



THE 2018
ILLINOIS ISSUES SURVEY

CENTER FOR STATE POLICY & LEADERSHIP
SURVEY RESEARCH OFFICE



*Examining Illinoisans' views
on state and national policy issues*

Report conducted by the Center for State Policy and Leadership,
University of Illinois Springfield and NPR Illinois

September 26, 2018

About the Survey

The 2018 Illinois Issues Survey is the first in a planned long-term project which examines the policy preferences of Illinoisans. The study examines policy issues relevant both at the state and national levels across a wide variety of areas. Questions pertaining to immigration, gun control, taxes and the economy, and education policy are asked. The study is designed in a such a way that the interested public and policy makers can make use of the results, which are representative of registered voters in Illinois.

This report references the overall results of the study (which can also be found in the “Topline” appendix on pg. 24) and compares results across a variety of demographic groups such as geography, political affiliation, and ethnic background. A total of 717 registered Illinois voters were surveyed in July and August, 2018 by telephone researchers at UIS. The margin of error for the survey is $\pm 3.7\%$ at the 95% confidence level. A brief methodological report is appended on pg. 23.

Research was conducted by the UIS Survey Research Office in the Center for State Policy and Leadership. This report was written by SRO Research Manager Matthew Case with assistance from Center for State Policy and Leadership Executive Director David Racine.

View this report online at <http://uis.edu/cspl>

Or on NPR Illinois’ webpage at: <http://www.nprillinois.org/topic/illinois-issues-survey>

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Introduction

For years, observers have been noting the increase of political polarization in America.¹ But while the idea that individual Republicans and Democrats have drifted farther apart from each other ideologically is certainly not new, after the 2016 election of Donald Trump, researchers are finding that Americans are farther apart than ever before.

While it may turn out that partisans cannot agree on much of anything, it is also possible there are important issues on which broad agreement does exist or on which the differences that do exist are bridgeable. Assuming Americans are divided by party identification also ignores the large number of Americans who do not identify as either Republicans or Democrats – 42% according to a recent Gallup Poll.²

There is reason to believe that examining the views of Illinoisans is especially important. Illinois has traditionally been seen as a microcosm of the country.³ Thus, examining public opinion in Illinois is not just useful in understanding the state; it may also tell us something about opinion in America more broadly.

Keeping these considerations in mind, the Illinois Issues Survey explores the views of Illinoisans on state and national issues by asking questions of a representative sample of registered voters in the state. By asking these individuals a range of policy questions, the survey tells us what is on the minds of voters in the run-up to the 2018 gubernatorial election.

¹Abramowitz, Alan. 2010. *The Disappearing Center: Engaged Citizens, Polarization, and American Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. For a contrasting view, see: Fiorina, Morris P., Samuel J. Abrams, and Jeremy Pope. 2005. *Culture War?: The Myth of a Polarized America*. New York: Pearson Longman.

² Jones, Jeffrey M. 2018. Americans' Identification as Independents Back Up in 2017. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/225056/americans-identification-independents-back-2017.aspx> (September 14, 2018).

³ Jackson, John, Charles W. Leonard, and Shiloh L. Deitz. 2016. *The Climate of Opinion in Illinois 2008 – 2016: Roots of Gridlock*.



Key Findings

- **Democrats slightly more likely to say they will vote in November**
Over three-quarters (76%) say they will “definitely” vote in November while 12% say they “probably will vote.” Democrats (82%) are more likely than either Republicans (73%) or independents (75%) to say they will “definitely” vote.
- **Party identification varies across the state**
Statewide, 35% of respondents identify as Democrats whereas 23% identify as Republicans. Downstate, Republicans (31%) outnumber Democrats (24%) while in Chicagoland, Democrats (40%) are much more numerous than Republicans (18%). Republicans are more likely to identify as conservative (63%) than Democrats are as to identify as liberal (53%).
- **Respondents are more likely to vote for Pritzker than Rauner, although many are undecided or prefer someone else**
Thirty-five percent of those polled say they would vote for Democrat J.B. Pritzker if the election were held today compared to 23% who say they would vote for Rauner. However, 27% are undecided or did not provide a response regarding their vote and 15% say they would vote for “someone else” if the election were held today.
- **Term limits popular**
Eight in ten (80%) of those surveyed support legislative term limits compared to just 14% who oppose them. Democratic respondents are only slightly less likely to support limits (77%) than Republicans (85%) or independents (84%).
- **Many think Illinois is on the wrong track, nearly half say state is doing about the same as last year**
Nearly Three-quarters (74%) of respondents think Illinois is of on the wrong track compared to 14% who say it is headed in the right direction and 11% who can't say. But not as many respondents think things are worse now than one year ago; nearly half (47%) say that the state is doing about the same as last year while 37% say it is getting worse and 13% say the state is doing better than one year ago.
- **Half say they have considered leaving, youngest most likely to say so**
When asked if they have considered leaving the state in the past year, just over half (53%) of those surveyed say “yes.” Those between the ages of 18 and 34 are more likely (67%) to say so than those 35 or older (51%).

- **A majority favor a graduated income tax**

Overall, 57% of survey respondents say they favor a proposed graduated income tax in which those with higher incomes are taxed at a higher rate while 36% favor the current flat-rate tax system. Majorities of Democrats (69%) and independents (56%) favor graduated income tax whereas a minority of Republicans (41%) do.

- **Most say immigrants help Illinois rather than hurt it**

Over three times as many respondents say they believe immigrants help (63%) rather than hurt (20%) Illinois. Republicans (36%) are much less likely than Democrats (83%) or independents (62%) to say immigrants help Illinois.

- **Republicans more likely to think illegal immigration is a problem, less likely to favor letting undocumented children stay in the U.S.**

While a majority (57%) of all respondents say illegal immigration is “very” or “somewhat serious,” Republicans (81%) are much more likely than Democrats (46%) or independents (54%) to say so. Republicans (34%) are also less likely to “strongly” or “somewhat favor” letting undocumented children stay in the U.S. than Democrats (83%) or independents (61%).

- **Half see compulsory kindergarten at 5, school vouchers as “high priority”**

Half (50%) of all respondents say making kindergarten compulsory at age 5 is a “high priority” but African American respondents (74%) are much more likely to say so than Hispanic (53%) or White respondents (42%). Similarly, while half (50%) of all respondents say offering parents school vouchers is a “high priority,” 71% of African respondents say so compared to 60% of Hispanic and 40% of White respondents.

- **Respondents say funding higher education a priority as high cost and uncertainty of state funding drives high school grads away**

Over three-quarters (76%) say that increasing state funding to public colleges and universities to keep the cost of tuition from growing is a “high priority.” Regarding high school graduates leaving the state, four in ten (40%) say the reason these individuals are doing this is because college in Illinois is too expensive while 37% say state funding to colleges is uncertain in Illinois.

- **Nearly all favor background checks for guns while respondents are split on other proposals**

About nine in ten (89%) favor mental health background checks on all gun buyers while 58% favor banning assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons. Support for a weapons ban is higher among Democrats (77%) than independents (56%) or Republicans (36%). In addition, Republicans are four times more likely (65%) than Democrats (15%) and twice as likely as independents (37%) to say they favor allowing teachers and school administrators to carry guns on school grounds.

- **Lack of access to health care, mental health care seen as serious**

Just over a third (34%) say lack of access to health care is an “extremely” or “very serious” problem in their community whereas nearly half (49%) say this about mental health care.

- **Opioid abuse a problem in Illinois**

Nearly half (49%) say that abuse of opiate pain medication is an either “extremely” or “very serious” problem in their community. About four in ten (39%) say they “personally know” someone who has been addicted to pain medication.

- **Respondents split on whether they trust others, the mass media**

Slightly fewer of those polled say they trust others (44%) than say you cannot be too careful in dealing with people (50%). The breakdown is similar regarding the media; about half (48%) of those surveyed say they trust the media either a “great deal” or a “fair amount” to report the news “fully, accurately, and fairly,” and half (50%) say they have “not very much” trust or “none at all.” Democrats (67%) are much more likely than either independents (47%) or Republicans (27%) to say they trust the mass media.

- **Nearly all respondents say Americans are divided on politics, race**

Almost all surveyed (95%) say Americans either “very divided” or “somewhat divided” over politics these days while nearly nine in ten (89%) say they are “very divided” or “somewhat divided” over race.

Voting

Prior Turnout and Voting Likelihood

Most of those surveyed report voting in 2016 as well as the two prior federal elections in 2014 and 2012. Nearly nine in ten (87%) survey respondents report voting in the most recent presidential election of 2016 — more than the 72% who voted in 2014 and 81% who voted in 2012. When asked about voting in the upcoming elections in November, three-quarters (76%) say they will “definitely” vote and another 12% say they will “probably” vote.

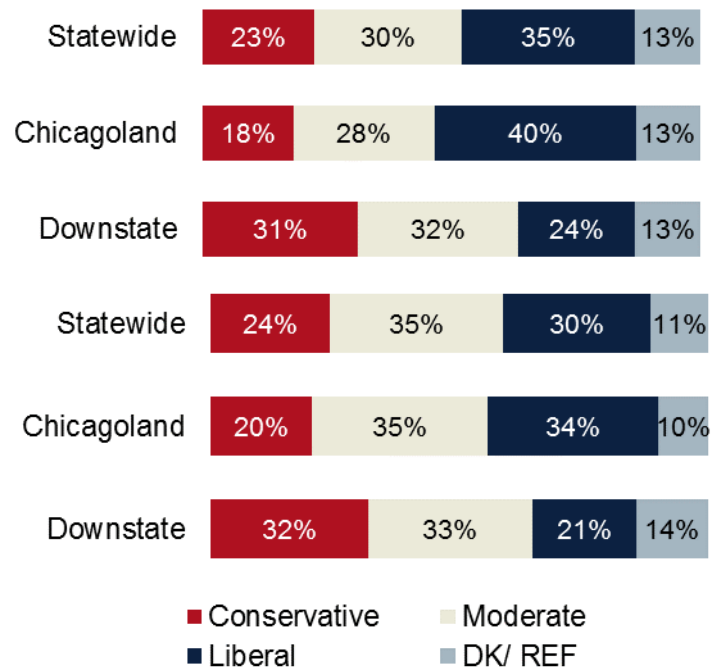
Yet while a strong majority of all respondents report being likely to vote in November, there are differences among those who say they will “definitely” vote. While 79% of White respondents plan on definitely voting, slightly fewer African American (74%) and Hispanic (61%) respondents (74%) say so. Those with a four-year college degree or greater (80%) are more likely to say they will “definitely” vote than those with less than a four-year degree (71%). The survey also finds that Democrats (82%) are more likely than either Republicans (73%) or independents (75%) to say they will “definitely” vote in the fall.

Party Identification and Ideology

In general, survey respondents are slightly more likely to identify as Democrats or independents than as Republicans and slightly more likely to say they are liberal or moderate than to say they are conservative (see figure at right). Just over a third of respondents (35%) identify as Democrats whereas 23% identify as Republicans and 30% identify as independents. The remaining percent of respondents identify as another party (6%) or otherwise do not provide a response (7%).

Survey Respondents by Party Identification and Ideology

Statewide and regional results



Respondents also vary quite a bit ideologically; just over a third (35%) identify as politically moderate whereas about one-quarter (24)% say they are conservative and three in ten (30%) identify as liberal. An additional 11% of respondents say they don't know or do not provide a response to the question.

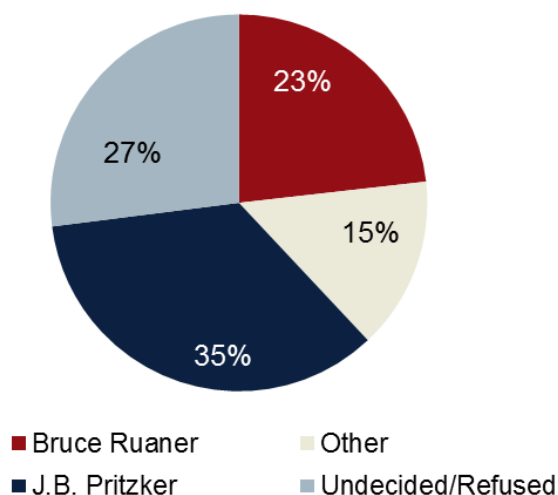
In addition, Republicans are more likely to identify as conservative (63%) than Democrats are as to identify as liberal (53%). Party identification is highly regional; whereas 40% of respondents in Chicagoland identify as Democrats, only 24% of downstate respondents do. Conversely, while 31% of downstate respondents identify as Republicans, just 18% of those in the Chicago area do so.

2018 Gubernatorial Election

Just over a third of respondents (35%) say that, if the gubernatorial election were held today, they would vote for Democrat J.B. Pritzker whereas 23% say they would vote for Republican Bruce Rauner and 15% say they would vote for someone else. Additionally, over a quarter (27%) are undecided⁴ or refuse to provide a response regarding their vote.

A slight majority (56%) of Republicans indicate they would vote for Rauner if the election were held today while about a fifth (21%) are undecided, 17% say they plan to vote for someone else, and 7% say they will vote for Pritzker. Survey results suggest that Democrats are more unified in their support for Pritzker than Republicans are for Rauner. More than two-thirds (67%) of Democrats say they will vote for Pritzker while 23% are undecided, 6% say they will vote for someone else, and 4% say they will vote for Rauner. Independents, by contrast, are split in their upcoming vote. About the same percentage of independents (28%) say they will vote for Rauner as say they will vote for Pritzker (26%). Additionally, one-fifth (20%) of independents plan to vote for another candidate while just a quarter (25%) say they are undecided.

Statewide Vote Preference
% of respondents saying they would vote for _____ if the election were held today



⁴ Undecided responses include respondent refusal to answer the question. See topline report (pg. 24) for full survey results.

Illinoisans from many backgrounds indicate, at this point in the Governor's race, being more likely to vote for Pritzker than Rauner. Pritzker leads Rauner among Illinoisans of all ages including, in a large way, those 65 years or older (41% to 28%). The Democratic candidate's lead is less but still marked among those 18 to 34 (28% to 20%) with 35% of these younger voters still unsure who will receive their vote. Those with advanced degrees are much more likely to say they will vote for Pritzker (45%) than Rauner (19%), while those with less than a four-year degree prefer Pritzker to Rauner as well but not to the same extent (34% to 22%). Rauner does, however, fare better than Pritzker downstate (33% to 30%), while Pritzker leads Rauner in Chicagoland by a more than a 2:1 margin (37% to 18%).

Term Limits

Term limits are considered popular in Illinois, and the results from the 2018 Illinois Issues Survey offer more evidence in support of this view. Eight in ten (80%) survey respondents support legislative term limits compared to just 14% who oppose them. There is virtually no difference among partisans on support for term limits. Though Democrats are slightly less likely to support limits (77%) than Republicans (85%) or independents (84%). Just about everyone favors term limits, with no significant differences among those living in different regions or of different socioeconomic backgrounds.

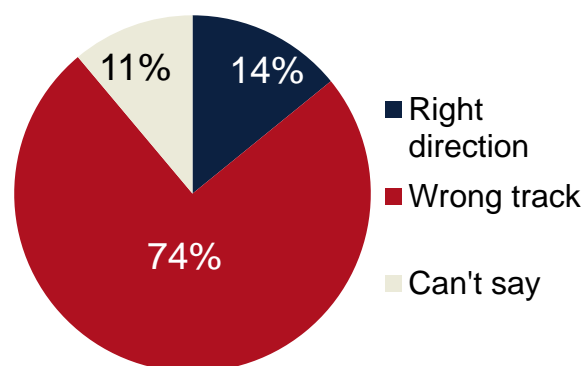
Direction

Overall Direction of the State

Most survey respondents feel that the state is not moving in the right direction. When asked whether things in Illinois are heading in the right direction or off on the wrong track, nearly three-quarters (74%) say things are off on the wrong track, while only 14% think things are going in the right direction. Just about all surveyed feel the state is on the wrong track as there are no statistically significant differences among demographic groups on this question.

Most say Illinois “off on wrong track”

% of respondents who believe things in Illinois are heading in the right direction or are off on the wrong track



The survey also asks respondents whether they think that compared to one year ago, Illinois is getting better, is about the same, or is getting worse. The survey finds that most respondents think Illinois is about the same as it was last year (47%) or getting worse (37%), while a small minority (13%) think Illinois is doing better compared to one year ago.

Some groups of respondents are more likely than others to say the state is getting worse. Notably, the survey finds differences by ethnic background and by age. While just over a third (35%) of White and 37% of Hispanic respondents surveyed say things are getting worse, just over half (51%) of African American respondents feel this way. Regarding age, both younger and older respondents are less pessimistic; twenty-seven percent of those between the ages of 18-34 say Illinois is getting worse compared to 36% of those 65 or older and 43% of those 35-64.

Illinois Identity

Most respondents identify strongly as Illinoisans. When asked how strongly they identify as Illinoisans, a just over half (53%) identify “very strongly,” over a quarter (27%) identify “somewhat strongly,” 8% identify “not very strongly,” and 7% say they identify as an Illinoisan “not strongly at all.” There are some notable differences in who identifies as Illinoisan. For instance, African American respondents (75%) are much more likely than White (51%) or Hispanic respondents (40%) to identify “very strongly.” Democrats (63%) are also more likely to say they identify “very strongly,” as Illinoisans than either Republicans (45%) or independents (53%).

Leaving Illinois

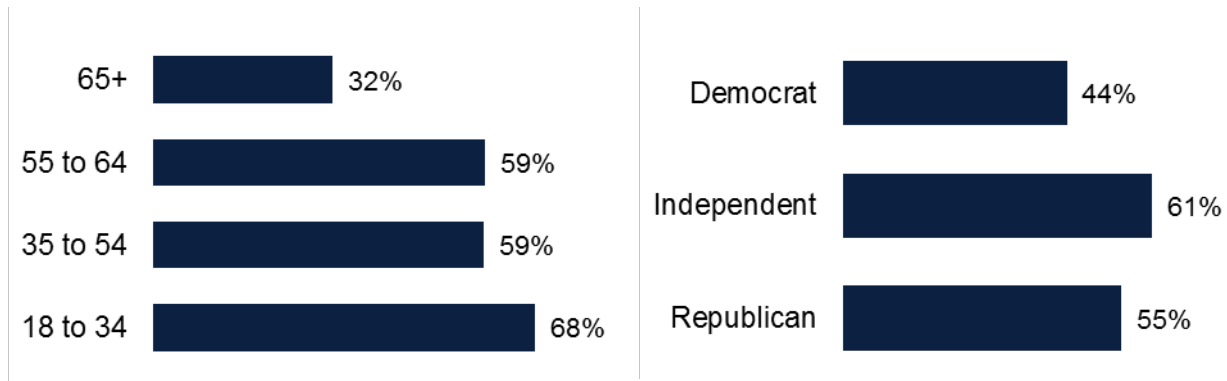
Because of the fact that the state of Illinois lost nearly 34,000 individuals from 2016 to 2017, the survey asked respondents about whether they have considered leaving the state.⁵ Overall, just over half (53%) of those surveyed report considering leaving in the past year and it is those who are younger who are most likely to say this. Survey respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 are more likely to say they have considered leaving (67%) than those in other age cohorts. Those who are at least 65 years old, the typical age for retirement, are the least likely to say they have considered leaving (32%).

In addition to age, other factors — such as having more income — appear to play a role in whether respondents have considered leaving Illinois. While 46% of those with household income of less than \$30,000 have considered leaving, nearly two-thirds (64%) of those earning between \$60,000 and \$100,000 and 59% of those with income of more than \$100,000 have considered leaving the state. Additionally, Democrats (44%) are less likely than Republicans (55%) or independents (61%) to say they have considered moving from Illinois.

Those who say they are considering leaving were asked to provide a “primary reason” for why they have considered doing so. Many respondents (39%) mention lower taxes as the primary reason, whereas 14% cite state government or politics, 15% cite better job opportunities and 7% say the primary reason they have considered leaving is lower crime. Additionally, some say better weather elsewhere (7%) or a family or personal reason (10%) is the primary reason they’ve considered going elsewhere. While in the case of weather and climate there is not much that policymakers can do, many concerns such as political problems, taxes, and job opportunities are all issues which can be addressed by leaders in Illinois.

Older respondents, Democrats least likely to consider leaving

% of respondents who respond “yes” when asked if they have considered leaving Illinois in the past year



⁵ Antinori, Shannon. 2017. “Illinois Had Largest Population Drop This Year: Census Bureau,” *Patch.com* <https://patch.com/illinois/across-il/illinois-had-largest-population-drop-year-census-bureau> (September 17, 2018).

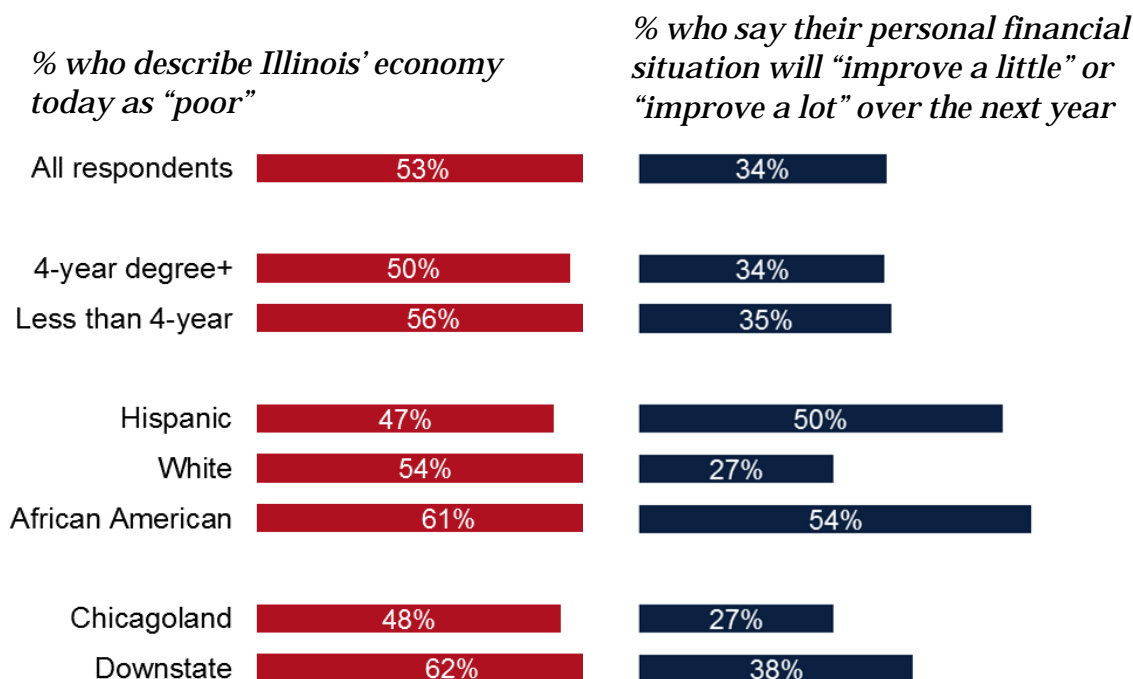
State Economy and Taxes

Perception of the economy and own financial situation

Respondents are mostly pessimistic about Illinois' economy, but they are more optimistic about their own financial situation in the year ahead. Regarding the state's economy, just over half (53%) rate it as "poor" while slightly less than a third (32%) rate it as "fair." Just 14% rate Illinois' economy as "good" and only 1% rate it as excellent. Those who are African American, living downstate, have less than a college degree, or identify politically as Republican are more likely to classify the state's economy as "poor" than their counterparts, the survey finds (see figure below).

It's notable that while respondents are pessimistic about Illinois' economy, they are somewhat optimistic about their personal financial situation in the year ahead. When asked, respondents are more likely (34%) to say they expect their financial situation will improve over the next twelve months than they are to say their financial situation will worsen (14%). However, many respondents don't expect things to change much at all — half (50%) say they expect their finances to remain the same in the upcoming year. The survey finds that respondents in Chicagoland are more optimistic than those Downstate regarding their finances; whereas 38% of Chicago area respondents say they expect their financial situation to improve just 26% of those Downstate say so.

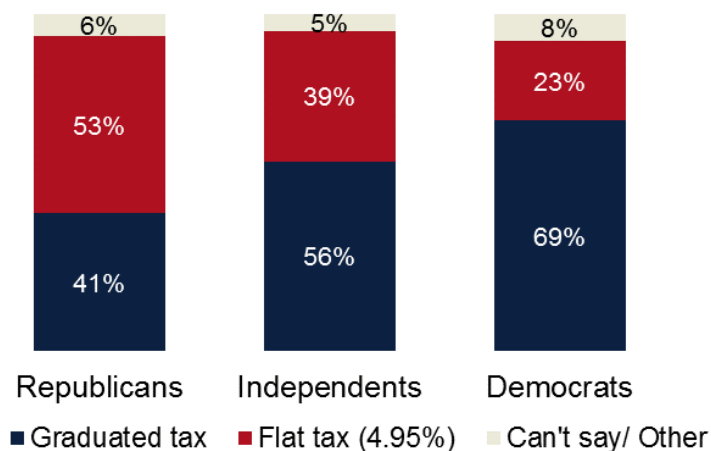
Differing views on outlook of state economy,
personal situation



Income Tax Proposals

Respondents generally favor a graduated income tax over the current flat-rate tax system. When asked which system they prefer — the current flat rate system where everyone pays the same rate or a graduated tax system in which those with higher incomes are taxed at a higher rate — respondents favor the graduated system (57%) over the flat rate system (36%). Additionally, 7% either can't say or suggest some other kind of tax arrangement.

Respondent tax preferences
% who prefer each tax by party affiliation



The survey finds that partisans are sharply divided in their preference for one system over another. While nearly seven in ten (69%) of Democrats surveyed favor the graduated system, a smaller majority (56%) of independents do and a minority of Republicans (41%) say they favor the graduated income tax. Those with lower incomes are more likely to favor the graduated system — respondents reporting income of less than \$60,000 (65%) are more likely to favor the graduate income tax than those with incomes of \$60,000 or greater (51%).

Minimum wage

Most survey respondents think a higher minimum wage than currently exists in Illinois (\$8.25/hour) would be beneficial. When asked whether a higher minimum wage helps by giving people money to spend and growing the economy or whether it hurts by making it harder for employers to hire and retain their employees, respondents are about twice as likely to say it helps (60%) than hurts (31%). Respondents living in Chicagoland are more likely to see the minimum wage as helping rather than hurting (65%) than those living in downstate Illinois (48%). Additionally, Democrats overwhelmingly believe a minimum wage helps (80%). And, Independents, though not as uniform in their belief as Democrats, are nearly twice as likely as Republicans to say the minimum wage helps (59% vs. 30%).

Those surveyed were also asked whether they support or oppose raising the minimum wage in Illinois from its current \$8.25 hourly rate to \$15 per hour. Responses to this question break down in a similar fashion to the question above. Generally, respondents are more likely to support raising the minimum wage (62%) than they are to oppose it (36%). African American (90%) and Hispanic respondents (71%) are more likely than white respondents (53%) to support raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

Immigration

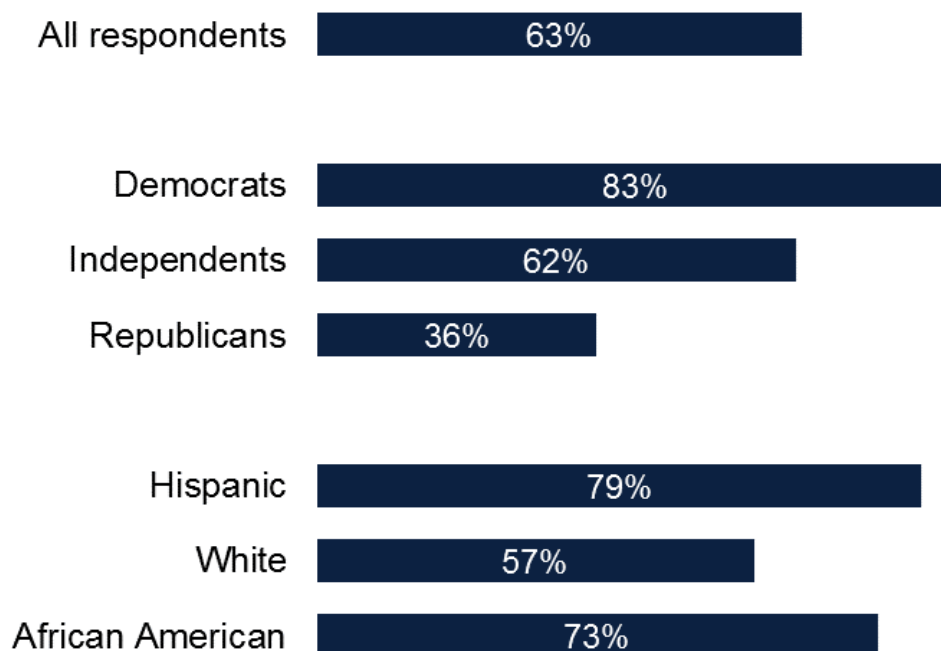
Views towards immigrants

The survey asks respondents to choose whether they believe immigrants help or hurt Illinois by making it a better or worse place to live. Over three times as many respondents say they believe immigrants help (63%) rather than hurt (20%) Illinois. An additional 16% either couldn't say or didn't offer an answer.

Like many “hot-button” topics, this question sees differences among demographic groups, though majorities of most groups say immigrants are more likely to help than hurt the state. For instance, African-American (73%) and Hispanic (79%) respondents are more likely to say immigrants help than White respondents (57%). Younger respondents are also more likely than others to say that immigrants help — 75% of those between the ages of 18 to 34 say immigrants help compared to 60% of those 35 and older. Those in Chicagoland (69%) — an area with more immigrants — are also more likely to view immigrants as helping the state than those downstate (50%). Political affiliation is predictive of sentiment towards immigrants: while 83% of Democrats and 62% of independents believe immigrants help Illinois, just 36% of Republicans believe so.

Democrats, ethnic minorities more likely to view the presence of immigrants positively

% who believe immigrants help Illinois by making it a better place to live



Undocumented immigrants in Illinois

The Illinois Issues Survey also asks about illegal immigration in Illinois. The survey finds that, overall, respondents are split on how serious of a problem illegal immigration currently is in the state: 27% say it is “very serious,” 30% say it is “somewhat serious,” 22% of say it is “not too serious,” and 15% say it is “not at all serious.” Those with less than a 4-year degree (31%) are more likely than those with a 4-year degree or greater (23%) to say that illegal immigration is “very serious.” Those who are 35 or older (30%) are twice as likely as those younger than 35 (15%) to see illegal immigration in this way. Additionally, Republicans (43%) are much more likely than both Democrats (18%) and independents (26%) to see illegal immigration as a “very serious” problem in Illinois.

The survey finds that most respondents are in favor of letting undocumented children brought to the U.S. stay in the country. Nearly two-thirds (64%) either “strongly” or “somewhat favor” allowing these children to stay while 30% either “strongly” or “somewhat oppose” letting them remain in the United States. Similar to other survey questions on immigration, respondents in Chicagoland (69%) tend to be more supportive than those Downstate (53%). However, the largest divide once again concerns party affiliation — 83% of Democrats and 61% of independents support allowing undocumented children to remain while a minority of Republicans (34%) do.

Republicans, White respondents find illegal immigration in Illinois more serious, less likely to favor letting undocumented children stay
% of respondents who _____

	believe illegal immigration is an “very serious” or “somewhat serious” problem	“strongly” or “somewhat favor” letting undocumented children stay in U.S.
All respondents	57%	64%
African American	52	73
Hispanic	62	73
White	57	59
Democrat	46	83
Independent	54	61
Republican	81	34
Chicagoland	56	69
Downstate	59	53

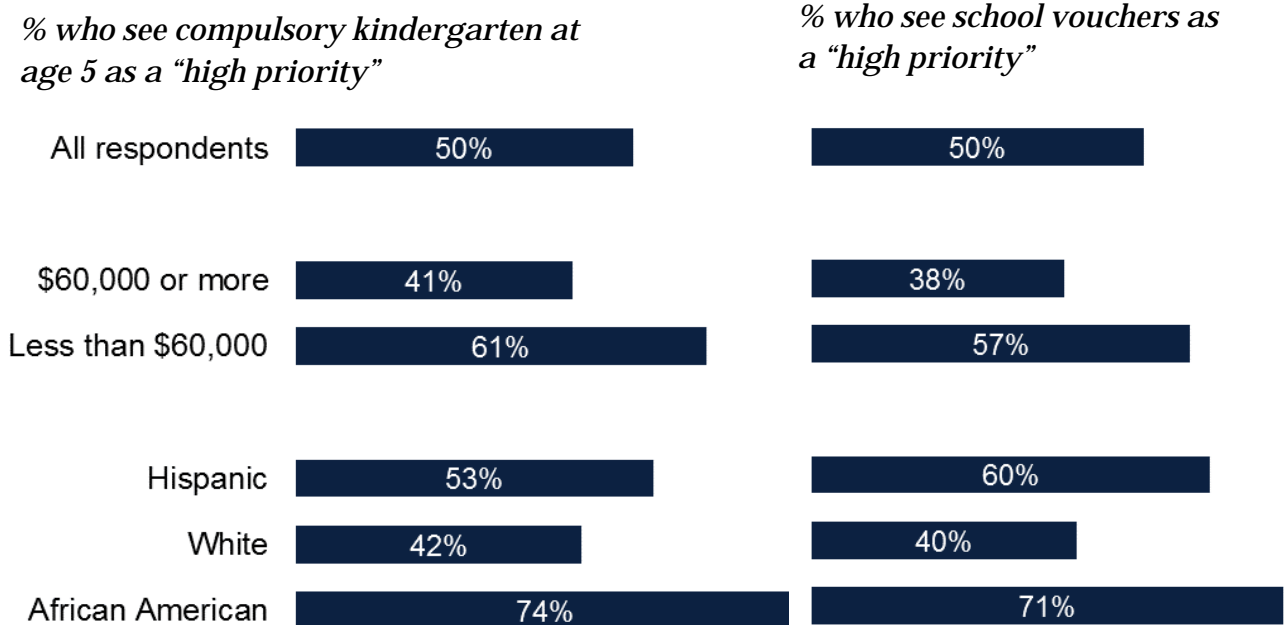
Education

K-12 education policy

One-half (50%) of those surveyed believe that lowering the compulsory age of kindergarten from six to five years old is a “high priority” whereas 26% believe it is a “low priority” and 19% say it is “not a priority at all.” While half of all respondents see making kindergarten compulsory at age five a “high priority,” a much higher percentage of African American respondents (74%) view this as a “high priority” than either Hispanic (53%) or White (42%) respondents. Those with income of less than \$60,000 (61%) are also much more likely than those with income of \$60,000 or more (41%) to see the proposal as a high priority.

One-half (50%) of respondents see it as a “high priority” to offer vouchers which would allow parents to send their children to a public or private school of their choice. This figure is much higher among African American (71%) and Hispanic (60%) respondents than among White respondents (40%). Those in Chicagoland (55%) are also more likely to see vouchers as a high priority than those downstate (40%). Finally, those with annual incomes of less than \$60,000 (57%) are much more likely to rate school vouchers as a “high priority” than those with incomes of \$60,000 or more (38%).

Compulsory kindergarten at 5, school vouchers
a “high priority” for many

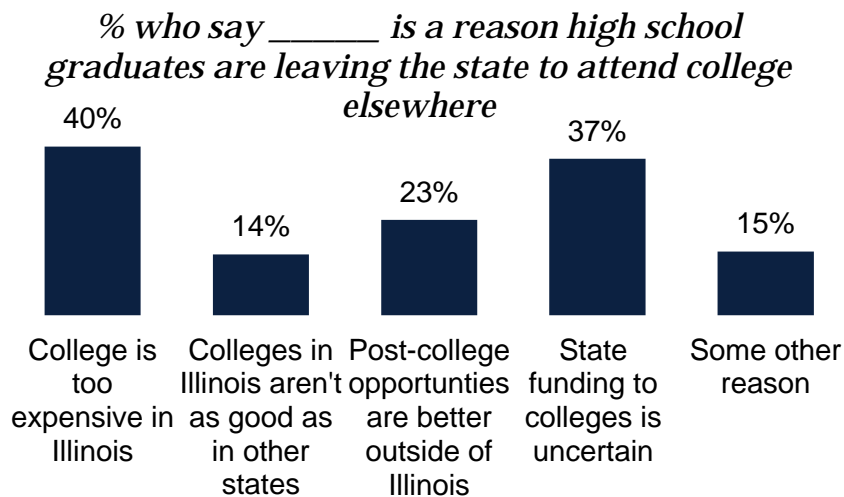


Higher education in Illinois

Affordable public higher education in Illinois is important to most respondents; over three-quarters (76%) say that increasing state funding to public colleges and universities in order to keep the cost of tuition from growing is a “high priority.” While majorities from many backgrounds are likely to say that affordable higher education is very important, Democrats are much more likely (90%) than Republicans (57%) and somewhat more likely than independents (74%) to identify increasing state funding to keep costs down as a “high priority.” Those from minority ethnic backgrounds are also more likely to see the proposed policy as very important; 86% of African Americans and 82% of Hispanics surveyed say keeping costs down by increasing state aid is a “high priority” compared to 72% of White respondents.

Illinois has lost many high school graduates to colleges and universities in other states.⁶ Interested in finding out why these students are leaving, the Illinois Issues Survey asks respondents which of four suggested reasons (shown in figure below) explain why this is the case.⁷ Respondents were most likely to cite the cost of college in Illinois (40%) as well as the uncertainty of state funding (37%). Just under a quarter (23%) say opportunities after college are better outside Illinois and 14% say colleges are better elsewhere.

Expense of college, uncertainty of state funding are top reasons high school grads leave, respondents say



⁶ Wurth, Julie. 2018. “Record number of Illinois college freshman heading out of state.” *The News-Gazette*. January 1, 2018. <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2018-01-13/record-number-illinois-college-freshmen-heading-out-state.html> (September 19, 2018).

⁷ Respondents may provide more than one response.

Gun Policy

Mental Health Background Checks and Weapons Bans

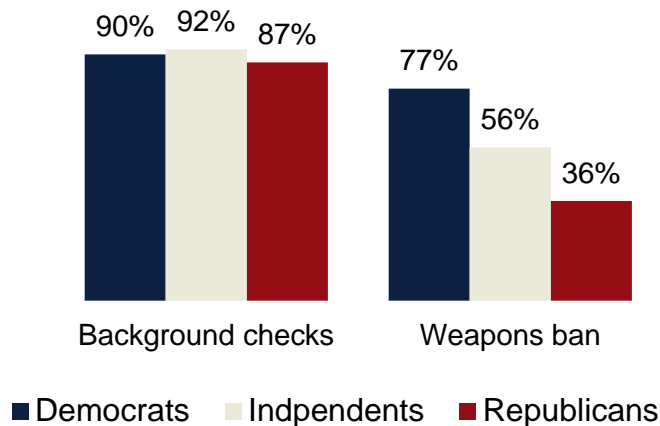
About nine in ten (89%) responding to the Illinois Issues Survey respondents favor mental health background checks on all gun buyers. Support for this policy is high among all groups, though those who live in Chicagoland (91%) are slightly more likely to support mental health background checks than those who live downstate (84%).

89% “strongly” or “somewhat favor” mental health background checks

While support for a background check is nearly unanimous, opinion is more divided on banning assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons. A majority (58%) of all those surveyed favor banning these weapons. However, those living in Chicagoland (64%) are more likely to say they favor banning these weapons than those living downstate (46%). Those with at least a 4-year college degree (63%) are also more likely to favor the proposed weapons ban than those with less than a 4-year degree (53%). The biggest difference, however, is between partisans; while 77% of Democrats favor a weapons ban, a smaller majority of independents (56%) and a minority of Republicans (36%) favor the ban.

Nearly all support background checks, support for weapons ban differs by partisanship

% who “strongly” or “somewhat support” mental health background checks for gun purchases, ban on assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons



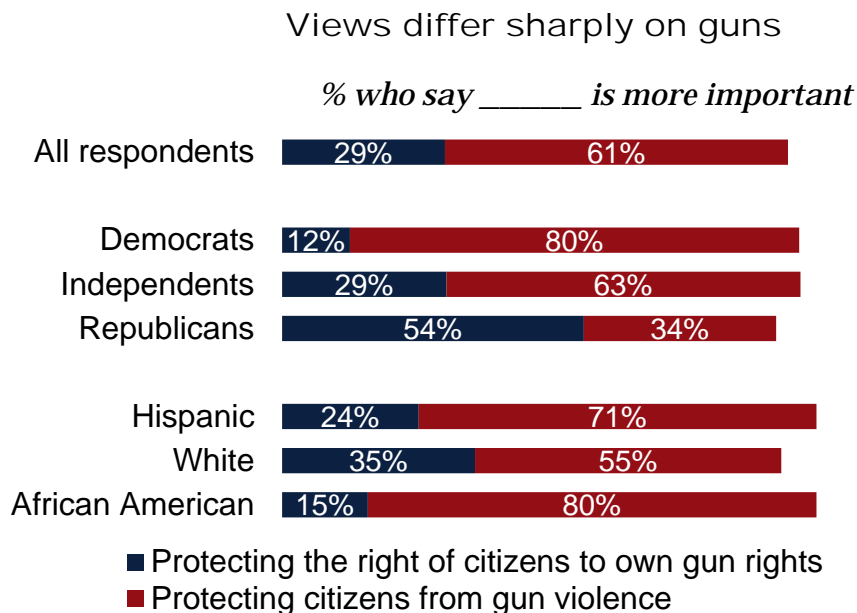
Measures to curb violence in schools

The survey asks respondents about two measures which aim to curb gun violence in schools: placing armed guards inside schools and arming school personnel. Overall, respondents are more likely to favor placing armed guards in schools than they are to favor allowing school personnel to carry guns in schools. While a slight majority (58%) say they favor putting armed guards inside schools for protection, just 36% favor allowing teachers and other school officials to carry guns on school grounds.

Support for putting armed guards in school is higher downstate (64%) than in Chicagoland (53%). Support is also much higher among Republicans (77%) than among Democrats (46%) or independents (54%). The question of allowing teachers and other school officials to carry guns on school grounds is even more divisive. While nearly four in ten White (39%) and Hispanic respondents (40%) favor the policy, just 16% of African American respondents do. There is a large regional difference, as far fewer Chicagoland respondents (30%) support allowing teachers and other school officials to carry guns than those downstate (48%). Republicans are four times more likely (65%) than Democrats (15%) and twice as likely as independents (37%) to say they favor allowing these individuals to carry guns in schools.

Views on Gun Policy

When asked which they believe is more important, protecting the right of citizens to own guns or protecting citizens from gun violence, twice as many say protecting citizens from guns is more important (61%) as say protecting the right of citizens to own guns is important (29%). However, as with the other questions on gun policy, views differ greatly by geography, ethnic background, and political affiliation (see figure).



Health

Access to Care

Just over a third (34%) of those surveyed view a lack of access to health care as either an “extremely serious” or “very serious” problem in their community. However, African Americans (55%) and Hispanics (54%) are more than twice as likely to view the problem as at least “very serious” than their White counterparts (24%). Those younger than 35 (48%) are also more likely to see the problem as “extremely” or “very serious” (48%) than those 35 or older (29%). Those surveyed who report annual household income below \$60,000 (45%) are far more likely to say that lack of access to health care is either an extremely or very serious problem in their community than those with incomes of \$60,000 or greater (25%).

Many survey respondents also say that lack of access to mental health care is a serious problem; nearly half (49%) of all surveyed say it is either an “extremely serious” or “very serious” problem in their community. Results are similar to the general access to care question; those with lower incomes, as well as African American and Hispanic respondents are more likely to believe the problem is either “extremely” or “very serious” where they live (see table below).

Disparities in access to health care, mental health care in respondents’ community

% Who see a lack of access to _____ as a “very serious” or “somewhat serious” problem in their community

	Health care	Mental health care
All respondents	34%	49%
18-44 years old	43	51
45-64	30	51
65 years or older	23	43
African American	55	65
Hispanic	54	46
White	24	43
Democrat	38	56
Independent	35	48
Republican	19	36
Income less than \$60,000	45	57
Income \$60,000 or more	25	45

Opioid Abuse in Illinois

Nearly half (49%) of those surveyed say that abuse of opiate pain medication is either an “extremely” or “very serious” problem in their community.

Respondents with lower levels of education are more likely to see opioid abuse as at least a very serious problem in their community than those with higher levels of education; while more than half (53%) of

those with less than a four-year degree say that opiate abuse is extremely or very serious, 42% of those with a graduate degree say so. Those earning less than \$60,000 (56%) are more likely to say prescription pain medication abuse is at least very serious than those with incomes of \$60,000 or greater (45%).

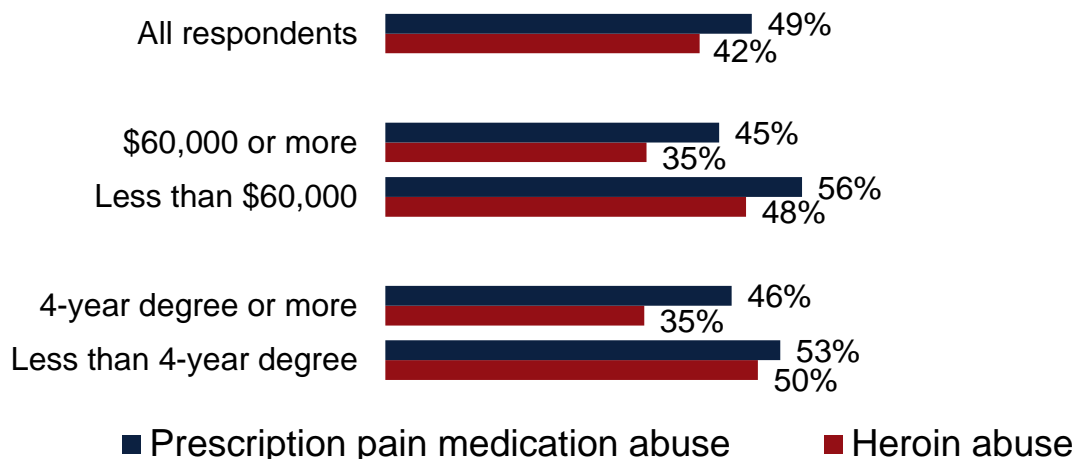
39% *“personally know” someone who has been addicted to pain medication*

It is unsurprising that so many survey respondents believe prescription pain medication abuse is a large problem considering that nearly four in ten (39%) say they personally know someone who has been addicted to opioid pain medication. The survey finds that White respondents are more likely to know someone who has been addicted (44%) than are African American (28%) and Hispanic respondents (29%).

Abuse of heroin, an opiate street drug, in Illinois is also considered a serious problem by many in Illinois. About four in ten respondents (42%) consider heroin abuse to be at least a “very serious” problem in their community. Differences between individuals with a college education and those without are striking: whereas half (50%) of those without a bachelor’s degree say heroin abuse is either an “extremely” or “very serious” problem where they live, just 35% of those with a four-year degree or more say so.

Prescription pain medication, heroin abuse seen as a problem by many

% who say _____ is a “very serious” or “extremely serious” problem in their community



Trust and Polarization

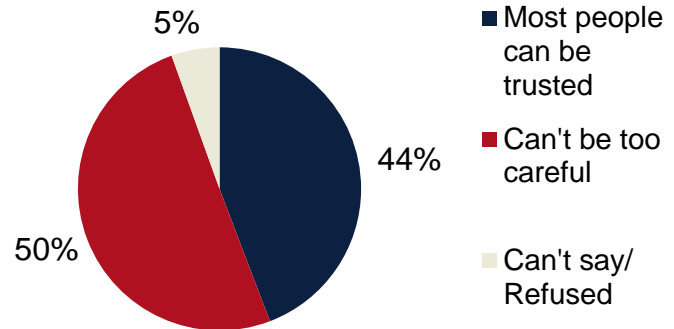
Trust in Others

In order to measure trust among others, the Illinois Issues Survey asks the question: “Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can’t be too careful in dealing with people?” This question, which has appeared for years on the long-running General Social Survey, measures a concept known as social trust.

Slightly fewer of those polled say they trust others (44%) than say you cannot be too careful (50%), the survey finds. By comparison, recent GSS national GSS figures find that 32% say they can trust most people and 64% say that you can’t be too careful.⁸ While the survey finds that trust is higher among respondents than nationally, trust is higher among some groups than others. For instance, African American respondents are less likely to say that most people can be trusted (30%) than White (50%) or Hispanic respondents (44%). Higher education predicts social trust as well; survey respondents with at least a 4-year degree are more likely to say most can be trusted (51%) than those with less than a 4-year degree (37%).

Respondents split on whether others can be trusted

Would you say most people can be trusted or you can't be too careful in dealing with people?



⁸ Smith, Tom W, Peter Marsden, Michael Hout, and Jibum Kim. General Social Surveys, 1972-2016 [machine-readable data file] /Principal Investigator, Tom W. Smith; Co-Principal Investigator, Peter V. Marsden; Co-Principal Investigator, Michael Hout; Sponsored by National Science Foundation. -NORC ed.- Chicago: NORC at the University of Chicago [producer and distributor]. More information regarding the General Social Survey is available here: <http://gss.norc.org/>

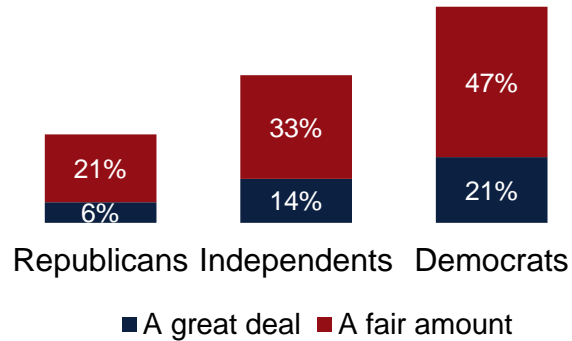
Trust in the Media

Respondents are split on whether they trust the media. The survey asks respondents whether they trust the mass media to report the news fully, accurately, and fully or not. About half (48%) of those surveyed say they trust the media either a “great deal” or a “fair amount” to do this, whereas half (50%) say they have “not very much” trust or “none at all.” Democrats (67%) are much more likely than either independents (47%) or Republicans (27%) to say they trust the mass media.

The survey asks respondents to name the media source they trust the most to tell them the truth on important issues. Respondents report many different sources, with Fox News (12%) and CNN (10%) the most frequently listed sources. Trust in the media generally correlates strongly with the source respondents trust the most. For instance, for those who say they trust Fox News the most, 23% say they trust the mass media either a “great deal” or a “fair amount” whereas for those who trust CNN 76% say this.

Trust in mass media varies greatly by party affiliation

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media to report the news when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly?



Polarization

A large majority of Illinoisans believe that the people of the United States are at least somewhat divided over both race and politics these days, the survey finds. However, this division seems especially true of politics; almost three-quarters (73%) of those surveyed say Americans are “very divided” while 21% say they are “somewhat divided.” When it comes to race, almost half (48%) say Americans are “very divided” while 41% say they are “somewhat divided.” Hispanic (65%) and African American (58%) survey respondents are more likely to say that Americans are “very divided” over race than White respondents (45%). Survey respondents also differ along partisan lines — over half of Democrats (54%) and independents (52%) say Americans are “very divided” along racial lines compared to 36% of Republicans.

Most Important Problem

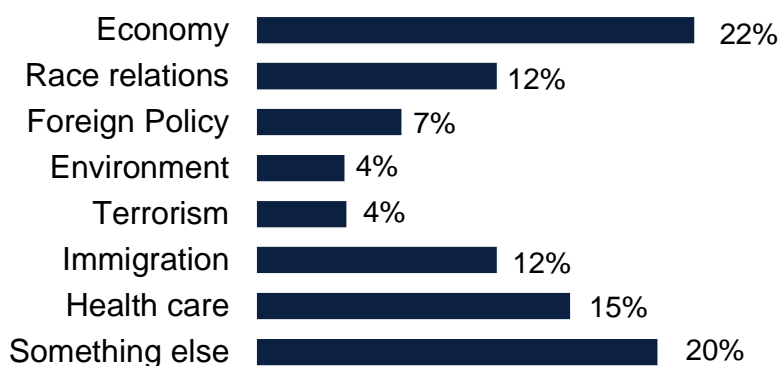
The survey asks respondents which of eight issues they believe represents the most important problem facing the country today (see chart below). A plurality (22%) say that the economy is the biggest problem facing America. Health care (15%) is the next most cited issue, followed by race relations (12%), and immigration (12%). Smaller percentages of respondents cite foreign policy (7%), the environment (4%), and terrorism (4%) as the most important problem.

The study finds that younger respondents are more likely to see the economy as the most important problem in America than older respondents. Whereas 30% of those ages 18 to 44 cite the economy as the most important problem, 17% of those 35 to 64, and 13% of those 65 and older do so. Additionally, African American respondents (34%) are more likely than Hispanic (24%), and white respondents (18%) to see the economy as the most important issue.

Partisanship seems to play a large role in how respondents select which issue is the most important to them. For instance, Republicans (22%) are far more likely than either Democrats (8%) or independents (11%) to cite immigration as the most important problem facing the country. Conversely, while 9% of Democratic respondents are likely see the environment as the most important problem, just 1% of Republicans and 2% of independents feel this way.

No consensus on problems facing America

% who say _____ is the most important problem facing the country today?



Methodology

The University of Illinois Center for State Policy and Leadership is dedicated to the principles of transparency in research. The Survey Research Office, unit of the Center, is a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. Membership entails adherence to AAPOR's code of ethics⁹ as well as a commitment to promoting understanding of survey methodology and how it relates to survey quality. For more information about project methodology please contact the UIS Survey Research Office at sro@uis.edu.

Study sponsorship: The study was funded wholly by researchers at the UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership.

Sample: The sampling frame used in the survey is a dual frame (cell phone and landline) telephone sample of registered voters in Illinois. The sample was purchased from Marketing Systems Group to be representative of the state as a whole as well as two regions referred to in the report: Chicagoland and downstate Illinois. The sample was stratified by region: Chicagoland and downstate Illinois.¹⁰

Weighting: The data for the 2018 Illinois Issues Survey are weighted using population parameters provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The parameters used for weighting in the survey are: gender, region of state, and age.

Recruitment: Researchers placed calls to potential respondents from July 3 to August 15, 2018. Interviews were conducted from 10am-9pm Monday-Friday during the fielding period. All those who confirmed that they were over the age of eighteen and were registered to vote in Illinois to a telephone interviewer were deemed eligible to participate. For the landline component, there was no within-household sampling. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish and so excludes those who do not speak either language.

Precision of Findings: The margin of sampling error (MOSE) for the survey is ± 3.7 at the 95% confidence level. When examining subgroups, the margin of error will increase. The MOSE is based on unweighted results. The MOSE has not been adjusted for design effect.

⁹ The American Association for Public Opinion Research. 2015. The Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. Retrieved from: http://www.aapor.org/Standards-Ethics/AAPOR-Code-of-Ethics/AAPOR_Code_Accepted_Version_11302015.aspx (September 21, 2018).

¹⁰ The Chicago CSA contains the following counties: Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, Kankakee, Grundy, Kendall, Kane, McHenry, La Salle, DeKalb, and Boone. The downstate sample contains all other counties in Illinois.

Topline Report¹¹

N = 717 (%)

In the election for President of the United States in November 2016, did you vote or did things come up that kept you from voting

YES. DID VOTE	87
NO. DID NOT VOTE	13
DON'T KNOW	<1

How about in the 2014 gubernatorial election for Governor of Illinois?

YES	72
NO	26
DON'T KNOW	2

How about in the presidential election of 2012?

YES, VOTED	81
NO, DID NOT VOTE	18
WOULD RATHER NOT SAY (DON'T OFFER)	<1
DON'T KNOW	1

And how likely are you to vote in this year's election for governor of Illinois? Will you definitely vote, probably vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote?

DEFINITELY WILL VOTE	76
PROBABLY WILL VOTE	12
PROBABLY WILL NOT VOTE	5
DEFINITELY WILL NOT VOTE	4
DON'T KNOW	3

Now I'm going to ask you about education in Illinois. Recently, there have been numerous proposals relating to education in Illinois. I'd like you to please rate the following proposals as either a high priority, a low priority, or not a priority at all.

The first is: "Lowering the compulsory age of entering kindergarten from 6 to 5 years old to ensure high quality early education for all".

HIGH PRIORITY	50
LOW PRIORITY	26
NOT A PRIORITY AT ALL	19
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED	<1

The next is: Offering parents vouchers to send their children to any public or private school they want

HIGH PRIORITY	50
LOW PRIORITY	25
NOT A PRIORITY AT ALL	21
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED	<1

The next is: Reducing class sizes in Illinois primary and secondary public schools (K-12).

HIGH PRIORITY	74
LOW PRIORITY	14
NOT A PRIORITY AT ALL	9
DON'T KNOW	3
REFUSED	<1

¹¹ Weighted responses shown. Responses are rounded to nearest whole number.

The next is: Increasing state funding for public universities and colleges in Illinois in order to keep the cost of tuition from growing

HIGH PRIORITY	76
LOW PRIORITY	14
NOT A PRIORITY AT ALL	7
DON'T KNOW	3
REFUSED	<1

Many high school graduates are leaving Illinois to attend college elsewhere. Which of the following are reasons you think these people are going to college outside the state?¹²

COLLEGE IS TOO EXPENSIVE IN ILLINOIS	40
COLLEGES IN ILLINOIS AREN'T AS GOOD AS IN OTHER STATES	14
POST-COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES ARE BETTER OUTSIDE OF ILLINOIS	23
STATE FUNDING TO PUBLIC COLLEGES IS UNCERTAIN	37
SOME OTHER REASON	15
DON'T KNOW	9
REFUSED	1

Next I want to ask you about taxes and the economy. How would you describe Illinois' economy today? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, or poor?

EXCELLENT	<1
GOOD	14
FAIR	32
POOR	53
DON'T KNOW	1

Currently, in Illinois we have what is called a flat-rate income tax system where everyone, regardless of their household income, pays the same income tax rate. The tax rate system is currently 4.95. Some people in Illinois have proposed changing the flat rate tax to a graduated income tax where people with higher incomes are taxed at higher percentages than people with lower incomes. If you had to choose between the two would you be in favor of a graduated tax system that charges those with higher incomes a higher rate or would you prefer to keep the current flat rate system where everyone pays the same rate?

FLAT RATE SYSTEM	36
GRADUATED SYSTEM	57
CAN'T SAY	4
NEITHER/SOMETHING ELSE	2
REFUSED	<1

¹² Question allows for multiple responses. Percentage of those who chose response shown.

And under a proposed graduated tax system where people with higher incomes are taxed a higher percentage than people with lower incomes, do you think you would pay more in state income taxes or less in state income taxes than you currently do? Or, do you think you would pay about the same in taxes?

WOULD PAY MORE	30
WOULD PAY LESS	19
ABOUT THE SAME	35
CAN'T SAY	16
REFUSED	1

Various proposals have been made for and against raising the minimum wage in Illinois (currently \$8.25 per hour). Which of the following proposals pertaining to the minimum wage comes closest to your view? A) A higher minimum wage will give people money to spend and grow the economy. B) A higher minimum wage will make it harder for employees to hire and retain employees.

HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE HELPS	60
HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE HURTS	31
CAN'T SAY	10
REFUSED	<1

And would you say you support or oppose raising the minimum wage in Illinois to \$15 an hour? Is that strongly or somewhat?

STRONGLY SUPPORT	46
SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	16
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	12
STRONGLY OPPOSE	24
DON'T KNOW	2

Over the next 12 months do you expect your personal economic situation to improve a lot, improve a little, remain the same, worsen a little, or worsen a lot?

IMPROVE A LOT	10
IMPROVE A LITTLE	24
REMAIN THE SAME	50
WORSEN A LITTLE	11
WORSEN A LOT	3
DON'T KNOW	2
REFUSED	1

Illinois currently has an immigrant population of 1.8 million individuals including 500,000 of whom are undocumented. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view even if neither is exactly correct.

A) Immigrants help Illinois and make it a better place to live. B) Immigrants hurt Illinois and make it a worse place to live.

IMMIGRANTS HELP ILLINOIS	63
IMMIGRANTS HURT ILLINOIS	20
CAN'T SAY	14
REFUSED	2

In general do you favor or oppose allowing immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children to remain in the country? Is that strongly or somewhat?

STRONGLY FAVOR	46
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	17
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	10
STRONGLY OPPOSE	21
DON'T KNOW	5
REFUSED	1

And how serious of a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is in Illinois right now—very, somewhat, not too, or not at all serious?

VERY SERIOUS	27
SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	30
NOT TOO SERIOUS	22
NOT AT ALL SERIOUS	15
DON'T KNOW	5

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about gun policy. I'm going to read several proposals and I'd like you to tell me whether you favor or oppose each one.

First: requiring mental health background checks on all gun buyers. Do you favor or oppose this policy? Is that strongly or somewhat?

STRONGLY FAVOR	80
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	8
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	4
STRONGLY OPPOSE	5
CAN'T SAY	2
REFUSED	<1

Next is: Putting armed guards in schools for protection

STRONGLY FAVOR	35
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	21
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	11
STRONGLY OPPOSE	29
CAN'T SAY	3
REFUSED	1

Next is: banning assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons

STRONGLY FAVOR	47
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	11
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	11
STRONGLY OPPOSE	28
CAN'T SAY	3
REFUSED	<1

Next is: allowing teachers and school officials to carry guns on school grounds

STRONGLY FAVOR	19
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	17
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	8
STRONGLY OPPOSE	53
CAN'T SAY	3
REFUSED	1

Which is more important? Protecting the rights of citizens to own guns or protecting citizens from gun violence?

RIGHT TO OWN GUNS	29
PROTECTING CITIZENS	61
CAN'T SAY/DIDN'T OFFER	8
REFUSED	2

The next few questions ask about health issues. For these questions, I'd like you to think just about your community. Please state how serious of a problem you consider each of the following health issues to be right now in your community?

Lack of access to health care

EXTREMELY SERIOUS	14
VERY SERIOUS	19
SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	22
LESS SERIOUS THAN THAT	39
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED	1

Heroin abuse

EXTREMELY SERIOUS	18
VERY SERIOUS	24
SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	22
LESS SERIOUS THAN THAT	20
DON'T KNOW	16
REFUSED	<1

Abuse of prescription pain killers or opioids like Percocet, OxyContin, or Vicodin

EXTREMELY SERIOUS	19
VERY SERIOUS	30
SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	23
LESS SERIOUS THAN THAT	16
DON'T KNOW	12
REFUSED	<1

Lack of access to mental health care

EXTREMELY SERIOUS	24
VERY SERIOUS	25
SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	22
LESS SERIOUS THAN THAT	21
DON'T KNOW	8
REFUSED	<1

Do you personally know anyone who has been addicted to prescription painkillers such as Percocet, OxyContin, or Vicodin?

YES	39
NO	61
DON'T KNOW	1

There has been a lot of talk in the news recently about people leaving Illinois to live elsewhere. According to the Census Bureau, Illinois lost nearly 34,000 people from 2016 to 2017. In the past year, have you personally considered leaving Illinois?

YES	53
NO	46
DON'T KNOW	<1

And what is the primary reason you have considered leaving?

BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES	15
BETTER WEATHER/CLIMATE	7
LOWER TAXES	38
BETTER SCHOOLS/EDUCATION	1
LOWER CRIME	7
FAMILY (OR PERSONAL) REASONS	10
STATE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	14
OTHER	8

Generally speaking, would you say that things in Illinois are heading in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

RIGHT DIRECTION	14
WRONG TRACK	74
CAN'T SAY	11
REFUSED	<1

And compared to a year ago, would you say Illinois is getting better, about the same, or getting worse?

GETTING BETTER	13
ABOUT THE SAME	47
GETTING WORSE	37
CAN'T SAY	2
REFUSED	<1

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

MOST PEOPLE CAN BE TRUSTED	44
CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL	50
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED	1

And how do you identify as an Illinoisan?

VERY STRONGLY	53
SOMEWHAT STRONGLY	27
NOT VERY STRONGLY	8
NOT STRONGLY AT ALL	7
DON'T KNOW	3
REFUSED	1

Some people say we need legislators with experience and know-how because the issues we want them to address are getting more complex. Other people say we should impose term limits because long-time legislators lose sight of those who elected them. Considering both these views. Do you support or oppose term limits?

SUPPORT TERM LIMITS	80
OPPOSE TERM LIMITS	14
CANT SAY	6
REFUSED	1

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media—such as newspapers, TV and radio—when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly – a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

GREAT DEAL	13
FAIR AMOUNT	35
NOT VERY MUCH	29
NONE AT ALL	21
DON'T KNOW	1
REFUSED	1

Can you name the news media source you trust most to tell you the trust on important issues?

FOX NEWS / FOX	12
CNN	10
MSNBC	5
ABC	5
NBC	4
CBS	2
THE NEW YORK TIMES	3
THE WASHINGTON POST	<1
THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE	3
THE CHICAGO SUN TIMES	1
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL	2
NPR	6
LOCAL NEWSPAPER	2
LOCAL TV	6
GOOGLE	<1
FACEBOOK	1
INTERNET-OTHER OR UNSPECIFIED	6
OTHER, SPECIFY BELOW	31

What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? The economy, health care, immigration, terrorism, the environment, foreign policy, race relations, or something else?

ECONOMY	22
HEALTH CARE	15
IMMIGRATION	12
TERRORISM	4
ENVIRONMENT	4
FOREIGN POLICY	7
RACE RELATIONS	12
SOMETHING ELSE	20
DON'T KNOW	4
REFUSED	<1

If the election for governor was being held today, and the Republican candidate was Bruce Rauner and the Democratic candidate was JB Pritzker, who would you vote for?

J.B. PRITZKER	35
BRUCE RAUNER	23
SOMEONE ELSE	15
CANT SAY	23
REFUSED	4

These days, how divided do you think American are over the following? Race

VERY DIVIDED	48
SOMEWHAT DIVIDED	41
NOT THAT DIVIDED	6
NOT AT ALL DIVIDED	2
DON'T KNOW	2
REFUSED	1

What about politics?

VERY DIVIDED	73
SOMEWHAT DIVIDED	21
NOT THAT DIVIDED	2
NOT AT ALL DIVIDED	<1
DON'T KNOW	3
REFUSED	1

Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are liberal, moderate, or conservative?

LIBERAL	30
MODERATE	35
CONSERVATIVE	24
CANT SAY	6
REFUSED	5

What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

1-11 TH GRADE	3
HIGH SCHOOL	17
GRADUATE (12 TH GRADE OR EQUIVALENT)	
POST-HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION (NO DEGREE)	10
2-YEAR DEGREE	15
4-YEAR DEGREE	31
POST-GRADUATE STUDY (NO DEGREE)	2
POST-GRADUATE DEGREE	19
REFUSED	4

I understand that income is a private matter. I'm going to list some broad income categories, and have you stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income in 2017 before taxes.

LESS THAN \$10,000	4
\$10,000 TO LESS THAN \$30,000	10
\$30,000 TO LESS THAN \$40,000	8
\$40,000 TO LESS THAN \$50,000	7
\$50,000 TO LESS THAN \$60,000	7
\$60,000 TO LESS THAN \$70,000	6
\$70,000 TO LESS THAN \$80,000	7
\$80,000 TO LESS THAN \$90,000	5
\$90,000 TO LESS THAN \$100,000	4
\$100,000 TO LESS THAN \$125,000	6
\$125,000 TO LESS THAN \$150,000	5
MORE THAN \$150,000	8
DON'T KNOW	2
REFUSED	21

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or what?

REPUBLICAN	23
DEMOCRAT	35
INDEPENDENT	30
OTHER	6
DON'T KNOW	1
REFUSED	5