche recall backing Trump by 8 points, matching his actual 8-point margin in those precincts. But in the district's rural precincts, which Trump won by 37 points, our respondents recall backing him by just 10, and in DeWitt, which Trump won by 18, our respondents recall voting for Kamala Harris by 8. Maquoketa runs about 7 points too Democratic as well. Weighting to recalled vote across the whole district would add Trump voters everywhere, including in Clinton and Camanche, where our sample was already right. So in this version, we weighted recalled 2024 vote within each region to that region's actual result, shifted about 5 points toward Democrats in each to account for a more Democratic-leaning environment in 2026. After weighting, likely voters in this version recall backing Trump by 14 points, 55% to 41%. The result is Stutting 47%, Zimmer 45%, compared to a 46% to 43% Zimmer lead in our standard version, which we are releasing alongside this one. The shift comes from rural voters, where Stutting now leads by 15 points instead of trailing narrowly, partly offset by Clinton and Camanche, where Zimmer now leads by 8 points after the bluer 2026 adjustment. Within each region, these weights rest on small groups of respondents, so the regional figures should be read with caution.

State Navigate is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to becoming a compass for state legislatures everywhere. Our bipartisan polling team consists of alumni of FiveThirtyEight, political scientists, and polling experts. Last year, State Navigate was the most accurate pollster in the country for the 2025 election cycle. To learn more about our poll sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#)! Public polling on state governance, especially state legislatures, is rare, so we try to make our polling as affordable as possible for sponsors to help fill this gap.

Our polling team

CHAZ NUTTYCOMBE

FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Chaz was the Director of CAnalysis.com, the only website dedicated to state legislative election forecasting. He has successfully forecasted thousands of state legislative elections since 2017 during his senior year in high school. Chaz leads the polling team and works with them on survey design, field work, weighting, and written analysis.

MICHAEL FOLEY

ELECTIONS COORDINATOR

Michael is an expert in GIS technology and has experience in coding and scraping technology. He is a graduate of Fordham University and the University of Chicago Law School. In our polling, Michael conducts fieldwork, setting up surveys and texts, and exports/designs crosstabs.

MARY RADCLIFFE

DATA MANAGER

Mary Radcliffe is a mathematician and data analyst from Pittsburgh. She earned a PhD in Mathematics from the University of California, San Diego in 2012. Mary has previously worked as a Teaching Professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Researcher at FiveThirtyEight. In our polling, Mary helps with survey design, keeps our polling operations ethical, creates topline, and writes analyses of results.

G. ELLIOTT MORRIS

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Elliott Morris is a data-driven journalist and author living in Washington, DC. He's the author of *STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: How Polls Work and Why We Need Them*. Elliott was most recently the Editorial Director of Data Analytics at ABC News, where he developed polling aggregation and election-forecasting models and managed the research and data visualization teams for ABC's data-journalism website FiveThirtyEight/538. In our polling, Elliott helps with survey design and writing weighting scripts.

NICHOLAS GOEDERT

POLLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nicholas / "Nick" is an assistant professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech with expertise focused on legislative elections and American politics. He is the author of *GROUND WAR: Courts, Commissions, and the Fight over Partisan Gerrymanders* (Oxford, 2022). He served as an expert witness in the Wisconsin redistricting case *Whitford v. Gill*. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton and a J.D. from Georgetown Law. In our polling, Nick helps with survey design and gives academic feedback.