

2009 Joyce Foundation Illinois Survey

Interviewing conducted January 5 to 11, 2009.

N = 802 adults in Illinois

Margin of sampling error is ± 3.5 percentage points.

The data have been weighted by gender, age and race.

2008: April 21 to May 4, 2008; N = 402 adults (MoE ± 4.9).

2006: June 14 to July 6, 2006; N = 408 adults (MoE ± 4.9).

Percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding.

* indicates less than 1%; -- indicates zero.

Hello, my name is ___ and I am an interviewer with BRS - an opinion research firm. We are conducting a public opinion survey in Illinois and your telephone number was selected at random. We are not selling anything. May I please speak to the person 18 years old or older in your household who had a birthday most recently? (IF NECESSARY ARRANGE FOR A CALL BACK AND RECORD DATE AND TIME. REPEAT INTRO AS NECESSARY)

1. In general, are things in Illinois going in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?		Right direction	Wrong track	DK/REF
	2009	18%	78	4
	2008	27%	68	5
	2006	43%	42	15

2. How would you rate the job that the Illinois state legislature is doing -- a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?		Good job	Fair job	Poor job	DK/REF
	2009	8%	41	49	2
	2008	17%	52	26	5
	2006	26%	49	16	9

3. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Illinois to do what is right: almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?		Almost always	Most of time	Some of time	Almost never	DK/REF
	2009	3%	16	52	29	*
	2008	3%	20	52	25	--
	2006	7%	27	50	14	2

On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: [RANDOMIZE Q4-Q12]

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	DK/ REF
4. The economy in Illinois	2009	3%	*	1	2	6	5	8	13	12	50	--
	2008	2%	1	1	2	8	5	9	16	10	45	*
	2006	2%	2	3	4	11	6	11	16	9	34	1
5. Health care in Illinois	2009	3%	1	4	3	11	7	10	15	7	38	1
	2008	3%	2	2	4	12	5	9	12	11	41	*
	2006	3%	2	2	2	10	5	10	12	9	45	2
6. Corruption in state government	2009	3%	1	1	*	4	3	6	10	10	61	*
	2008	2%	2	3	1	8	8	9	11	8	49	*
	2006	4%	2	3	2	7	5	9	14	9	43	2
7. State taxes	2009	3%	1	2	2	12	8	8	13	8	41	1
	2008	3%	2	5	4	11	5	11	13	11	37	--
	2006	3%	2	3	3	15	8	8	12	7	38	*
8. Public schools in Illinois	2009	4%	2	2	4	10	9	9	14	9	36	*
	2008	3%	2	2	3	10	5	9	13	10	42	1
	2006	2%	2	2	3	10	6	9	13	8	44	1
9. The influence of money in state politics	2009	3%	1	1	2	5	3	8	13	10	54	1
	2008	2%	2	2	2	6	4	9	15	11	46	*
	2006	2%	3	2	2	9	6	9	15	7	44	1
10. Gas prices	2009	6%	4	5	4	14	8	9	13	7	29	*
	2008	2%	1	1	1	3	3	3	9	7	68	*
	2006	4%	2	*	1	5	2	8	8	7	60	1
11. Jobs in Illinois	2009	3%	1	2	2	8	6	8	15	10	45	*
	2008	3%	1	3	3	10	6	9	17	10	39	*
	2006	2%	1	2	4	12	7	10	18	8	35	1
12. The state budget	2009	2%	1	1	1	8	5	11	14	10	46	*
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13. Do you think Governor Blagojevich's alleged behavior is an unusual and extreme case of corruption or do you think this type of behavior is common among public officials in Illinois? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you believe this strongly or somewhat?					Strongly Unusual & Extreme							23%
					Somewhat Unusual & Extreme							16
					Somewhat Common							20
					Strongly Common							38
					DK/ REF							3
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14. How confident are you that the Illinois legislature will pass new laws this year to reduce the influence of money in state politics? Very confident, somewhat, not very, or not confident at all?					Very confident							10%
					Somewhat confident							38
					Not very confident							27
					Not at all confident							24
					DK/ REF							1

Please tell me whether each of the following would make a big difference, some difference, not much difference, or no difference at all in making state government work better. [RANDOMIZE 15-22]

	A big diff.	Some diff.	Not much diff.	No diff.	DK/REF
15. Use tax dollars to provide state candidates with public funds to run their campaigns in exchange for agreeing not to accept money from special interests and to limit their campaign spending.	36%	35	13	14	1
16. Require lobbyists to fully disclose their clients, what issues they are working on, and the money they spend lobbying lawmakers.	51%	32	8	8	1
17. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that limit the amount of money individuals can give to political candidates and political parties.	40%	34	12	14	*
18. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by corporations to candidates and political parties.	43%	35	13	8	1
19. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by unions to candidates and political parties.	37%	39	12	11	1
20. Require judges to step aside in cases in which either the lawyers or the parties involved in the case have contributed to their election campaigns.	48%	34	8	9	1
21. Public financing for election of judges – that is letting judges use tax dollars to finance their campaigns rather than asking for contributions from lawyers and special interest groups.	34%	36	14	14	1
22. Right-to-know laws that give the public more access to state government decisions on spending and programs.	47%	38	7	6	1

23. Would you support or oppose the creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois's campaign finance laws? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you (support/oppose) that strongly or somewhat?	Strongly support	41%
	Somewhat support	25
	Somewhat oppose	15
	Strongly oppose	17
	DK/ REF	3

24. Would you support or oppose a law limiting the amount of campaign money Republican and Democratic leaders of the legislature are allowed to contribute to other legislative candidates? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you (support/oppose) that strongly or somewhat?	Strongly support	42%
	Somewhat support	29
	Somewhat oppose	15
	Strongly oppose	12
	DK/ REF	2

25. Would you support or oppose state government spending more taxpayer dollars on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Is that strongly or somewhat (support/oppose)?	Strongly support	42%
	Somewhat support	23
	Somewhat oppose	15
	Strongly oppose	16
	DK/ REF	1

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Is that strongly or somewhat [agree/disagree]? [RANDOMIZE 26-30]

		Strngly agree	Smwht agree	Smwht disagree	Strngly disagree	DK/ REF
26. Corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference.	2009	18%	15	18	49	1
	2008	18%	15	18	49	*
	2006	20%	18	19	41	1
27. Money will always influence government decisions, so it is not worth trying to reduce the amount of money in politics.	2009	23%	18	22	35	2
	2008	27%	14	19	39	1
	2006	26%	20	16	35	3
28. Unless we limit the influence of money in government, elected officials will not be able to keep their promises on issues that are important to people like me.	2009	42%	26	17	14	2
	2008	46%	29	16	9	*
	2006	45%	28	15	9	3
29. Candidates that could represent me do not run for office because they cannot raise the money needed to win.	2009	36%	19	24	18	2
30. State government does not have much impact on my life.	2009	11%	10	19	59	*
	2008	9%	11	17	64	*
	2006	11%	11	23	52	2

BASE: REGISTERED VOTERS; N=732		
31. If your state representative repeatedly supported legislation to reduce the influence of money in politics, how important would that be to you in deciding to vote to re-elect your legislator – very, somewhat, not very or not at all important?	Very important	50%
	Somewhat important	39
	Not very important	6
	Not at all important	4
	DK/ REF	*
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D1. What was the last grade of school you completed?	<HS	4%
	HS Grad	25
	Some/ tech coll.	27
	4-yr coll. grad	29
	Post-grad work or degree	15
	DK/REF	*
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D2. Which of the following best describes the place where you live: a large city, a small city, a suburb of a city, a small town, or a rural area?	Large city	26%
	Small city	11
	Suburb	39
	Small town	14
	Rural area	10
	DK/ REF	*
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BASE: COUNTY = COOK; N=337		
D2a. Do you live in the city of Chicago or outside of the city?	In Chicago	22%
	Outside the City	22
	DK/REF	*
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D3. Are you registered to vote at your current address?	Yes	89%
	No	11
	DK/REF	*
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D4. In terms of your political outlook, do you usually think of yourself as: [READ LIST; REVERSE ORDER]	Very liberal	12%
	Somewhat liberal	18
	Middle of the road	32
	Somewhat conservative	25
	Very conservative	11
	DK/ REF	1
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D5. Do you consider yourself to be [ROTATE: a Democrat, a Republican], an independent, or something else?	Democrat	42%
	Republican	24
	Independent	24
	Something else	6
	DK/REF	4
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D6. In what year were you born? Are you between:	18-29	22%
	30-39	19
	40-49	21
	50-59	16
	60+	21
	DK/ REF	1
D7 and D8. Are you of Hispanic or Latino descent? Would you say you are white, black or African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or something else?	White	69%
	Black or African-American	13
	Hispanic/Latino	11
	Asian	2
	Other	1
	DK/ REF	3
D9. Stop me when I come to the category in which your total HOUSEHOLD income fell before taxes last year. Your best estimate is fine.	<\$25K	13%
	\$25-50K	23
	\$50-75K	18
	\$75-100K	17
	\$100K+	20
	DK/ REF	10
GENDER	Male	48%
	Female	52
ILLINOIS REGION (See county-region breakdown on following page)	Chicago	22%
	Chicago Suburbs	49
	Northwest Illinois	11
	Central Illinois	10
	South Illinois	8

The regions include the following Illinois counties:

Chicago	Chicago Suburbs	Northwest Illinois	Central Illinois	South Illinois
City of Chicago- - Cook	Suburban Cook DuPage Kane Kendall Lake McHenry Will	Boone Bureau Carroll DeKalb Fulton Grundy Hancock Henderson Henry Jo Daviess Knox LaSalle Lee Marshall McDonough Mercer Ogle Peoria Putnam Rock Island Stark Stephenson Tazewell Warren Whiteside Winnebago Woodford	Adams Brown Calhoun Cass Champaign Christian Clark Coles Crawford Cumberland De Witt Douglas Edgar Effingham Ford Greene Iroquois Jasper Jersey Kankakee Livingston Logan Macon Macoupin Mason McLean Menard Montgomery Morgan Moultrie Piatt Pike Sangamon Schuyler Scott Shelby Vermilion	Alexander Bond Clay Clinton Edwards Fayette Franklin Gallatin Hamilton Hardin Jackson Jefferson Johnson Lawrence Madison Marion Massac Monroe Perry Pope Pulaski Randolph Richland Saline St. Clair Union Wabash Washington Wayne White Williamson