

10-2012

The Simon Poll, 2012. Illinois Statewide

Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

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The Simon Poll

Illinois Statewide

Fall 2012

Codebook

MAY 2014

Conducted by

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

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Poll Description

Motivation

The mission of the non-partisan Paul Simon Public Policy Institute polling is to provide citizens, policy-makers, and academic researchers with objective information about trends and issues facing society.

Sample and Geographic Coverage

The 2012 Simon Poll interviewed 1,261 registered voters across Illinois

Polling Method

Live telephone interviews. w. Cell phone interviews were included as well as land-line interviews. A Spanish language version of the questionnaire and a Spanish-speaking interviewer were made available

Margin of Error

Plus or minus 2.77 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The margin for error will be larger for demographic, geographic and response subgroups.

Date

Poll conducted September 4-10, 2012.

Polling Agency

Customer Research International of San Marcos, Texas¹.

Funding Source

The survey was paid for with non-tax dollars from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's endowment fund.

¹ Customer Research International reports no Illinois political clients.

Variable Index		
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<u>Introduction and Screening</u>		
id	Respondent ID number	N/A
area	Area of Illinois	7
type	Landline or cell phone	7
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Data Description and Frequencies

Hello. This is (name) calling for The Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. First, I want you to know that I'm not trying to sell you anything. We're conducting a study to find out what voters think about some public policy questions that are important to the State of Illinois. Your household was selected at random to participate. According to our research procedure, may I please speak to the youngest registered voter in the household?

Screening

Respondent ID number

[VAR: id]

Remarks: Each respondent was assigned a unique identification number.

S1. Area

[VAR: area]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Chicago City	1	240
Chicago Suburbs	2	637
Downstate	3	384

S2. Telephone type

[VAR: type]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Landline	1	1070
Cell phone	2	191

General Outlook

1. First, we'd like to know what you think about the direction of the United States of America.

Generally speaking, do you think things in our country are going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction?

[VAR: rwdirusa]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Right direction	1	524
Wrong direction	2	628
Other/Don't know	9	109

Remarks: If the participant was unsure, the interviewer probed, "well, on balance, are things going in the right direction or the wrong direction?"

2. And what about the direction of the State of Illinois? Generally speaking, are things in Illinois going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction?

[VAR: rwdiril]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Right direction	1	247
Wrong direction	2	882
Other/Don't know	9	132

Remarks: If the participant was unsure, the interviewer probed, “well, on balance, are things going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”

3. And how are things going in your city or area of the state? In general, are things in your city or area going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction

[VAR: rwdirlocal]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Right direction	1	683
Wrong direction	2	451
Other/Don't know	9	127

Remarks: If the participant was unsure, the interviewer probed, “well, on balance, are things going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”

4. Regardless of what you think about the direction in your part of the state, tell us what you think about the overall quality of life in your area. Taking everything into account, would you say the overall quality of life in your area is...

[VAR: qlife]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Poor	1	77
Not so good	2	139
Average	3	400
Good	4	498
Excellent	5	147

Voting Behavior

5. As you know, the US Presidential election will be held this coming November 6th. If the election were held today, who would you vote for, (rotate order) the Democrat, Barack Obama, - the Republican, Mitt Romney, or someone else?

[VAR: pres12_oba_rom]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Vote Obama	1	578
Lean Obama	2	16
Undecided	3	112
Lean Romney	4	62
Vote Romney	5	364
Someone else	6	39
Other/Don't know	9	90

Remarks: If the respondent said "someone else," the interviewer asked them to specify. If they said that they were undecided, the interviewer probed "well, which way are you leaning?"

[VAR: pres12_oba_rom_comment]

Remarks: If the respondent said "someone else" on Q5 and specified, the answer was written in.

Note: The interviewer rotated Q6 and Q7.

6. Regarding Barack Obama, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of him?

[VAR: impress_oba]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Very unfavorable	1	303
Somewhat unfavorable	2	170
Neither	3	79
Somewhat favorable	4	320
Very favorable	5	357
Other/Don't know	9	32

Remarks: If the respondent said favorable/unfavorable, the interviewer probed "Is that very or somewhat favorable/unfavorable?"

7. Regarding Mitt Romney, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of him?

[VAR: impress_rom]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Very unfavorable	1	325
Somewhat unfavorable	2	260
Neither	3	127
Somewhat favorable	4	329
Very favorable	5	159
Other/Don't know	9	61

Remarks: If the respondent said favorable/unfavorable, the interviewer probed "Is that very or somewhat favorable/unfavorable?"

8. Next, I'd like for you to tell me how Governor Pat Quinn is doing his job. Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job Governor Pat Quinn is doing?

[VAR: app_gov_quin]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly disapprove	1	341
Somewhat disapprove	2	278
Neither	3	36
Somewhat approve	4	455
Strongly approve	5	77
Other/Don't know	9	74

9. Next, I'd like for you to tell me how well President Obama is doing his job. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the President is doing?

[VAR: app_pres_oba]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly disapprove	1	375
Somewhat disapprove	2	132
Neither	3	27
Somewhat approve	4	345
Strongly approve	5	356
Other/Don't know	9	26

Note: The interviewer rotated the order of Q10 and Q11.

In general...

10. in the US, do you have confidence in the honesty of elections?

[VAR: el_honest_us]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Yes	1	706
No	2	492
Other/Don't know	9	63

And what about...

11. ...in Illinois, do you have confidence in the honesty of elections in Illinois?

[VAR: el_honest_il]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Yes	1	635
No	2	567
Other/Don't know	9	59

Illinois Political Reform

We also are interested in your opinions on political reform in Illinois. I'm going to read you some proposals that some people have offered. For each, I'd like you to tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that idea. First is...

Note: The interviewer rotated Q12-18.

12. A proposal to ban legislators from voting on bills that would result in a substantial personal profit for the legislator

[VAR: leg_per_prof]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Strongly oppose	1	305
Somewhat oppose	2	110
Somewhat favor	3	93
Strongly favor	4	699
Other/Don't know	9	54

13. A proposal to ban legislators from working as a public employee while serving in the legislature

[VAR: leg_pubemp]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Strongly oppose	1	251
Somewhat oppose	2	189
Somewhat favor	3	220
Strongly favor	4	487
Other/Don't know	9	114

14. A proposal to ban legislators from having business contracts with the state

[VAR: leg_st_biz]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Strongly oppose	1	286
Somewhat oppose	2	131
Somewhat favor	3	141
Strongly favor	4	637
Other/Don't know	9	66

15. A proposal to limit how long state legislators could serve. It would limit state representatives to five consecutive terms and state senators to three consecutive terms. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

[VAR: term_lim_12]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	111
Somewhat oppose	2	109
Somewhat favor	3	310
Strongly favor	4	682
Other/Don't know	9	49

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed “do you strongly favor/oppose?”

16. A proposal to limit how long legislators could serve in leadership positions—such as Speaker of the House or President of the Senate—before they stepped down to let other legislators lead. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

[VAR: term_leader]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	93
Somewhat oppose	2	109
Somewhat favor	3	304
Strongly favor	4	678
Other/Don't know	9	77

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed “do you strongly favor/oppose?”

17. A proposal to limit the amount of campaign money that party leaders can transfer to other candidates in the general election. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

[VAR: cf_lim_leader]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	211
Somewhat oppose	2	160
Somewhat favor	3	244
Strongly favor	4	540
Other/Don't know	9	106

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed “do you strongly favor/oppose?”

18. Currently in Illinois, when voting in a PRIMARY election, the voter has to ask for a specific party's ballot. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to change the primary-election process in Illinois so that voters do not have to publicly declare which party's ballot they have chosen?

[VAR: prim_nodeclr]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	171
Somewhat oppose	2	114
Somewhat favor	3	177
Strongly favor	4	706
Other/Don't know	9	93

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed "do you strongly favor/oppose?"

Legislative Redistricting

Section Introduction: Next, we'd like to ask you about the state legislative redistricting process in Illinois.

19. Currently, when the political parties can't agree on a legislative redistricting plan, they end the stalemate by pulling a party's name out of a hat. The winning political party gets to draw the new legislative district map. Do you approve or disapprove of this tie-breaking process?

[VAR: redist_hat]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly disapprove	1	689
Somewhat disapprove	2	238
Somewhat approve	3	186
Strongly approve	4	56
Other/Don't know	9	92

Remarks: If the respondent said approve/disapprove, the interviewer probed "do you strongly approve/disapprove?"

20. One proposal for improving the state legislative redistricting process would have the Illinois Supreme Court add a neutral person to the redistricting panel in case of a partisan tie. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

[VAR: redist_neutral]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	110
Somewhat oppose	2	106
Somewhat favor	3	414
Strongly favor	4	530
Other/Don't know	9	101

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed "do you strongly favor/oppose?"

21. Other people have proposed a constitutional amendment that would have legislative district maps created and recommended by a commission that is independent of the elected representatives. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

[VAR: redist_commis]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	117
Somewhat oppose	2	125
Somewhat favor	3	405
Strongly favor	4	481
Other/Don't know	9	133

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed "do you strongly favor/oppose?"

Financial Disclosure in Politics

Section Introduction: Next, a few questions about financial disclosure in politics. How important is it to you personally to know if an elected official or political candidate...?

Note: The introduction is for Q22-29.

22. ...has another job or other sources of income? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_otherjob]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	101
Not very important	2	194
Somewhat important	3	368
Very important	4	576
Don't know	9	22

23. ...is a leader in an organization that may receive tax dollars? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_taxrec]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	47
Not very important	2	53
Somewhat important	3	314
Very important	4	813
Don't know	9	34

24. ...owns real estate or investments that may benefit from government projects or regulations? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_govprof]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	47
Not very important	2	53
Somewhat important	3	314
Very important	4	813
Don't know	9	34

25. ...receives loans on terms better than what is available to the public? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_loans]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	32
Not very important	2	45
Somewhat important	3	179
Very important	4	979
Don't know	9	26

26. ...is a lobbyist or is related to a lobbyist? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_lobby]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	58
Not very important	2	70
Somewhat important	3	254
Very important	4	835
Don't know	9	44

27. ...annually releases his or her personal income tax returns? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_reltax]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	117
Not very important	2	135
Somewhat important	3	310
Very important	4	687
Don't know	9	12

28. ...has disclosed the list of clients a legislator serves as part of the legislator's private business? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_privbiz]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	62
Not very important	2	81
Somewhat important	3	375
Very important	4	661
Don't know	9	82

29. ...was reported to the State Legislative Ethics Committee for alleged ethics violations? Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

[VAR: off_ethics]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Not at all important	1	15
Not very important	2	27
Somewhat important	3	130
Very important	4	1070
Don't know	9	19

30. Some have proposed limiting the value of gifts that lobbyists can give to legislators—things like dinners, tickets to ball games, etc. What do you think is a reasonable dollar figure for limits on lobbyists' gifts to elected officials?

[VAR: off_giftlim]

<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
0	280
1	17
2	4
5	8
8	1
10	17
15	3
20	8
25	32
30	1
35	1
50	80
60	1
75	2
99	1
100	158
101	1
150	10
200	31
250	21
300	8
350	1
400	4
500	85
600	1
700	1
800	1
999	1
1000	82
1500	4
2000	13
2500	2
3000	1
5000	29
9000	1
10000	24
11000	1
12000	1
20000	1
25000	5
50000	4
100000	8
Not applicable	306

- a. Well, generally speaking, what do you think is a dollar value that is too high for a lobbyist's gift to a legislator?

[VAR: off_giftlim2hi]

Value Label	Frequency
0	13
1	7
8	1
9	3
10	1
50	5
100	16
101	1
200	4
250	1
500	12
1000	29
2000	3
3000	3
5000	13
9999	1
10000	13
20000	2
25000	3
50000	2
100000	4
250000	1
500000	1
Don't know/No answer (999999)	167
Not applicable	955

Remarks: This was only asked of those who said they were not sure or didn't know about Q30.

Influence of Special Interest Groups

We frequently hear of the influence special interest groups have in our state. I'm going to read a list of groups. For each, I'd like to tell me if that group has too much influence in Illinois, too little influence, or about the right amount.

Note: The interviewer rotated Q31-42.

31. Pro-choice groups

[VAR: inf_proc]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Too much	1	314
About right	2	562
Too little	3	218
Don't know	9	167

32. Gay-rights groups

[VAR: inf_lgrts]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Too much	1	370
About right	2	512
Too little	3	228
Don't know	9	151

33. Pro-life groups

[VAR: inf_prol]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Too much	1	340
About right	2	536
Too little	3	231
Don't know	9	154

34. Business and industry organizations

[VAR: inf_biz]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Too much	1	370
About right	2	510
Too little	3	215
Don't know	9	166

35. Evangelical church groups

[VAR: inf_evch]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Too much	1	334
About right	2	492
Too little	3	194
Don't know	9	241

36. Private-sector labor unions

[VAR: inf_priunion]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	462
About right	2	407
Too little	3	212
Don't know	9	180

37. The Occupy Wall Street movement

[VAR: inf_occupy]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	429
About right	2	348
Too little	3	219
Don't know	9	265

38. The Tea Party movement

[VAR: inf_teapar]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	436
About right	2	403
Too little	3	201
Don't know	9	221

39. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce

[VAR: inf_ilcoc]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	197
About right	2	603
Too little	3	203
Don't know	9	258

40. The National Rifle Association

[VAR: inf_nra]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	516
About right	2	399
Too little	3	207
Don't know	9	139

41. The Catholic Church

[VAR: inf_cathch]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	363
About right	2	549
Too little	3	166
Don't know	9	183

42. Public employee unions

[VAR: inf_pubunion]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Too much	1	458
About right	2	410
Too little	3	240
Don't know	9	153

Corruption

43. In regards to corruption, would you say corruption in Illinois *business* is widespread, or not?

[VAR: crpt_biz]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Yes	1	785
No	2	332
Other/Don't know	9	144

44. And what about in state government? Would you say corruption in Illinois *government* is widespread, or not?

[VAR: crpt_ilsprd]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Yes	1	968
No	2	205
Other/Don't know	9	88

45. Compared to other states, do you think Illinois' state government is more corrupt than governments in other states, less corrupt than in other states, or do you think it is about the same?

[VAR: crpt_ilohtst]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
More corrupt	1	732
Less corrupt	2	27
About the same	3	462
Other/Don't know	9	40

46. What about in your city or area of the state? Is your local government more corrupt than government in other parts of Illinois, less corrupt, or do you think it is about the same?

[VAR: crpt_locil]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
More corrupt	1	236
Less corrupt	2	451
About the same	3	525
Other/Don't know	9	49

47. Now let me read you some information. In 2010, in a case commonly referred to as Citizens United, the Supreme Court decided that corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts of money to directly support or oppose political candidates. Before the ruling, corporations and unions could not. From what you know, do you favor or oppose this Supreme Court ruling?

[VAR: app_citun]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly oppose	1	657
Somewhat oppose	2	181
Somewhat favor	3	215
Strongly favor	4	105
Other/Don't know	9	103

Remarks: If the respondent said favor/oppose, the interviewer probed "do you strongly favor/oppose?"

Political Reform

Section Introduction: Now I'm going to read two groups of statements about political reform. For each, please tell me which comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right, OK?

- 48.** First is... limits on campaign contributions are necessary to prohibit corruption and maintain the confidence of the public in politics. Complete disclosure of contributions is important, but it is not enough--OR--contribution limits do not work. Money always finds a way to influence politics. The best way to ensure the integrity of politics and maintain the confidence of the public is to eliminate contribution limits and to require complete, immediate disclosure of all contributions.

[VAR: cf_limneed]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Limits on campaign contributions are necessary	1	580
Contribution limits do not work	2	620
Other/Don't know	9	61

Remarks: If the respondent said "other/don't know," the interviewer probed "well, which is closer to your views? I could read them again, ok?"

- 49.** Next, about former elected officials as lobbyists, which statement comes closer to your views? First, to reduce the likelihood or the perception of corruption or trading votes for money, politicians should be prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues for one year after leaving office--OR--organizations hire former legislators for their expertise in the lawmaking process. Contacting governmental officials is a constitutional right for anyone and should not be regulated--even for former elected officials.

[VAR: off_2blobby]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Politicians should be prohibited from lobbying	1	864
Contacting government officials is a constitutional right	2	320
Other/Don't know	9	77

Remarks: If the respondent said "other/don't know," the interviewer probed "well, which is closer to your views? I could read them again, ok?"

Wealth in the U.S.

Section Introduction: Next, we would like to know what you think about wealth in this country, first...

- 50.** Which of these statements comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right... most rich people today are wealthy mainly because of their own hard work, ambition or education--OR-- most rich people today are wealthy mainly because they know the right people or were born into wealthy families?

Note: the interviewer rotated the order that they read the two statements.

[VAR: wealth_reason]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Hard work and ambition	1	510
Know the right people/born rich	2	591
Neither	3	28
Both equally	4	98
Other/Don't know	9	34

- 51.** Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in this country today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?

[VAR: wealth_distfair]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Fair now	1	435
Should be more even	2	729
Other/Don't know	9	97

- 52.** Do you think the federal government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap between wealthy and less well-off Americans?

[VAR: wealth_fedpolicy]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Should	1	657
Should not	2	518
Other/Don't know	9	86

Social Issues

- 53.** Next, I want to get your thoughts on a scenario I'm going to read to you: Let's say that you have a close relative who has just been arrested on a serious charge of driving under the influence of alcohol. He is in his first job out of college and cannot do his job without a driver's license. His wife is pregnant with their first child.

Your relative has hired a veteran lawyer who says he knows his way around the courthouse. The lawyer says that if your relative provides him \$1000 in cash, in addition to his fee, he is confident that he can have the charge dismissed. Your young relative has asked for your advice. Would you tell him to (rotate) accept the lawyer's offer—OR—decline the lawyer's offer?

[VAR: leg_hypoth]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Accept the lawyer's offer	1	317
Decline the lawyer's offer	2	853
Other/Don't know	9	91

Remarks: If the respondent said that they were unsure or didn't know, the interviewer probed "well, if it was really important to give your opinion, what would you say?"

Section Introduction: And now just a couple of questions on social issues...

- 54.** Do you think abortions should be legal under all circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

[VAR: abort_leg]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Legal under any	1	466
Legal under certain	2	559
Illegal under all	3	200
Other/Don't know	9	36

- 55.** Which of the following three statements comes closest to your position on the legal rights of gay and lesbian couples in Illinois?: Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry; Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to form civil unions, which would give them some legal rights; OR There should be no legal recognition of relationships between gay and lesbian couples?

[VAR: lg_coup_rts]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Allowed to legally marry	1	550
Allowed to form civil unions	2	401
No legal recognition of relationships	3	255
Other/Don't know	9	55

56. Do you have a current, unexpired Illinois-issued ID with your picture on it, like a driver's license?

[VAR: id_il]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Yes	1	1139
No	2	118
Other/Don't know	9	4

57. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

[VAR: education]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Less than high school	1	44
High school	2	231
Some college	3	261
Associate's degree	4	117
Bachelor's degree	5	319
Graduate or professional degree	6	279
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	10

58. Generally speaking, in politics today, do you consider yourself...

[VAR: ideology]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Very liberal	1	116
Somewhat liberal	2	290
Moderate	3	328
Somewhat conservative	4	317
Very conservative	5	158
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	52

59. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

[VAR: party_aff]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strong Democrat	1	327
Not so strong Democrat	2	139
Independent leaning Democrat	3	173
Pure Independent	4	106
Independent leaning Republican	5	147
Not so strong Republican	6	103
Strong Republican	7	178
Other	8	23
Don't know/Refused	9	65

Remarks: If Republican or Democrat: Would you call yourself a strong R/D or a not-so-strong R/D; if Independent: Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican or Democratic Party? Only asked of those who said they were Republican or Democrat.

60. Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time, retired or not currently employed?

[VAR: employ_time]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Full-time	1	505
Part-time	2	139
Retired	3	441
Not employed	4	165
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	11

Remarks: If the respondent said that they were “full-time” (1) or “part-time” (2), the interviewer proceeded to ask them Q61. If the respondent said that they were “retired” (3), the interviewer proceeded to ask them Q62. If they were “not employed” or “other/don't know/refused” (9), the interviewer skipped to R01.

61. Are you an employee of a private company or business, an employee of a non-profit organization, a government employee or self-employed in your own business or professional practice?

[VAR: employ_type]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Private	1	339
Non-Profit	2	70
Government	3	93
Self-employed	4	120
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	22
Not applicable	IAP	617

Remarks: Only asked if response to Q60 was full-time (1) or part-time (2).

62. Are you retired from a private company or business, a non-profit organization, a governmental agency or were you self-employed in your own business or professional practice?

[VAR: retired_type]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Private	1	208
Non-Profit	2	44
Government	3	100
Self-employed	4	46
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	43
Not applicable	IAP	820

Remarks: Only asked if response to Q60 was retired (3).

Religious Behavior

R01. Lots of things come up that keep people from attending religious services even if they want to. Apart from occasional weddings, baptisms or funerals, how often do you go to religious services: every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

[VAR: relig_att_often]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Every week	1	381
Almost every week	2	126
Once or twice a month	3	178
A few times a year	4	349
Never	5	203
Refused	9	24

Remarks: If “every week” (1), “almost every week” (2), or “once or twice a month” (3) go to RO2A. If “a few times a year” (4), “never” (5), or “refused” (6), go to RO2B.

R02A. Do you attend a place of worship that is Christian or some other religion?

[VAR: relig_type]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Christian	1	649
Some other religion	2	30
Don't know	8	2
Refused	9	4
Not applicable	IAP	576

Remarks: Only asked if R01 “every week,” “almost every week,” or “once/twice a month.” If “Christian” (1), go to R03. If “some other religion” (2), go to R04. If “refused” (9), “don't know (8), or missing (IAP), go to Q63.

R02B. Do you consider yourself Christian, some other religion, or no religion?

[VAR: religion]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Christian	1	389
Some other religion	2	63
No religion	3	104
Don't know	8	3
Refused	9	17
Not applicable	IAP	685

Remarks: If "Christian" (1), go to R03. If "some other religion" (2), go to R04. If "refused" (9), "don't know" (8), or missing (IAP), go to Q63.

R03. What church or denomination is that?

[VAR: relig_denom]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Anglican or Episcopalian	1	15
Assembly of God	2	5
Baptist	3	132
Brethren	4	2
Catholic or Roman Catholic	5	401
Church (or Churches) of Christ	6	4
Church of God	7	7
Congregationalist	8	1
Disciples of Christ	9	2
Jehovah's Witness	11	3
Latter Day Saints or LDS	12	2
Lutheran	13	76
Methodist	14	75
Mormon	15	1
Non-denominational	16	80
Orthodox	17	6
Pentecostal	18	13
Presbyterian	19	22
Reformed	20	5
United Church of Christ	21	12
Christian or 'Just Christian'	30	52
Protestant or 'Just Protestant'	31	29
Other – Specify	88	38
Don't know	98	30
Refused	99	25
Not applicable	IAP	223

R04. What church or religion is that?

[VAR: relig_what]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Baha'i	1	1
Buddhist	2	3
Hindu	3	4
Islam or Muslim	4	9
Jewish – Conservative	5	14
Jewish – Reform	6	21
Jewish – Orthodox	7	1
Jewish or 'Just Jewish'	8	13
Spiritual	10	2
Unitarian or Universalist	11	2
Other	88	10
Don't know	98	2
Refused	99	11
Not applicable	IAP	1168

R05. Some people think of themselves as evangelical or born-again Christians. Do you ever think of yourself in either of these ways?

[VAR: born_again]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Yes	1	210
No	2	400
Don't know	8	10
Refused	9	5
Not applicable	IAP	636

Remarks: Asked of anyone asked R03 except Catholic, LDS, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, and Orthodox. The interviewer coded exact response and did not probe.

Demographics

63. To make sure all parts of Illinois are represented, could you please tell me your five-digit ZIP code?

[VAR: zip]

Remarks: If the respondent refused, zip code entered as 99999.

64. For classification purposes, I need to know the year of your birth.

[VAR: birth_yr]

Remarks: If the respondent refused, birth year entered as 9999.

65. For statistical purposes only, we'd like to know your racial or ethnic group.

[VAR: rac_eth]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
White	1	920
Black	2	173
Asian	3	26
Hispanic	4	44
Multiracial	5	18
Other	8	13
Refused	9	67

Remarks: Interviewer was instructed to say, “most people consider themselves either white, black, Asian, or Hispanic” only if necessary, otherwise they did not read the list.

66. And finally, again for statistical purposes, we'd like a rough estimate of your total household income last year. Just stop me when I get to your category. Was it...?

[VAR: hh_inc]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Under \$25,00	1	182
\$25,000 to less than \$35,000	2	101
\$35,000 to less than \$50,000	3	132
\$50,000 to less than \$70,000	4	160
\$70,000 to less than \$100,000	5	180
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	6	139
Over \$150,000	7	136
Refused	9	231

67. Gender

[VAR: gender]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Male	1	552
Female	2	709

Remarks: The interviewer did not ask about gender, they just coded it.

68. Language

[VAR: language]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
English	1	1254
Spanish	2	7

69. Area code (for phone contacted on)

[VAR: areacode]

<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
217	91
224	7
309	73
312	240
331	1
618	108
630	147
708	164
773	140
815	112
847	178

70. Party recode

[VAR: partyid]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Democrat	1	639
Independent	2	106
Republican	3	428
Other	9	88

Re-Asked Questions

71. The computer is telling me to ask you one question again. What is the last level of education you have completed

[VAR: education_redo]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Less than high school	1	12
High school	2	67
Some college	3	65
Associate's degree	4	21
Bachelor's degree	5	81
Graduate or professional degree	6	62
Other/Don't know	9	9
Not applicable	IAP	944

Remarks: Questions were randomly re-asked at the end of the interview.

72. The computer is telling me to ask you one question again. Generally speaking, in politics today, do you consider yourself...

[VAR: ideology_redo]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Very liberal	1	27
Somewhat liberal	2	75
Moderate	3	65
Somewhat conservative	4	97
Very conservative	5	37
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	13
Not applicable	IAP	947

73. The computer is telling me to ask you one question again. Generally speaking do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

[VAR: party_aff_redo]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strong Democrat	1	78
Not so strong Democrat	2	36
Independent leaning Democrat	3	42
Pure Independent	4	27
Independent leaning Republican	5	34
Not so strong Republican	6	25
Strong Republican	7	45
Other	8	3
Don't know/Refused	9	26
Not applicable	IAP	945

74. The computer is telling me to ask you one question again. Are you currently employed full-time, employed part-time, retired or not currently employed?

[VAR: employ_time_redo]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Full-time	1	120
Part-time	2	34
Retired	3	100
Not employed	4	58
Other/Don't know/Refused	9	2
Not applicable	IAP	947

And that's all the questions we have. Thank you for your time and cooperation with this very important survey. Good night.

Survey Instrument

2012 Statewide Poll

Paul Simon Public Policy Institute • Fourth working draft

June 7, 2012

Hello. This is [NAME] calling for The Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University. First, I want you to know that I'm not trying to sell you anything. We're conducting a study to find out what voters think about some public policy questions that are important to the State of Illinois. Your household was selected at random to participate. According to our research procedure, may I please speak to the youngest registered voter in the household? (REPEAT INTRO IF NECESSARY)

1. First, we'd like to know what you think about the direction of the United States of America. Generally speaking, do you think things in our country are going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction? (IF UNSURE PROBE: Well, on balance, are things going in the right direction or the wrong direction?)
 - 1) Right direction
 - 2) Wrong direction
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

2. And what about the direction of the State of Illinois? Generally speaking, are things in Illinois going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction? (IF UNSURE, PROBE)
 - 1) Right direction
 - 2) Wrong direction
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

3. And how are things going in your city or area of the state? In general, are things in your city or area going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction? (IF UNSURE, PROBE)
 - 1) Right direction
 - 2) Wrong direction
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

4. Regardless of what you think about the direction in your part of the state, tell us what you think about the overall quality of life in your area. Taking everything into account, would you say the overall quality of life in your area is . . . ?
 - 1) Excellent
 - 2) Good
 - 3) Average
 - 4) Not so good, or
 - 5) Poor

5. As you know, the US Presidential election will be held this coming November 6th. If the election were held today, who would you vote for, (ROTATE) the Democrat, Barack Obama, - the Republican, Mitt Romney, or someone else (IF SOMEONE ELSE, SPECIFY)? (IF UNDECIDED, WELL, WHICH WAY ARE YOU LEANING?)

- 1) Obama
- 2) Lean Obama
- 3) Undecided
- 4) Lean Romney
- 5) Romney
- 6) Someone else
- 7) Other/DK
- 8) ROTATE:

ROTATE OBAMA/ROMNEY FAVORABLES:

6. Regarding Barack Obama, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of him? (IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE: IS THAT VERY OR SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE?)

- 1) Very favorable
- 2) Favorable
- 3) Neither
- 4) Unfavorable
- 5) Very unfavorable
- 6) Other/DK

7. Regarding Mitt Romney, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of him? (IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE: IS THAT VERY OR SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE?)

- 1) Very favorable
- 2) Favorable
- 3) Neither
- 4) Unfavorable
- 5) Very unfavorable
- 6) Other/DK

8. Next, I'd like for you to tell me how well President Obama is doing is job. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the President is doing? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE: IS THAT STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT APPROVE/DISAPPROVE?)

- 1) Strongly approve
- 2) Approve
- 3) Neither
- 4) Disapprove
- 5) Strongly disapprove
- 6) Other/DK

ROTATE:

In general,

9. in the US, do you have confidence in the honesty of elections?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
- 4)

And what about

10. in Illinois, do you have confidence in the honesty of elections in Illinois?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

We also are interested in your opinions on political reform in Illinois. I'm going to read you some proposals that some people have offered. For each, I'd like you to tell me if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that idea. First is... **[ROTATE ORDER OF PROPOSALS]**

11. A proposal to limit how long state legislators could serve. It would limit state representatives to five consecutive terms and state senators to three consecutive terms. Would you favor or oppose this proposal? (INTERVIEWER: IF FAVOR / OPPOSE ASK: DO YOU STRONGLY FAVOR / OPPOSE?)

- 1) Strongly favor
- 2) Somewhat favor
- 3) Somewhat oppose
- 4) Strongly oppose
- 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

12. A proposal to limit how long legislators could serve in leadership positions—such as Speaker of the House or President of the Senate—before they stepped down to let other legislators lead. Would you
- 1) Strongly favor
 - 2) Somewhat favor
 - 3) Somewhat oppose
 - 4) Strongly oppose
 - 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
13. A proposal to limit the amount of campaign money that party leaders can transfer to other candidates in the general election. Would you favor or oppose this proposal? (INTERVIEWER: IF FAVOR / OPPOSE ASK: DO YOU STRONGLY FAVOR / OPPOSE?)
- 6) Strongly favor
 - 7) Somewhat favor
 - 8) Somewhat oppose
 - 9) Strongly oppose
 - 10) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
14. Currently in Illinois, when voting in a PRIMARY election, the voter has to ask for a specific party's ballot. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to change the primary-election process in Illinois so that voters do not have to publicly declare which party's ballot they have chosen? (INTERVIEWER: IF FAVOR / OPPOSE ASK: DO YOU STRONGLY FAVOR / OPPOSE?)
- 1) Strongly favor
 - 2) Somewhat favor
 - 3) Somewhat oppose
 - 4) Strongly oppose
 - 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

Next, we'd like to ask you about the state legislative redistricting process in Illinois.

15. Currently, when the political parties can't agree on a legislative redistricting plan, they end the stalemate by pulling a party's name out of a hat. The winning political party gets to draw the new legislative district map. Do you approve or disapprove of this tie-breaking process? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE ASK: DO YOU STRONGLY APPROVE/DISAPPROVE?)
- 1) Strongly approve
 - 2) Approve
 - 3) Disapprove
 - 4) Strongly disapprove
 - 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

16. One proposal for improving the state legislative redistricting process would have the Illinois Supreme Court add a neutral person to the redistricting panel in case of a partisan tie. Would you favor or oppose this proposal? (INTERVIEWER: IF FAVOR / OPPOSE ASK: DO YOU STRONGLY FAVOR / OPPOSE?)

- 6) Strongly favor
- 7) Favor
- 8) Oppose
- 9) Strongly oppose
- 10) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

17. Other people have proposed a constitutional amendment that would have legislative district maps created and recommended by a commission that is independent of the elected representatives. Would you favor or oppose this proposal? (INTERVIEWER: IF FAVOR / OPPOSE ASK: DO YOU STRONGLY FAVOR / OPPOSE?)

- 1) Strongly favor
- 2) Favor
- 3) Oppose
- 4) Strongly oppose
- 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

Next, a few questions about financial disclosure in politics. How important is it to you personally to know if an elected official or political candidate...? (READ EACH STATEMENT AND SELECT APPROPRIATE RESPONSE) (READ IF NECESSARY AFTER EACH STATEMENT: How important is it to you personally to know if an elected official or political candidate...?)

Scale

- 1) Very important
- 2) Somewhat important
- 3) Not very important
- 4) Not at all important
- 5) (DO NOT READ) Don't know

18. Has another job or other sources of income?
19. Is a leader in an organization that may receive tax dollars?
20. Owns real estate or investments that may benefit from government projects or regulations?
21. Receives loans on terms better than what is available to the public?
22. Is a lobbyist or is related to a lobbyist?
23. Annually releases his or her personal income tax returns?

24. OPEN-ENDED: Some have proposed limiting the value of gifts that lobbyists can give to legislators—things like dinners, tickets to ball games, etc. What do you think is a reasonable dollar figure for limits on lobbyists' gifts to elected officials? (IF NOT SURE/DK, PROBE: WELL, GENERALLY SPEAKING, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS A DOLLAR VALUE THAT IS HIGH ENOUGH TO INFLUENCE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL?) [INTERVIEWER: ENTER DOLLAR AMOUNT] _____

We frequently hear of the influence special interest groups have in our state. I'm going to read a list of groups. For each, I'd like to tell me if that group has too much influence in Illinois, too little influence, or about the right amount. (Rotate groups) (AFTER EACH GROUP, REPEAT, IF NECESSARY: WOULD YOU SAY THIS GROUP HAS TOO MUCH INFLUENCE, TOO LITTLE INFLUENCE, OR ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT?)

Scale

- 1) Too much
- 2) About right
- 3) Too little
- 4) (DO NOT READ) Don't know

-
25. Pro-choice groups
 26. Gay-rights groups
 26. Pro-life groups
 28. Business and industry organizations
 29. Church groups
 30. Labor unions
 31. The Occupy Wall Street movement?
 32. The Tea Party movement
 33. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce
 34. The National Rifle Association
 35. The Catholic Church
 36. Public employee unions
37. In regards to corruption, would you say corruption in Illinois *business* is widespread, or not?
- 1) Yes
 - 2) No
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

38. And what about in state government? Would you say corruption in Illinois *government* is widespread, or not?
- 1) Yes
 - 2) No
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
39. Compared to other states, do you think Illinois' state government is more corrupt than governments in other states, less corrupt than in other states, or do you think it is about the same?
- 1) More corrupt
 - 2) Less corrupt
 - 3) About the same
 - 4) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
40. What about in your city or area of the state? Is your local government more corrupt than government in other parts of Illinois, less corrupt, or do you think it is about the same?
- 1) More corrupt
 - 2) Less corrupt
 - 3) About the same
 - 4) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
41. Now let me read you some information. In 2010, in a case commonly referred to as Citizens United, the Supreme Court decided that corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts of money to directly support or oppose political candidates. Before the ruling, corporations and unions could not. From what you know, do you favor or oppose this Supreme Court ruling? (IF FAVOR OR OPPOSE: DO YOU STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT FAVOR/OPPOSE?)
- 1) Strongly favor
 - 2) Favor
 - 3) Oppose
 - 4) Strongly oppose
 - 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

Now I'm going to read two groups of statements about political reform. For each, please tell me which comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right, OK? First is a question about campaign contribution limits. (IF OTHER/DK—WELL, WHICH IS CLOSER TO YOUR VIEWS? I COULD READ THEM AGAIN, OK?)

42. First is (ROTATE)
- 1) Limits on campaign contributions are necessary to prohibit corruption and maintain the confidence of the public in politics. Complete disclosure of contributions is important, but it is not enough.
- OR--
- 2) Contribution limits do not work. Money always finds a way to influence politics. The best way to ensure the integrity of politics and maintain the confidence of the public is to eliminate contribution limits and to require complete, immediate disclosure of all contributions.
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know
43. Next, about former elected officials as lobbyists, which statement comes closer to your views? (IF OTHER/DK—WELL, WHICH IS CLOSER TO YOUR VIEWS? I COULD READ THEM AGAIN, OK?)

First, (ROTATE)

- 1) To reduce the likelihood or the perception of corruption or trading votes for money, politicians should be prohibited from lobbying their former colleagues for one year after leaving office.
- OR
- 2) Organizations hire former legislators for their expertise in the lawmaking process. Contacting governmental officials is a constitutional right for anyone and should not be regulated--even for former elected officials.
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

Next, we would like to know what you think about wealth in this country, first [ROTATE ITEMS]

44. Which of these statements comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right. (ROTATE)
- 1) Most rich people today are wealthy mainly because of their own hard work, ambition or education;
- OR
- 2) Most rich people today are wealthy mainly because they know the right people or were born into wealthy families
- 1) Hard work and ambition
 - 2) Know the right people/born rich
 - 3) Neither (VOL)
 - 4) Both equally (VOL)
 - 5) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

45. Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in this country today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in this country should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?

- 1) Fair now
- 2) Should be more even
- 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

46. Do you think the federal government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap between wealthy and less well-off Americans?

- 1) Should
- 2) Should not
- 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/Don't know

47. Next, I want to get your thoughts on a scenario I'm going to read to you: Let's say that you have a close relative who has just been arrested on a serious charge of driving under the influence of alcohol. He is in his first job out of college and cannot do his job without a driver's license. His wife is pregnant with their first child.

Your relative has hired a veteran lawyer who says he knows his way around the courthouse. The lawyer says that if your relative provides him \$1000 in cash, in addition to his fee, he is confident that he can have the charge dismissed. Your young relative has asked for your advice. Would you tell him to (ROTATE) (IF UNSURE OR DK, WELL, IF IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO GIVE YOUR OPINION, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?)

- 1) accept the lawyer's offer
- OR
- 2) decline the lawyer's offer
 - 3) (DO NOT READ) Other/DK

And now just a couple of questions on social issues:

48. Do you think abortions should be legal under all circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

Legal under any legal under certain illegal under all Other/DK

49. Which of the following three statements comes closest to your position on the legal rights of gay and lesbian couples in Illinois?

Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry
Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not to legally marry.
There should be no legal recognition of relationships between gay and lesbian couples
Oth, DK

Note: Demographic questions were repeats of previous years' polls. As a result, they were left off the final draft of the survey.