

10-2008

The Simon Poll, 2008. Illinois Statewide

Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

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The Simon Poll

Illinois Statewide

Fall 2008

Codebook

MAY 2014

Conducted by

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

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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 2008 Simon Poll 800 registered voters across the state of Illinois

Polling Method

Live telephone interviews.

Margin of Error

Results from the entire sample have a statistical margin for error of ± 3.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The margin for error will be larger for demographic, geographic and response subgroups.

Date

Poll conducted from September 23 and October 17, 2008.

Polling Agency

Research Office at the University of Illinois-Springfield's Center for State Policy and Leadership

Funding Source

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

Limitations of data/survey materials

The data contained below, in the SPSS dataset, and the accompanying .csv files have the following limitations:

- Open-ended responses are missing: In the data, the actual responses for open-ended questions are not in the record and are irretrievable.
- Missing final survey instrument: The survey instrument at the end of this document (starting on page 31) is only the first draft of the final survey. The final draft has been lost and is irretrievable.
- Some question wording inferred: Due to the partial nature of the survey instrument and the truncation of variable labels in the SPSS dataset, some question wording in the following codebook are the best estimate of the original wording. Data labels and values in the accompanying SPSS file, subsequent Simon Poll instruments, and discussions with Institute researchers were used to recreate the question wording.

Researchers are asked to keep these limitations in mind when working with the 2008 Simon Poll.

Variable Index		
Variable	Description	Frequency Page
<u>Introduction and Screening</u>		
id	Respondent ID number	N/A
time	Response time	N/A
intid	Interviewer ID number	N/A
area	Region of Illinois	9
rsphone	Respondents area code and prefix	N/A
acode	Respondents area code	N/A
zip	ZIP Code of respondent	N/A
ringer	Test or person answers	N/A
intro1	survey material ¹	N/A
intro2	survey material	N/A
srvyinfo	survey material	N/A
gender	Gender of Respondent	10
<u>General Outlook</u>		
rwdirusa	U.S. Right/Wrong Direction	10
rwdiril	Illinois Right/Wrong Direction	10
rwdirlocal	Local area Right/Wrong Direction	11
qlife	Local Quality of Life	11
<u>Illinois Political Reform</u>		
ccintro	survey material	N/A
recall	Favorability; recall for all statewide offices	11
order1, order2	survey material	N/A
concon	Necessity of Constitutional Convention	12
rcc1ccp, rcc2ccp, ccr1, ccr2	survey material	N/A
conconinfo	Knowledge about Constitutional Convention	15
<u>Government Taxes and Services</u>		
tax_fed_val	Value of services from federal tax dollars	12
tax_il_val	Value of services from IL tax dollars	13
tax_fairshr	Area receives fair share of government spending	13
<u>Quality of Life</u>		
qlintro	survey material	N/A
qual_air	Quality of local environment, water, air	13
qual_infra	Quality of local infrastructure, roads, bridges	14

¹ Variables described as “survey material” are left in the SPSS file to allow researchers to assess question introductions and transitions. These variables do not include response data.

qual_cops	Quality of local public safety, police, fire protection	14
qual_K12	Quality of local public education	14
econ_local	Local economy performance	15
qual_parks	Quality of local parks and recreation opportunities	15
<u>Illinois Budget</u>		
ilbudg_st	IL Budget, State government as a whole	16
ilbudg_gdjob	IL Budget, good job	16
ilbudg_prjob	IL Budget, poor job	16
ilbudg_intro	survey material	N/A
ilbudg_gov	IL Budget, Gov. Blagojevich	17
ilbudg_leg	IL Budget, IL Legislature	17
ilbudg_senpres	IL Budget, State Senate President Jones	17
ilbudg_horspkr	IL Budget, State House Leader Madigan	18
stfin_intro	survey material	N/A
stfin_total	State Finances, not enough revenue/too much waste	18
stfinord	survey material	N/A
cuts_intro	survey material	N/A
cuts_K12	Favor/Oppose; state funding cuts to K12 education	18
cuts_he	Favor/Oppose; state funding cuts to higher education	19
cuts_cops	Favor/Oppose; state funding cuts to public safety, police, and prisons	19
cuts_parks	Favor/Oppose; state funding cuts to state parks/environmental regulations	19
cuts_poor	Favor/Oppose; state funding cuts to programs for the poor	19
pen_cuts	Favor/Oppose; state funding cuts to state workers' pension benefits	20
cuts_comment	Other funding cuts, solicited comments	20
tax_intro	survey material	N/A
tax_hinc	Favor/Oppose: Add tax brackets for higher-income IL residents	20
tax_sales	Favor/Oppose: Increasing IL state sales tax	21
tax_services	Favor/Oppose: IL state sales tax on services	21
gamble_exp	Favor/Oppose: Expanding gambling	21
sell_il_asset	Favor/Oppose: Sell state assets (privatize), such as lottery, toll road system	21

tax_comment	Other revenue sources, solicited comments	22
<u>Illinois Courts and Judiciary</u>		
crts_intro	survey material	N/A
judic_apelect	IL judges, appointed or elected	22
judic_apelectfeel	judic_apelect, strongly or weakly favor	22
judic_campissue	IL judges, take stand on issues in campaigns	23
crts_intro2	survey material	N/A
cf_lim_judg1	Campaign finance, limit on judicial campaign contributions by individuals	23
cf_lim_judg2	Campaign finance, limit on judicial campaign contributions by organizations	23
cf_pub_judg1	Campaign finance, public funding in judicial races, support	24
cf_pub_judg2	Campaign finance, public funding in judicial races, in public interest	24
crts4ord	survey material	N/A
<u>Demographics</u>		
demo_intro	survey material	N/A
gender	Gender of Respondent	5
birth_yr	Year of birth	24
hh_child	Number of children in household	25
comum_type	Community type, city, suburb, rural	25
zip2	ZIP Code	25
county	Respondent's county of residence	26
education	Last level of education completed	26
employ_time	Employment: full-time, part-time, none	26
rent_own	Rent or own home	27
marstatus	Marital status	27
party_aff08	Party affiliation, no strength	27
party_repstr	Republican, strength of party affiliation	28
party_demstr	Democratic, strength of party affiliation	28
party_indystr	Party leanings of Independents	28
party_aff	Collapse of party_repstr, party_demstr, and party_indystr. Variable constructed to resemble corresponding variable in subsequent polls.	28
rac_eth	Race or Ethnicity	29
hh_inc	Household income, category	29
numphones	Number of landline telephone numbers utilized by household	30
havecell	Cell phone present in household, number	30
gender2	Gender of respondent	30

cbtime	survey material	N/A
nrv	survey material	N/A
thanks	survey material	N/A
sorry	survey material	N/A
thanksc	survey material	N/A
results	survey material	N/A
spanish	survey material	N/A
date1	date of interview	N/A
regwgt	Region weight	N/A
gendwgt	Gender weight	N/A
rxgwt	Region x Gender weight	N/A
<u>Construction Variables²</u>		
rcc1, rcc2, ccr1r, ccr2r	recall: response option order, 4 versions	N/A
rcc1ccq, rcc2ccq, ccr1ccq, ccr2ccq	concon: response option order, 4 versions	N/A
ilbudg_gdjob1, ilbudg_gdjob2	ilbudg_gdjob: response option order, 2 versions	N/A
ilbudg_prjob1, ilbudg_prjob2	ilbudg_prjob: response option order, 2 versions	N/A
stfin1, stfin2	stfin_total: response option order, 2 versions	N/A
crts4a, crts4b	cf_pub_judg2: response option order, 2 versions	N/A

² The variables in this section were used to record respondents' answers when presented with different possible response ordering. These variables were then used to construct the variable referenced in each description.

Data Description and Frequencies

Introduction and Screening

Hi, this is (name), calling from the University of Illinois Survey Research Center. We are conducting a survey on important public issues facing the State of Illinois. This is a legitimate public opinion survey—there is nothing to buy or sell. This number was selected at random. According to our research procedure, I need to speak to the youngest (male/female) who is registered to vote and who is at home when I place the call. May I speak to that person, please?

1. Respondent ID number

[VAR: id]

2. Time respondent took answering survey

[VAR: time]

Remarks: Recorded in minutes

3. Interviewer ID number

[VAR: intid]

4. Region of Illinois

[VAR: area]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Chicago	1	124
Chicago suburbs	2	236
North/Central	3	152
South	4	48

5. Phone number

[VAR: rsphone]

Remarks: This is the area code and prefix where the respondent was reached.

6. Phone area code

[VAR: acode]

Remarks: This is the area code where the respondent was reached.

7. What is your zip code?

[VAR: zip]

Remarks: This variable was open ended and includes any 5-digit zip code that the respondent offered. If the respondent didn't know or refused their response was coded as 69999.

8. Gender

[VAR: gender]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Male	1	270
Female	2	291

Remarks: The interviewer coded the respondent's gender without asking the person. If the interviewer did not know or couldn't tell at the moment, she was instructed to code the respondent as a 9.

General Outlook

9. 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]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Right direction	1	33
Wrong direction	2	503
Don't know	8	23
Not applicable	9	2

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

10. 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	58
Wrong direction	2	445
Don't know	8	56
Not applicable	9	2
Missing	IAP	1

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

11. And how are things going in your city or part of the state? In general, are things in your city or part of Illinois going in the right direction, or in the wrong direction?

[VAR: rwdirlocal]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Right direction	1	239
Wrong direction	2	269
Don't know	8	47
Not applicable	9	3
Missing	IAP	3

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

12. Regardless of what you think about the direction 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 part of Illinois is...

[VAR: qlife]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	63
Good	2	208
Average	3	199
Not so good	4	50
Poor	5	27
Don't know	8	7
Not applicable	IAP	7

Illinois Political Reform

Section Introduction: Next, we'd like to know what you think about some public policy questions that are being talked about in Illinois (rotate).

13. Some people are talking about amending the constitution to allow recall elections for holders of statewide elected offices, such as secretary of state, governor, or lieutenant governor. That is, the people could vote at any time to remove an elected official from office rather than waiting until the next election. How do you feel about allowing recall elections for holders of statewide elected offices? Would you say you:

[VAR: recall]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly favor	1	184
Favor	2	180
Oppose	3	107
Strongly oppose	4	46
Don't know	8	29
Not applicable	99	2
Not asked	999	13

Section Introduction: There will be a question on the ballot this November asking voters whether there should be a convention in 2009 to rewrite all or parts of the Illinois state constitution.

- 14.** Some people think the Illinois constitutional convention is necessary because there are so many important issues that our current political leaders are not addressing, and that delegates to a constitutional convention will address those issues in a more responsible fashion. Other people say that the means of addressing these important issues already exist, and that a constitutional convention could go off track and actually make things worse. Which is closer to the way you feel: that a constitutional convention is necessary because our state's political leaders are not addressing important issues. Or that there already are ways to address these problems. A constitutional convention won't help much, and could actually make things worse.

[VAR: concon]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Necessary	1	236
Not necessary	2	224
Don't know	8	83
Not applicable	9	7
Not asked	999	12

Government Taxes and Services

Section Introduction: Now here are a few questions about government taxes and services.

- 15.** First, when it comes to the federal government in Washington -- how good a value would you say you get in terms of services for the taxes you pay? Would you say you get:

[VAR: tax_fed_val]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Excellent value	1	14
Good	2	52
Average	3	193
Not so good	4	119
Poor	5	150
Don't know	8	18
Not applicable	9	2
Missing	IAP	15

16. And what about the value of services you get for the tax dollars you pay to the state of Illinois? Would you say you get:

[VAR: tax_il_val]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent value	1	4
Good	2	77
Average	3	188
Not so good	4	132
Poor	5	128
Don't know	8	14
Not applicable	9	2
Missing	IAP	15

17. Next, what do you think about state government spending in your area of the state? In terms of its share of state spending, do you think your part of the state gets:

[VAR: tax_fairshr]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
More than fair share	1	31
Right amount	2	195
Less than fair share	3	254
Don't know	8	64
Not applicable	9	2
Missing	IAP	16

Quality of Life

Section Introduction: Now we'd like to know what you think of various aspects of the quality of life in your area. For each feature that I read, I'd like for you to tell me if you think it is excellent, good, average, not so good, or poor.

18. The quality of the environment in your area, such as clean air and water.

[VAR: qual_air]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	76
Good	2	236
Average	3	151
Not so good	4	40
Poor	5	40
Don't know	8	1
Not applicable	IAP	18

19. The quality of infrastructure in your area, such as roads and bridges.

[VAR: qual_infra]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Excellent	1	24
Good	2	143
Average	3	183
Not so good	4	98
Poor	5	90
Don't know	8	5
Not applicable	IAP	18

20. The quality of public safety in your area – for example, police and fire protection.

[VAR: qual_cops]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Excellent	1	104
Good	2	257
Average	3	124
Not so good	4	27
Poor	5	31
Don't know	8	1
Not applicable	IAP	18

21. The quality of public education in your area – from kindergarten through high school.

[VAR: qual_K12]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Excellent	1	73
Good	2	184
Average	3	124
Not so good	4	61
Poor	5	76
Don't know	8	25
Not applicable	IAP	18

22. The performance of the local economy in your area.

[VAR: econ_local]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	20
Good	2	146
Average	3	173
Not so good	4	110
Poor	5	89
Don't know	8	5
Not applicable	IAP	18

23. The quality of parks and recreational opportunities in your area.

[VAR: qual_parks]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	128
Good	2	235
Average	3	93
Not so good	4	38
Poor	5	46
Don't know	8	1
Not applicable	9	1
Missing	IAP	19

Illinois Political Reform

24. We talked earlier about the possibility of a convention being called next year to revise the Illinois state constitution. How much information have you seen or heard about the ballot issue on the Illinois Constitutional Convention? Would you say you have seen or heard a lot of information, some info, not much info, or no info?

[VAR: concon_info]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
A lot of info	1	35
Some info	2	147
Not much info	3	181
No info	4	174
Don't know	8	5
Not applicable	9	1
Missing	IAP	19

Illinois Budget

25. The state government has been working to put together a budget to meet the needs of Illinois citizens. Based on what you know, how would you rate the job the state government has done this year in putting together a state budget? Would you say excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

[VAR: ilbudg_st]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Excellent	1	1
Good	2	30
Not so good	3	136
Poor	4	263
Don't follow/No opinion	5	99
Don't know	8	13
Not applicable	9	1
Missing	IAP	19

26. Who, if anyone has been doing a really good job in terms of putting together a state budget?

[VAR: ilbudg_gdjob]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
No one	0	198
Answer	1	96
Don't know	8	129
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	132

Remarks: Collapse of ilbudg_gdjob1 and ilbudg_gdjob2. Open ended answers, record missing.

27. And who, if anyone, would you say has been doing a really poor job of in terms of putting together a state budget?

[VAR: ilbudg_prjob]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
No one	0	39
Answer	1	334
Don't know	8	51
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	131

Remarks: Collapse of ilbudg_prjob1 and ilbudg_prjob2. Open ended answers, record missing.

Section Introduction: Now I'm going to read you a short list of people and institutions - and for each, I'd like you to rate the job they have been doing in putting together a state budget this year.

28. First, what about Governor Rod Blagojevich? How would you rate the job he has been doing in putting together a state budget this year:

[VAR: ilbudg_gov]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	5
Good	2	34
Not so good	3	110
Poor	4	270
Don't know	8	5
Not applicable	9	4
Missing	IAP	133

29. What about the state legislature in general? How would you rate the job it has been doing in putting together a state budget this year:

[VAR: ilbudg_leg]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	3
Good	2	55
Not so good	3	209
Poor	4	132
Don't know	8	28
Not applicable	9	2
Missing	IAP	133

30. What about the President of the Illinois Senate, Emil Jones? How would you rate the job he has been doing in putting together a state budget this year?

[VAR: ilbudg_senpres]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	1
Good	2	52
Not so good	3	112
Poor	4	163
Don't know	8	96
Not applicable	9	4
Missing	IAP	133

31. And what about the speaker of the Illinois House, Michael Madigan? How would you rate the job he has been doing in putting together a state budget this year?

[VAR: ilbudg_horspk]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Excellent	1	13
Good	2	108
Not so good	3	135
Poor	4	116
Don't know	8	52
Not applicable	9	4
Missing	IAP	133

32. Most leaders in the capitol believe that Illinois does not have the financial resources to address all the state's needs. Some say that this is because the state does not take in enough money to pay for everything it should do for its citizens. Others say that the state takes in plenty of money, and that the lack of resources is due to too much spending on unnecessary services and programs. Which is closer to your view?

[VAR: stfin_total]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Doesn't take in enough money	1	73
Wastes a lot	2	422
Don't know	8	39
Not applicable	9	4
Not asked	999	23

Section Introduction: There have been a number of proposals to address the state's budget problems by making cuts in state programs and services. I'm going to read several areas where people have suggested that the state could make cuts. For each one that I read, I'd like you to tell me whether you favor or oppose cutting spending in that area, OK?

33. Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on: kindergarten through high school education?

[VAR: cuts_K12]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Favor	1	70
Oppose	2	451
Don't know	8	14
Not applicable	9	3
Missing	IAP	24

34. Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on: state universities?

[VAR: cuts_he]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	117
Oppose	2	379
Don't know	8	39
Not applicable	9	3
Missing	IAP	23

35. Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on: public safety, such as state police and prisons?

[VAR: cuts_cops]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	76
Oppose	2	431
Don't know	8	26
Not applicable	9	4
Missing	IAP	24

36. Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on: natural resources, state parks and the environment?

[VAR: cuts_parks]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	108
Oppose	2	400
Don't know	8	26
Not applicable	9	3
Missing	IAP	24

37. Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on: programs for the needy?

[VAR: cuts_poor]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	119
Oppose	2	389
Don't know	8	23
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	24

38. Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on: state workers' retirement?

[VAR: pen_cuts]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Favor	1	122
Oppose	2	356
Don't know	8	52
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	24

39. Is there any other area of state spending in which you would support cuts?

[VAR: cuts_comment]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
No other areas	0	195
Areas	1	230
Don't know	8	103
Not applicable	9	5
Missing	IAP	28

Remarks: Open-ended answers, record missing.

Section Introduction: There have been a number of proposals to address the state's budget problems by finding ways to raise more money to pay for programs and services. I'm going to read several ways people have suggested for raising more money. For each one that I read, I'd like you to tell me whether you favor or oppose raising revenues in that way, OK?

40. First is: A proposal to add brackets to the state income tax structure so that higher-income residents pay higher taxes. Do you favor or oppose this?

[VAR: tax_hinc]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Favor	1	344
Oppose	2	157
Don't know	8	21
Not applicable	9	7
Missing	IAP	32

41. A proposal to raise the state portion of the sales tax rate. Do you favor or oppose this?

[VAR: tax_sales]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	107
Oppose	2	399
Don't know	8	18
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	31

42. A proposal to expand the sales tax to cover services, for example, dry cleaning, haircuts, accounting, and so forth. Do you favor or oppose this?

[VAR: tax_services]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	147
Oppose	2	366
Don't know	8	14
Not applicable	9	4
Missing	IAP	30

43. A proposal to expand legalized gambling in Illinois. Do you favor or oppose this?

[VAR: gamble_exp]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	236
Oppose	2	264
Don't know	8	26
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	30

44. A proposal to sell or lease state assets, such as the lottery and the Illinois toll road system, to private investors. Do you favor or oppose this?

[VAR: sell_il_asset]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Favor	1	180
Oppose	2	298
Don't know	8	48
Not applicable	9	4
Missing	IAP	32

45. Is there any other way of raising state revenues that you would support?

[VAR: tax_comments]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
No other ways	0	253
Other ways	1	151
Don't know	8	118
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	33

Remarks: Open-ended responses. Record missing.

Illinois Courts and Judiciary

Section Introduction: And now I'd like to ask you a few questions about judges and the Illinois courts. In Illinois, we elect judges who run at first under party labels. After they are elected the first time, we then vote whether or not to keep a judge in office. In these elections, candidates can spend as much as they want - and there are no limits on how much or who can contribute to judicial candidates.

46. In Illinois, do you think judges should be elected or appointed?

[VAR: judic_apelect]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Elected	1	374
Appointed	2	106
Other	3	10
Don't care	4	5
Don't know	8	23
Not applicable	9	5
Missing	IAP	38

47. Would you say you feel strongly about this, or not so strongly?

[VAR: judic_apelectfeel]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly	1	348
Not so strongly	2	126
Don't know	8	16
Not applicable	9	1
Missing	IAP	71

48. During election campaigns, do you think candidates for judge should -- or should not -- take stands on issues that they might have to rule on if they become a member of the court?

[VAR: judic_campissue]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Should take stands	1	246
Should not	2	219
Don't know	8	50
Not applicable	9	8
Missing	IAP	38

Section Introduction: Now, I'm going to read you a series of proposals. Some people think that these are good ideas but others disagree. We'd like to know what you think.

49. The first proposal is: We should limit how much individuals can contribute to candidates who are running for judge.

[VAR: cf_lim_judg1]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly support	1	277
Somewhat support	2	115
Somewhat oppose	3	57
Strongly oppose	4	49
Don't know	8	17
Not applicable	9	6
Missing	IAP	40

50. We should limit how much groups and organizations can contribute to candidates who are running for judge?

[VAR: cf_lim_judg2]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly support	1	308
Somewhat support	2	97
Somewhat oppose	3	49
Strongly oppose	4	40
Don't know	8	21
Not applicable	9	5
Missing	IAP	41

51. Some have suggested a voluntary plan where judicial candidates for the Illinois Supreme Court can get taxpayer funds to replace large campaign contributions. In this plan, candidates would first have to raise a certain amount of money from small contributors to show that they are serious candidates. Then, the candidates would receive taxpayer funds for their campaigns. But -- they would have to agree to limits on how much they would spend overall. And -- they would also have to agree to limits on how much any individual, group, or organization could contribute to their campaigns.

[VAR: cf_pub_judg1]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strongly support	1	124
Somewhat support	2	136
Somewhat oppose	3	88
Strongly oppose	4	124
Don't know	8	37
Not applicable	9	7
Missing	IAP	45

52. Next, I'm going to read you two statements, and I'd like to know which comes closest to your own view. The first statement is: Public financing of state Supreme Court candidates serves the public by allowing credible, qualified candidates to run for office without relying on the contributions of special interests. The second statement is: Public financing of state Supreme Court races is not in the public interest because it would force taxpayers to fund candidates they might not support.

[VAR: cf_pub_judg2]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Serves public	1	253
Not in public interest	2	214
Neither	3	16
Don't know	8	27
Not applicable	9	5
Not asked	999	46

Section Introduction: Now I need to ask a few questions to help us analyze the results.

53. In what year were you born?

[VAR: birth_yr]

Remarks: The actual response is not in the data and is irretrievable.

54. How many children under 18 are living in your household at least half of the time or consider it their primary residence?

[VAR: hh_child]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
None	0	320
One	1	62
Two	2	65
Three	3	41
Four	4	11
Five	5	3
Six	6	1
Don't know	8	3
Not applicable	9	8
Missing	IAP	49

55. What type of community do you live in? Is it a big city, suburb, medium sized city, small town, or rural area?

[VAR: comun_type]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Big city	1	107
Suburb	2	166
Medium sized city	3	67
Small town	4	108
Rural area	5	58
Don't know	8	2
Not applicable	9	5
Missing	IAP	49

56. What is your zip code?

[VAR: zip2]

Remarks: Respondent gave the 5-digit zip code of their residence. Those that did not know or refused were coded as 69999.

57. What county do you live in?

[VAR: county]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
	0	5
Cook	1	187
DuPage	2	35
Lake	3	19
	4	26
	5	6
	6	13
	7	7
	8	209
	9	4
Missing	IAP	49

Remarks: Records missing for other county names.

58. What is the highest grade of school or college that you completed?

[VAR: education]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
8 th grade or less	1	3
Less than high school	2	16
High school or GED	3	101
Trade/Technical school	4	18
Some college	5	142
4 year college or more	6	225
Don't know	8	2
Not applicable	9	8
Missing	IAP	49

59. What is your current employment status? Are you a homemaker, retired, a full-time student, part-time employed, full-time employed, self-employed, or not working?

[VAR: employ_time]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Homemaker	1	24
Retired	2	126
Full-time student	3	11
Part-time employed	4	43
Full-time employed	5	227
Self-employed	6	31
Not working	7	30
Other	8	12
Not applicable	9	9
Missing	IAP	49

60. Do you own or rent the home in which you live now?

[VAR: rent_own]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Own	1	417
Rent	2	79
Don't know	8	3
Not applicable	9	14
Missing	IAP	49

61. What is your current marital status? Are you: married, living with someone, divorced or separated, widowed, single or never married, or something else?

[VAR: marstatus]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Married	1	318
Living with someone	2	5
Divorced or separated	3	61
Widowed	4	36
Single or never married	5	80
Other	6	1
Don't know	8	3
Not applicable	9	9
Missing	IAP	49

62. Generally speaking do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, an Independent, or what?

[VAR: party_aff08]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Republican	1	121
Democrat	2	196
Independent	3	140
Libertarian	4	4
Other party	6	6
No party	7	24
Don't know	8	5
Refused	9	17
Missing	IAP	49

63. Would you consider yourself a strong Republican, or a not-so-strong Republican?

[VAR: party_repstr]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strong	1	59
Not so strong	2	59
Don't know	8	2
Missing	IAP	440

Remarks: Only asked of those who responded "Republican" (1) to Q55.

64. Would you consider yourself a strong Democrat, or a not-so-strong Democrat?

[VAR: party_demstr]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strong	1	137
Not so strong	2	54
Don't know	8	5
Missing	IAP	365

Remarks: Only asked of those who responded "Democrat" (2) to Q55.

65. Do you consider yourself closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

[VAR: party_indystr]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Closer to Democratic	1	61
Closer to Republican	2	56
Neither/Independent	3	52
Don't know	8	8
Not applicable	9	19
Missing	IAP	366

Remarks: Only asked of those who responded "Independent" (3), "Libertarian" (4), or "other" (5) to Q55.

66. [VAR: party_aff]

Response	Value Label	Frequency
Strong Republican	1	59
Not so strong Republican	2	59
Independent Republican	3	56
Neither/Independent	4	52
Independent Democrat	5	61
Not so strong Democrat	6	54
Strong Democrat	7	137
Don't know	8	16
Not applicable	9	19
Missing	IAP	49

Remarks: Collapse of party_repstr, party_demstr, and party_indystr. Variable constructed to more closely match comparable variable in subsequent polls.

67. Do you generally consider yourself... white (1), African American (2), Hispanic, Latino, or Mexican (3), American Indian (4), or other/Multiracial (5)?

[VAR: rac_eth]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
White	1	401
African American	2	58
Hispanic	3	12
American Indian	4	2
Asian American	5	6
Other/Multiracial	6	20
Don't know	8	1
Not applicable	9	13
Missing	IAP	49

68. Also, to make sure that we get a good representation of the state as a whole, I'm going to list some broad income categories?

[VAR: hh_inc]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Under \$25,000	1	49
\$25,001 to \$35,000	2	47
\$35,001 to \$50,000	3	69
\$50,001 to \$70,000	4	73
\$70,001 to \$100,000	5	92
\$100,001 to \$150,000	6	61
\$150,001 to \$250,000	7	21
Over \$250,000	8	13
Not applicable	9	88
Not applicable	IAP	49

69. Not including cell phone numbers, how many different telephone numbers does your household have that are used?

[VAR: numphones]

<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
0	3
1	393
2	59
3	29
4	10
5	3
6	5
9	11
IAP	365

Remarks: Variable was not labeled in dataset. The value “9” is assumed to be “Don’t Know/Refuse.”

70. And, do any adults in your household have a cell phone number – by adults I mean those who are at least 18 years old?

[VAR: havecell]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
One	1	253
Two	2	247
Don’t know	8	1
Not applicable	9	13
Missing	IAP	49

71. My supervisor makes us ask, what is your gender?

[VAR: gender2]

<u>Response</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Male	1	253
Female	2	247
Not applicable	9	12
Missing	999	49

Remarks: the interviewer only asked this if they felt they could not decide gender from the voice.

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

Survey Instrument³

August 7, 2008

Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

Benchmark statewide public opinion survey, draft 1

Hi, this is _____, calling from the University of Illinois Survey Research Center. We are conducting a survey on important public issues facing the State of Illinois. This is a legitimate public opinion survey—there is nothing to buy or sell. This number was selected at random. According to our research procedure, I need to speak to the youngest (male/female) who is registered to vote and who is at home when I place the call. May I speak to that person, please?

(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?)
right direction, wrong direction, other/dk
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)
right direction, wrong direction, other/dk
3. And how are things going in your city or part of the state? In general, are things in your city or part of Illinois going in the right direction, or in the wrong direction? (If unsure, probe)
right direction, wrong direction, other/dk
4. Regardless of what you think about the direction 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 part of Illinois is
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?

³ As noted in the Poll Description section of this document (page 4), the survey instrument presented is only the first draft of the final survey. The final draft has been lost and is irretrievable.

Next, we'd like to know what you think about some public policy questions that are being talked about in Illinois: (rotate)

5. First, there will be a measure on the ballot this November asking voters whether there should be a convention in 2009 to rewrite parts of the Illinois state constitution. If the election were held today, would you
strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose
the proposed constitutional convention?
6. Next, some people are talking about amending the constitution to allow recall elections for holders of statewide elected offices, such as secretary of state, state treasurer, governor, and lieutenant governor. If your state legislator were to ask you how you felt about this issue, would you
strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose
a proposal to allow recall elections for holders of statewide elected offices?
7. Now there are a few questions about government taxes and services: First, how good a value would you say you get in terms of services for the taxes you pay to the federal government? Would you say you get
an excellent value, good value, a fair value, not so good, or a poor value
in services for the tax dollars paid to the federal government?
8. And what about the value of services you get for the tax dollars paid to the state of Illinois? Would you say you get
an excellent value, good value, a fair value, not so good, or a poor value
in services for the tax dollars paid to your state government?
9. And what do you think about government spending in your area of the state? In terms of its share of state spending, do you think your part of the state gets
more than its fair share, about the right amount, or less than its fair share
of state spending?

Now we'd like to know what you think of various aspects of the quality of life in your part of Illinois. For each feature that I read, I'd like for you to tell me if you think it is excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor in your part of the state. First is (rotate items)

10. The quality of the environment, such as clean air and water. In your part of Illinois, would you say environmental quality is
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
11. The quality of infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. Is the quality of infrastructure in your part of the state
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
12. What about public safety in your area, for example police and fire protection? Would you say public safety in your area is
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?

13. What do you think about the quality of public education in your area, in kindergarten through high school? Is public K through 12 education in your part of the state
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
14. How is the quality of community college education in your area? Would you say the quality of community college education is
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
15. We are interested in the quality of public university education in your part of the state. Would you say that public, four-year college education in your area is
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
16. How is the quality of economic development in your area of Illinois? Would you say that economic development in your part of the state is
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
17. How good are the parks and recreational opportunities in your part of the state? Would you say parks and recreation in your area are
excellent, good, fair, not so good, or poor?
18. We talked earlier about the possibility of a convention being called next year to revise the Illinois state constitution. Some people say the government and the media have not done a very good job informing voters about the constitutional convention; others say there is plenty of information available. What about you? Would you say you have seen
a lot of information, some information, not much information, or no information
about the constitutional convention?
19. Some people in Springfield think the Illinois constitutional convention is necessary because there are so many important issues that our current political leaders are not addressing, and that delegates to a constitutional convention will address those issues in a more responsible fashion. Other people say that the means of addressing these important issues already exist, and that a constitutional convention could go off track and actually make things worse. Which is closer to the way you feel: that (rotate)
a constitutional convention is necessary because our state's political leaders are not addressing important issues,
or
there already are ways to address these problems. A constitutional convention won't help much, and could actually make things worse.

Now, just a few more questions for classification purposes only:

20. DO NOT READ, just code:

Male *Female*

21. What is the last level of education you have completed? Is it . . .

less than high school *high school* *some college* *associate's degree*
bachelor's degree *graduate degree* *Other/DK (vol)*

22. How many children under 18 live in your home?

none *one* *two* *three* *four or more* *Other/DK (vol)*

23. What is your marital status? Are you

Married *Living with someone* *Divorced* *Widowed* *Single* *Other/DK (vol)*

24. How would you describe yourself in terms of political party? Do you consider yourself a Republican? A Democrat? An Independent?

If Democrat or Republican: Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat/Republican or a not-so-strong Democrat/Republican

If Independent: Do you consider yourself closer to the Democrats or the Republicans?

Strong Dem *Not-strong Dem* *Independent-Dem* *Pure Ind. (Vol)*

Independent-Rep *Not-Strong Rep* *Strong-Rep* *Other/DK (vol)*

25. For statistical purposes only, we'd like to know your racial or ethnic group. Most people consider themselves either white, black, Asian, or Hispanic

white *black* *Asian* *Hispanic* *Multiracial* *Other* *Refused*

26. What is your ZIP code?

Write 5-digit ZIP _____

27. 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:

Under 25,000

25,000 to 34,999

35,000 to 49,999

50,000 to 69,999

70,000 to 99,999

100,000 to 149,999

150,000 to 249,999

Over 250,000

Other/Refused

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