

Iowa Straw Poll



Jeff Jorgensen talked at the Treynor Optimist Club on September 3 about the Iowa Straw Poll. It originally began in 1979 and was called the Ames Straw Poll. In 1999 the rules changed so that you had to be 16 ½ years old and an Iowa resident or a student at one of the main three universities in Iowa. Before that many people from out of state were voting.

This year there were 30,000-40,000 people at the straw poll and 17,000 voted. Tickets are \$30, but most people sign up with a candidate and the candidate pays for their ticket. Indelible ink is used to prevent people from voting twice.

The Iowa Straw Poll is a Republican event. It can give an early indication of how candidates are doing in their campaign. It is only held when the sitting president is not Republican or is not running for re-election. The winner of the straw poll is not often the winner of the caucus, and the winner of one or both of them is often not the party nominee. 1999 was the only time the winner of the straw poll, caucus, and Republican nominee for President was the same person.