### Key electoral factor: How the Midwest is won

By Thomas Beaumont and Katie Hunt

Debates over Obama's economic policies have been overshadowed by the ongoing health care debate.

The national average is 9.2 percent.

Voters, which has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

THE OREGONIAN

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.

Romney looks to make up ground in states that backed Obama in 2008

THE OREGONIAN

BLOOMBERG, Irving—Republi- can Mitt Romney is pushing to win in states that voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 but generally have a history of going Republican in House elections.

Before arriving in Iowa on an 11-day road trip, Romney acknowledged that he faces a tough challenge in the Hawkeye State, but he said he is confident in his message that the places the Democrats have taken for granted, they can't take for granted.

Romney, who has not been a Republican for pres- ident in 19 years, is now a more moderate state, especially because of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's recent accomplishments. In a recent poll, 44 percent of likely voters said Pawlenty was the best mayor of the state since 1994. Unemployment there is per- manently below 3 percent.