

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Poll Reveals Iowa Voters Overwhelmingly Oppose Dove Hunting

(Feb. 26, 2009) -- A statewide survey conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. has revealed that Iowa voters oppose the hunting of mourning doves by a two-to-one margin. The poll comes on the heels of a bill (S.F. 25) introduced by Sen. Dick Dearden, D-Des Moines, which would authorize the hunting of mourning doves for the first time in Iowa since 1918.

Statewide, 53 percent of voters oppose dove hunting, while only 27 percent support it. A majority of voters in every demographic group and party affiliation -- men, women, Democrats, Republicans and Independents -- oppose dove hunting.

Additionally, if the Iowa legislature were to pass a dove hunting bill, a majority of voters say that Gov. Chet Culver should veto the legislation. And voters say they are almost twice as likely to punish a lawmaker at the polls if he or she votes to legalize dove hunting, as they are to support such a candidate.

"This survey confirms what we've long known: Iowa citizens can't stomach the idea of shooting mourning doves," said Carol Griglione, The HSUS' Iowa state director. "Doves aren't overpopulated, don't cause nuisance problems, aren't a viable food source and would be shot simply for target practice. It's this legislation, not the doves, that should be shot down."

The survey of 625 Iowa voters was conducted statewide from Feb. 19 through Feb. 21, 2009. The margin of error is plus or minus 4 percent. The questions and results are below.

QUESTION: The hunting of mourning doves in Iowa has been outlawed since 1918. The Iowa legislature is considering a bill to allow the hunting of doves. Do you support or oppose allowing the hunting of mourning doves in Iowa?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
SUPPORT	27%	37%	17%	19%	38%	25%
OPPOSE	53%	42%	64%	62%	41%	55%
UNDECIDED	20%	21%	19%	19%	21%	20%

QUESTION: If the legislature passed a bill allowing the hunting of mourning doves, would you support or oppose Governor Culver vetoing the measure?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
SUPPORT	50%	39%	61%	61%	38%	48%
OPPOSE	30%	37%	23%	20%	40%	33%
UNDECIDED	20%	24%	16%	19%	22%	19%

QUESTION: Everything else being equal, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a state legislator who voted to legalize dove hunting in the state of Iowa?

	STATE	MEN	WOMEN	DEMS	REPS	INDS
MORE LIKELY	19%	26%	12%	9%	29%	20%
LESS LIKELY	35%	25%	45%	48%	22%	33%
NO EFFECT/DK	46%	49%	43%	43%	49%	47%

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