



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

RE: Iowa Democrat Senate Primary - Current Landscape and Trajectory

DATE: February 17, 2026

OVERVIEW

Recent polling done by the NRSC indicates that **Zach Wahls holds the early polling and fundraising advantages in the Democrat primary and is structurally positioned to expand that lead as the race develops**. While a large share of the electorate remains undecided, multiple indicators point to a primary electorate whose energy is concentrated in Wahls' lane rather than Josh Turek's.

Democratic Primary Ballot:

- Zach Wahls: 30%
- Josh Turek: 23%
- Someone Else: 5%
- Undecided: 42%

Wahls begins the race with a **7-point lead** despite more than four-in-ten Democrat voters still being uncommitted.

Where the Undecided Voters Actually Are:

- Zach Wahls: 46%
- Josh Turek: 14%
- Undecided: 40%

Among voters initially undecided on the ballot, respondents were asked which candidate they were more aligned with in the Democrat primary lane. Undecided Democrat voters break **more than 3-to-1 toward Wahls**.

Democrat Favorability: Net Fav [Favorable / Unfavorable / Unsure (Total Name ID)]

- **Zach Wahls:** **+54** [61 / 7 / 20 (89)]
- **Josh Turek:** **+47** [49 / 2 / 27 (79)]
- **Bernie Sanders:** **+81** [89 / 8 / 2 (99)]
- **Chuck Schumer:** **+17** [55 / 38 / 6 (99)]

CONCLUSION

At this stage of the race, the Democrat primary electorate is not evenly divided between two candidates. Instead, the electorate is ideologically structured in a way that benefits Wahls.

Wahls is not just ahead, **he is aligned with where the primary voters are moving**.

Unless the composition of the electorate changes, the underlying dynamics of the race suggest the Democrat primary is more likely to consolidate around Wahls than around Turek as voters make a final decision.