

BELDEN RUSSONELLO & STEWART

RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS

As Iowa Democrats consider who will carry their party's banner into the general election, they make it clear that they want someone who will pay much more attention to protecting civil liberties than has President Bush. Two main points highlight Iowa Democrats' attitudes on civil liberties.

1. Democratic voters want the next president to support all five of the ACLU's core initiatives to restore the Constitution – restoring habeas corpus, closing GITMO, not allowing the president alone to determine who is an enemy combatant, ending torture as U.S. policy, and outlawing eavesdropping on Americans without a court warrant.
2. Iowa Democratic voters disapprove of Congress not standing up to Bush on constitutional protections, in particular, the recent eavesdropping power Congress gave to the President.

Iowa Republicans, on the other hand, show less of a consensus of opinion on these issues. They support President Bush's approach to fighting terrorism and they balk at some of the civil liberties initiatives. Yet, even among these Republicans, we find support for initiatives to outlaw torture and create a legal definition for an enemy combatant.

Belden Russonello & Stewart conducted interviews with 400 likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers and 404 likely Iowa Republican caucus-goers for the ACLU from August 21, through September 9, 2007. The margin of sampling error is ± 4.9 percentage points at the 95% level of tolerance for the surveys of both Democrats and Republicans.

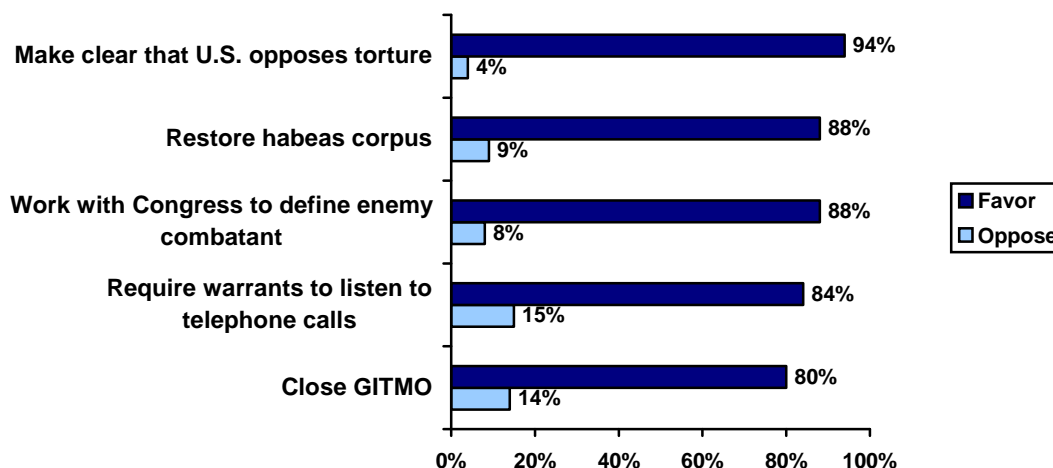
FINDINGS

1. **Democrats strongly want the next president to push specific civil liberties initiatives – Republicans less sure**

Democratic voters in Iowa make it clear they want the next president to do more than President Bush to protect civil liberties and they give a large thumbs up to five specific proposals to change Bush Administration policies. All of these proposals are changes the ACLU has been seeking to restore the Constitution.

- Over nine in ten Iowa Democrats (94%) want the next president to “make it clear that the policy of the United States is to oppose torture and follow the Geneva Conventions.”
- Nearly nine in ten Democrats (88%) support “restoring habeas corpus rights for people held at Guantanamo.”
- Nearly nine in ten Iowa Democrats (88%) want the next president to “work with Congress to establish a legal definition of ‘enemy combatant’ rather than leaving it up to each president to decide.”
- Over eight in ten Democrats (84%) want the next president to “require the government to get a court warrant to listen to the telephone calls of people in the U.S.”
- Eight in ten Democrats (80%) support a proposal to “close the prison at Guantanamo and schedule trials in the U.S. courts for the terrorist suspects currently held there.”

Support for ACLU Initiatives Among Iowa Democrats



Here are some actions that the next President could support. Would you favor or oppose each of these actions? Is that strongly or somewhat? Q14. Make it clear that the policy of the United States is to oppose torture and follow the Geneva Conventions. Q11. Restore habeas corpus rights for people held at Guantanamo - that is, instead of holding people indefinitely without charges, make the government show evidence in order to continue to hold them. Q13. Work with Congress to establish a legal definition of "enemy combatant" rather than leaving it up to each president to decide who is an enemy combatant and who is not. Q15. Require the government to get a court warrant to listen to the telephone calls of people in the U.S. Q12. Close the prison at Guantanamo and schedule trials in U.S. courts for the terrorist suspects currently held there.

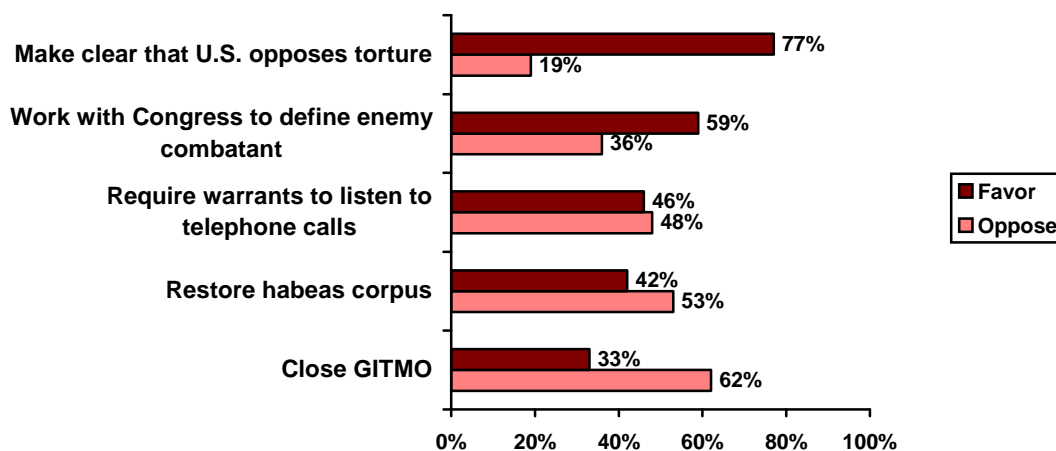
ACLU survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart. August 21- September 9, 2007. N=400 likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers. MoE \pm 4.9.

Among Iowa Republicans, we found:

- Over three-quarters of Iowa Republicans (77%) want the next president to "make it clear that the policy of the United States is to oppose torture and follow the Geneva Conventions."
- Nearly six in ten Iowa Republicans (59%) want the next president to "work with Congress to establish a legal definition of 'enemy combatant' rather than leaving it up to each president to decide."
- Over four in ten Republicans (46%) want the next president to "require the government to get a court warrant to listen to the telephone calls of people in the U.S." Forty-eight percent are opposed.
- Four in ten Republicans (42%) support "restoring habeas corpus rights for people held at Guantanamo." Fifty-three percent are opposed.

- One-third of Iowa Republicans (33%) supports a proposal to “close the prison at Guantanamo and schedule trials in the U.S. courts for the terrorist suspects currently held there.” Sixty-two percent are opposed.

Support for ACLU Initiatives Among Iowa Republicans

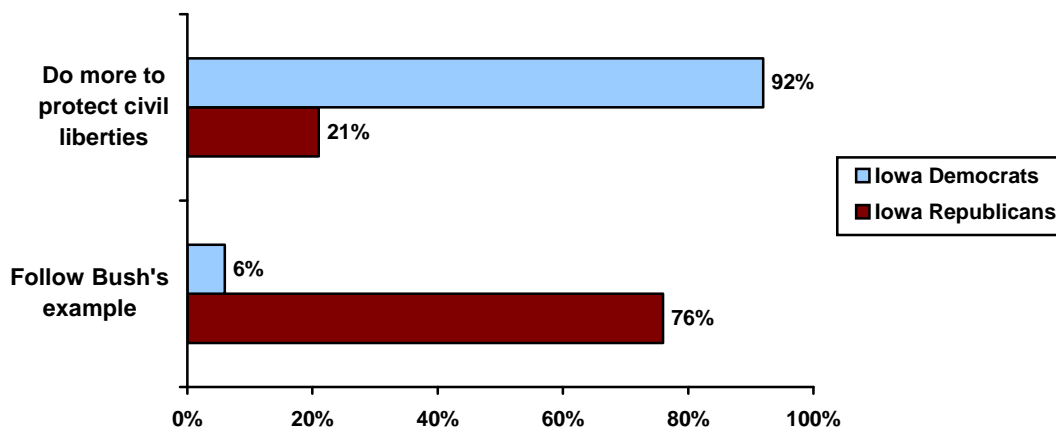


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Overall, 92% of likely Democratic caucus-goers in Iowa say they would “like the next president to do more to protect civil liberties while fighting terrorism,” while 76% of likely Republican caucus-goers in Iowa say they would “like the next president to follow the example of President Bush in fighting terrorism while protecting civil liberties.”

The Next President's Approach to Civil Liberties



Q10. Which of the following best describes your views: I would like the next president to follow the example of President Bush in fighting terrorism while protecting civil liberties? Or I would like the next president to do more to protect civil liberties while fighting terrorism? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

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2. Democrats unhappy with weak congressional oversight of the president on civil liberties – Republicans more concerned with congressional interference

An overwhelming majority of likely Iowa Democratic caucus-goers – 83% – believes Congress has not done enough to check the power of the president and protect our constitutional rights.

One example of this is the recent decision by Congress to allow the president to eavesdrop on Americans without getting a court warrant. Eighty-four percent of Iowa Democrats say it was “wrong” for Congress to give President Bush this authority.

Large majorities of Iowa Democrats also believe:

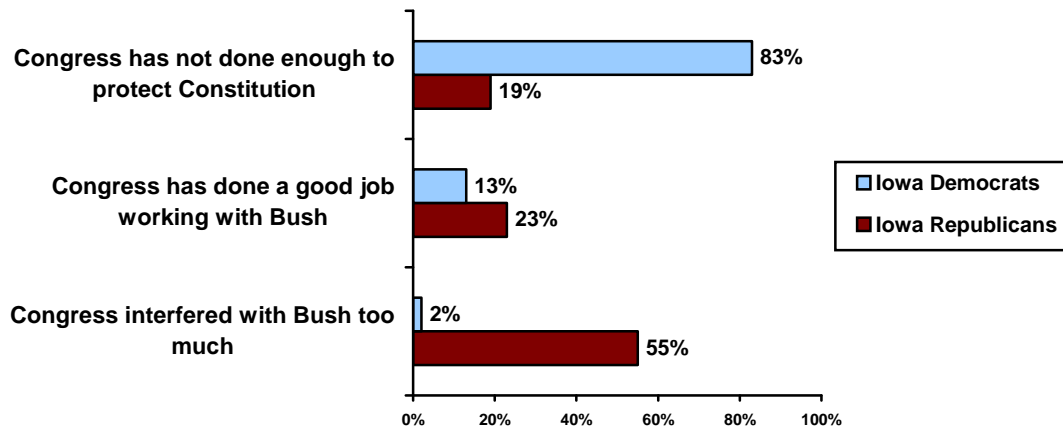
- The government can “effectively combat terrorism by getting court warrants before eavesdropping on phone calls of U.S. residents.” (88%, agree)
- The President should not be acting on his own in deciding how to fight terrorism without the checks and balances of the courts and Congress. (95%, agree)

On the Republican side of the street, we find a different set of attitudes. Instead of being unhappy with Congress for not doing enough to check the power of the president, a majority of Iowa Republicans – 55% – express unhappiness that Congress has interfered too much with the president’s efforts to fight terrorism.

Eight in ten Iowa Republicans (80%) say it was the right decision for Congress to give President Bush the power to listen to phone calls of U.S. residents without a court warrant.

A majority of Republicans – 58% – say the president should have the power to take whatever actions he believes are necessary to protect the country from terrorists, but a sizeable minority of Republicans – 40% – believe instead that the president should not be acting on his own in deciding how to fight terrorism without the checks and balances of the courts and Congress.

Views on the Role of Congress

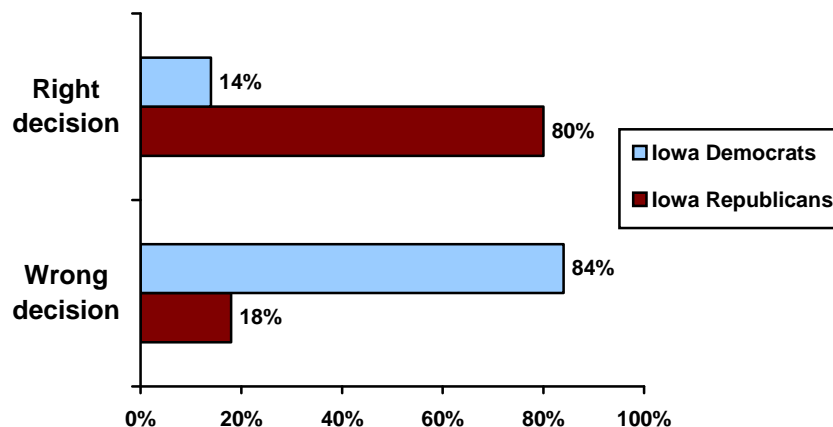


Q10. Here are three points of view. Please tell me which one matches yours most closely.

* Congress has NOT DONE ENOUGH to check the power of President Bush and protect our Constitutional rights * Congress has DONE A GOOD JOB working with President Bush to balance civil liberties and the fight against terrorism * Congress has INTERFERED TOO MUCH with President Bush's efforts to fight terrorism? Do you feel that way strongly or only somewhat?

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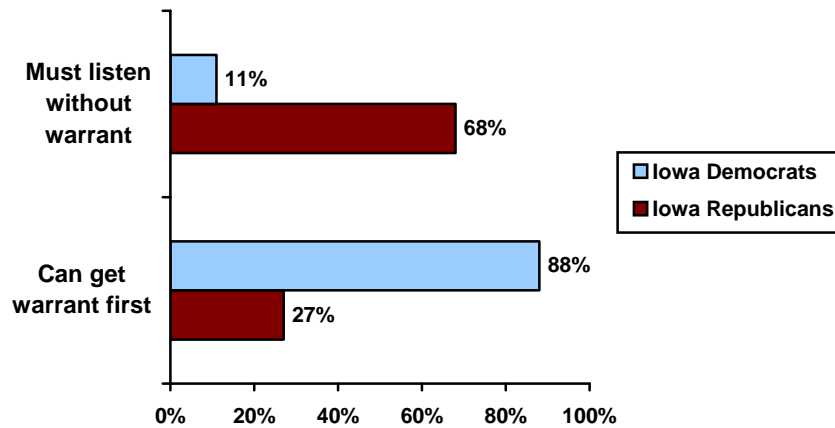
Congressional Approval for Wiretapping without a Warrant



Q17. Congress recently gave the president the authority to listen to telephone calls of U.S. residents the government believes may have ties to terrorists without getting a court warrant. Do you believe that it was the right decision or the wrong decision for Congress to give President Bush that authority? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

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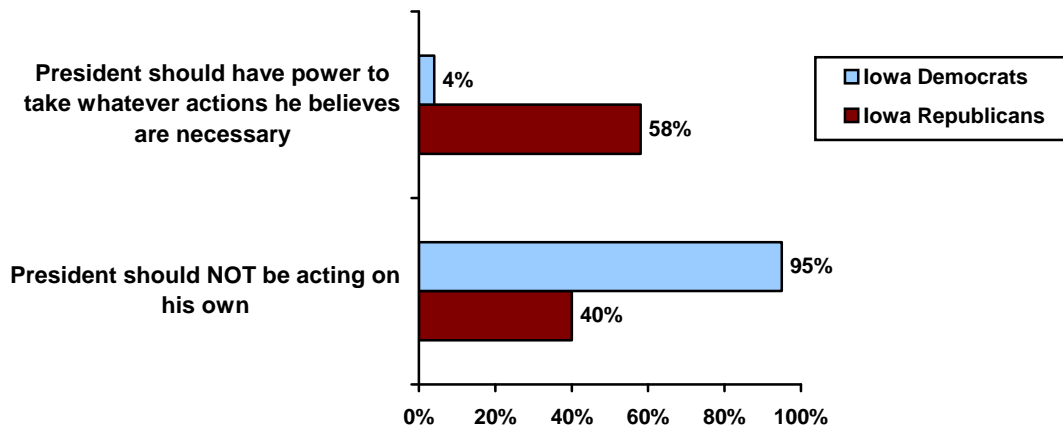
Necessity of Wiretapping without a Warrant



Q16. With whom do you agree more? Those who say that in order to fight terrorism the government needs to be allowed to listen to telephone calls of U.S. residents the government believes may have ties to terrorists, without getting a court warrant. Or those who say the government can just as effectively combat terrorism by getting court warrants before eavesdropping on phone calls of U.S. residents? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

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Limits of Presidential Power



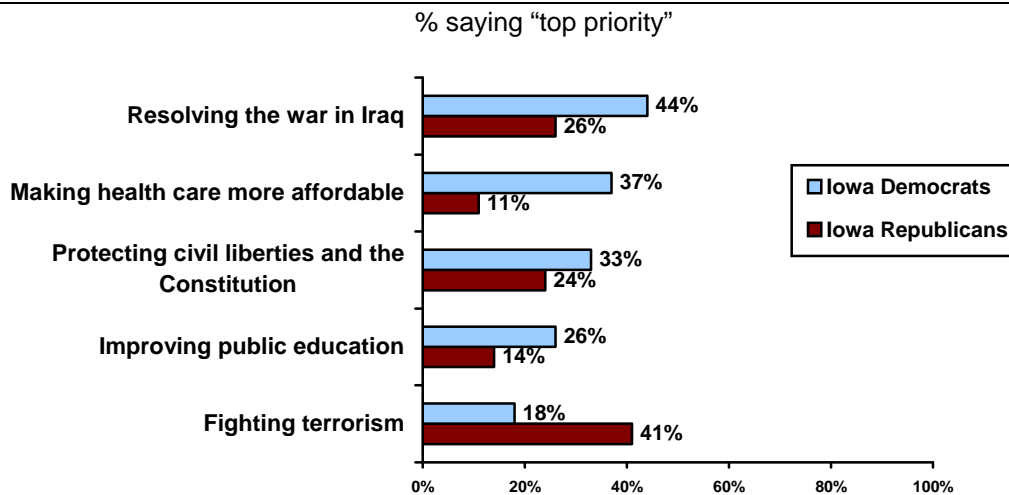
Q8. With whom do you agree more? Those who say: The president should have the power to take whatever actions he believes are necessary to protect the country from terrorists OR Those who say: The President should NOT be acting on his own in deciding how to fight terrorism without the checks and balances of the courts or Congress? Is that strongly or somewhat?

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3. Democrats give civil liberties high priority generally in vote for president

When asked to rate the priority of five issues in their vote for president, Democrats place highest priority on resolving the war in Iraq, followed by making health care more affordable and then protecting civil liberties and the Constitution. Republicans prioritize issues differently, with fighting terrorism getting top attention, followed by resolving the war in Iraq and protecting the Constitution and civil liberties.

Issue Priorities for Presidential Vote Choice



For each item I name, please tell me if it will be a top priority, high priority, middle priority, or low priority in your vote for president next year. Q2. Resolving the war in Iraq. Q3. Making health care affordable. Q6. Protecting civil liberties and the Constitution. Q5. Improving public education. Q4. Fighting terrorism.

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