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**POLL SHOWS INDEPENDENT SURGE IN IOWA'S 1ST DISTRICT AS
MICHAEL BRIDGFORD SURPASSES 10% THRESHOLD**

Independent Candidate Captures 11% Support in Benchmark Survey, Demonstrating Growing Voter Demand for Independent Representation in Eastern Iowa

DAVENPORT, Iowa — August 3, 2026 — A newly released benchmark public opinion survey reveals a groundswell of voter support for Independent candidate Michael Bridgford in Iowa's 1st Congressional District, demonstrating clear momentum as voters seek alternatives to failed partisan politics.

The independent poll of 705 likely voters across the district shows Bridgford commanding **11% support** on the general election ballot test. The strong showing reflects a broader regional trend, as **55% of District 1 voters express a desire for an independent choice** on their ballot this November.

"Eastern Iowans are tired of watching Washington politicians play partisan games while everyday families feel left behind and deal with rising costs and economic uncertainty," said **Michael Bridgford**. "This survey confirms what we've been seeing on the ground every single day: voters are ready for a pragmatic representative who puts local families and farmers ahead of special interests and party bosses."

Bridgford's surging poll numbers also carry significant implications for the fall campaign cycle. By capturing 11% support, the campaign officially meets the required criteria established by Iowa PBS for debate participation, qualifying Bridgford for a spot on the Iowa Press debate stage.

With all official eligibility metrics satisfied, including FEC contribution benchmarks and broad press coverage, the campaign has formally requested inclusion in the upcoming broadcast. Including Bridgford alongside Republican incumbent Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Democratic nominee Christina Bohannon will ensure Eastern Iowa voters receive a complete, well-rounded view of all options on their ballot this November.

"Iowa PBS has set the gold standard for debate coverage for decades," added Bridgford. "Giving voters the opportunity to hear from all qualified candidates on the ballot ensures that Eastern Iowans receive a complete and fair picture of their options before heading to the polls."

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