

Husker Harvest Days attendees who voted in Nebraska Farm Bureau's straw poll this week gave favorable signs to three of the proposed Constitutional Amendments on the ballot for voters in November, while also giving Republican candidates for Congress and the White House a favorable nod.

A total of 284 visitors to the Farm Bureau building at the farm show in Grand Island, voted in the non-scientific poll, Sept. 11-13. Pollsters were asked to weigh in on proposed constitutional amendments to make hunting, fishing and wildlife harvesting a protected right; allow members of the Nebraska Legislature to serve three, rather than two, consecutive terms; and boost state senators annual salaries from \$12,000 per year to \$22,500 per year.

"Eighty-one percent of those voting supported establishing the right to hunt and fish, while only nine percent opposed," said Jay Ferris, Nebraska Farm Bureau's director of grassroots programs. "The proposal to extend the terms of Nebraska legislators was supported with 52 percent of the vote and 37 percent against. Fifty-one percent supported the increase in state senator salaries while 33 percent opposed."

The poll also asked voters to weigh in on the presidential election, Nebraska's open seat for U.S. Senate, and all three U.S. House of Representatives races. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney was the decisive choice of pollsters receiving 86 percent approval with only 10 percent favoring President Obama. Eighty-eight percent of those voting also favored Deb Fischer over Bob Kerrey who received 9 percent of the vote. All three Republican incumbents in the U.S. House of Representatives were definitive winners in the polls. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Dist.1) garnered 85 percent of the vote in comparison to 6 percent for Korey Reiman. Rep. Lee Terry (R-Dist.2) received 78 percent of the vote in comparison to 11 percent for John Ewing. Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Dist.3) received support from 89 percent of the pollsters compared to Mark Sullivan's 9 percent.

"The Husker Harvest Days straw poll has proven over the years to be a good indicator of where voters ultimately go in November so it will be interesting to see how this year's results stack up," said Ferris. "The important thing is that people take the time to be a part of the process and participate in the elections on Nov. 6."