Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: During the 2016 presidential election, Iowa did not deviate from its recent history of being a swing state. In the five presidential cycles since 2000, three of the contests have gone to the Democratic nominee, and two have gone to the Republican nominee. Furthermore, the margins separating the two candidates were twice under 1%. We argue that Iowa's competitiveness can be attributed to three main structural features: 1) the precinct caucuses, 2) the use of a nonpartisan redistricting scheme, and 3) a unique and divided political geography. We will discuss how these features of Iowa politics explain why the state has been competitive in the past, and why we expect it to remain competitive for the foreseeable future.

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