

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
RE: TWO-MAN RACE IN IOWA

Public Opinion Strategies conducted an Iowa statewide survey among likely Republican caucus-goers September 5-6, 2023. A total of 400 voters were interviewed on cell and landline phones, and the survey has a margin of error of ± 4.9 percentage points. The sample was selected from the voter file and stratified by geography, age, gender, and vote history to ensure a representative sample.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Moving into September, Ron DeSantis and Donald Trump’s positives are now identical. Vivek Ramaswamy’s image has taken on water since the first debate.**

<i>Favorable-Unfavorable</i>	<i>Pre-Debate</i>	<i>Post-Debate</i>	<i>Early Sept</i>
Ron DeSantis	68%-26%	72%-26%	73%-23%
Donald Trump	71%-27%	67%-32%	73%-26%
Tim Scott	69%-14%	71%-15%	69%-13%
Nikki Haley	56%-24%	61%-31%	62%-27%
Vivek Ramaswamy	56%-14%	61%-25%	54%-30%
Mike Pence	34%-62%	35%-63%	37%-58%
Chris Christie	22%-66%	17%-75%	15%-76%

- **This is a two-man race in Iowa. Now that the dust has settled after the first debate, Trump and DeSantis are the only two candidates with significant support – nobody else eclipses 6%. DeSantis saw a significant increase in his ballot standing since before the debate which has stabilized. Meanwhile, Haley, Ramaswamy, and Scott have seen a decline in support:**

<i>Full Ballot</i>	<i>Pre-Debate</i>	<i>Post-Debate</i>	<i>Early Sept</i>
Ron DeSantis	14%	21%	22%
Donald Trump	42%	41%	45%
Nikki Haley	3%	11%	6%
Vivek Ramaswamy	10%	7%	6%
Tim Scott	8%	7%	5%
Chris Christie	3%	1%	3%
Mike Pence	2%	2%	2%
Doug Burgum	3%	1%	1%
Asa Hutchinson	<1%	1%	1%

- **Trump’s “floor” has gone down over the past few weeks.**
Now, just 22% of voters say they are “*only considering Trump*” compared to 26% after the first presidential debate. Nearly half (48%) of voters say they are “*considering Trump and other candidates*” and another 29% say they are “*not considering Trump.*”