

TO: Interested Parties

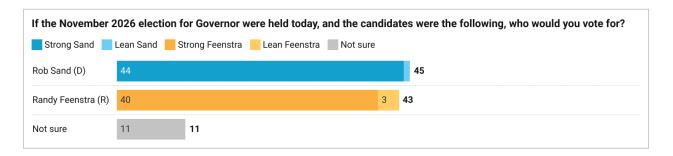
FROM: Nancy Zdunkewicz, Z to A Research

MEMO: Results of Iowa Survey

## **Rob Sand Has Early Lead in Iowa Governor Race**

Rob Sand is one of the most popular figures in Iowa and leads in the race for Governor. This is according to a new survey of 1,351 likely 2026 midterm voters in Iowa conducted by Z to A Research from October 9-13, 2025.

In the race for Governor, Rob Sand is running well ahead of past Democratic performance, with 45% of the likely midterm electorate already backing his candidacy. His most likely Republican rival, Randy Feenstra, trails by 2 points. Sand also has a 4-point advantage in terms of strong support (44% strongly support Sand, 40% strongly support Feenstra).



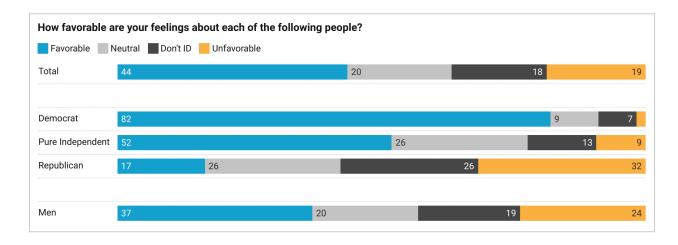
Sand has consolidated all Democrats and has a 48-point advantage with pure independents. By comparison, only 77% of Republicans are backing Feenstra, and nearly 1-in-10 are already choosing to split their tickets and support Sand. If these trends continue with undecided voters, Sand can become the next Governor of Iowa.



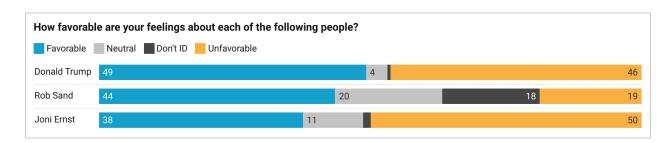
This is possible because of Sand's unique personal appeal. His record as a good steward of tax dollars and an anti-corruption crusader makes him popular with voters across party lines. It also

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  Z to A Research surveyed 1,351 likely 2026 midterm voters in Iowa from October 9-13, 2025. Respondents were recruited to an online survey instrument via SMS and targeted online advertising. The margin of error for the full sample is  $\pm 2.67$  for the full sample and larger among subgroups.

insulates him from the strong negative opinions of Republican voters. Notably, opinions of Sand are net-favorable among men, a group Democrats have struggled to appeal to in recent elections.



In fact, Sand is the most popular Iowan tested in this poll. Opinions of Sand are nearly as favorable as opinions of President Trump, despite lower name recognition.



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