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### **Illinois Voters Differ on Views of State Budget Crisis**

Most Illinois voters say the state budget stalemate is not having an impact on their lives, according to a new poll by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Voters also remain divided over how to fix the state's budget woes. There are 44 percent who favor cuts, 12 percent who favor tax increases and 33 percent who favor both.

The survey of 1000 registered voters was taken Sept. 27-Oct. 2 and has a margin of error of plus or minus three point one percentage points.

Of the total sample, 34 percent said they were personally affected by the crisis while 62 percent were unaffected. Those opinions have varied little during the past year.

Dr. Linda Baker, university professor at the Institute, said "Illinoisans are aware that the budget crisis is no longer an abstract question, but instead something that is growing in significance and having an effect on the state's ability to attract and retain businesses and residents."

"One hopeful finding is the increased percentage of Illinoisans who see the solution as a mix of both budget cuts and increasing revenues. Hopefully this can help spur policymakers on both sides of the aisle to consider a compromise that includes solutions offered by both parties," she said.

David Yepsen, director of the Institute, said "I'm surprised more people aren't feeling affected by this deadlock in Springfield. I thought the numbers of people impacted would be increasing as it wore on but it's also true many people aren't impacted by changes in government services."

Among those who saw an impact on their own lives, the largest group - at 18 percent - saw the budget stalemate as the cause of their job loss or threat of loss. Another 15 percent saw it as the cause of cuts to general social services and 14 percent perceived it as the source of cuts to K-12 education funding.

The Simon Poll has tracked opinions from 2009 to 2016, and noted a gradual decline, although slight, in the percentage of respondents who felt that a series of budget and spending cuts would suffice to address the structural fiscal problem. Interviewees are increasingly seeing the need for an increase in state revenues coupled with cuts as an essential part of any solution.

- Respondents who viewed only budget and spending cuts as the primary way to solve the crisis shrank from 57 percent in 2009 to 44 percent in 2016.
- Those who thought that a mix of cuts and increased revenues was needed rose from 27 percent in 2009 to 33 percent in 2016.
- The number who viewed an increase in revenues as the primary vehicle for solving the problem was 12 percent, with only minor fluctuations during the period covered by the study.

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The margin of error for the entire sample of 1,000 voters is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. This means that if we conducted the survey 100 times, in 95 of those instances, the population proportion would be within plus or minus the reported margin for error for each subsample. For subsamples, the margin of error increases as the sample size goes down. The margin of error was not adjusted for design effects.

Live telephone interviews were conducted by Customer Research International of San Marcos, Texas using the random digit dialing method. The telephone sample was provided to Customer Research International by Scientific Telephone Samples. Potential interviewees were screened based on whether they were registered voters and quotas based on area code and sex (<60% female). Interviewers asked to speak to the youngest registered voter at home at the time of the call. Cell phone interviews accounted for 60 percent of the sample. A Spanish language version of the questionnaire and a Spanish-speaking interviewer were made available.

Field work was conducted from September 27-October 2. No auto-dial or “robo” polling is included. Customer Research International reports no Illinois political clients. The survey was paid for with non-tax dollars from the Institute’s endowment fund. The data were not weighted in any way. Crosstabs for the referenced questions will be on the Institute’s polling web site, [simonpoll.org](http://simonpoll.org).

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research’s (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. AAPOR works to encourage objective survey standards for practice and disclosure. Membership in the Transparency Initiative reflects a pledge to practice transparency in reporting survey-based findings.

Simon Institute polling data are also archived by four academic institutions for use by scholars and the public. The four open source data repositories are: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research (<http://ropercenter.cornell.edu/polls/>), The University of Michigan’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (<http://openicpsr.org>), the University of North Carolina’s Odum Institute Dataverse Network (<http://arc.irss.unc.edu/dvn/dv/PSPPI>), and the Simon Institute Collection at OpenSIUC (<http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ppi/>).

Note: *The “Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Poll,” the “Simon Poll” and the “Southern Illinois Poll” are the copyrighted trademarks of the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University. Use and publication of these polls is encouraged- but only with credit to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU Carbondale.*

## **Frequency Tables<sup>1</sup>**

### **Fix Illinois Budget Deficit**

*The state of Illinois has a budget deficit of over 9 billion dollars. I'm going to read three statements that people have made about how to fix the deficit, and ask you which one comes closest to your views. If you haven't thought much about this issue, just tell me that.*

- *Illinois' public programs and services have already been reduced significantly. We can only fix the problem by taking in more revenue, such as a tax increase.*
- *The state takes in plenty of money to pay for public services, but wastes it on unnecessary programs. We can only fix the problem by cutting waste and inefficiency in government.*
- *Illinois' budget problem is so large it can only be solved by a combination of budget cuts and revenue increases.*
- *Haven't thought much about it*
- *Other/Don't know*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=1000)</b>
More revenue	12.1%
Cut waste	43.9%
Combination of cuts and revenues	33.1%
Haven't thought much	4.7%
Other/Don't know	6.2%

### **Affected by Budget Stalemate**

*Have you or someone in your immediate family been affected by the Illinois budget stalemate?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=1000)</b>
Yes	33.9%
No	61.9%
Other/Don't know	4.2%

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<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded and may not sum to 100%.

## How Affected by Budget Stalemate

*(If yes to affected by budget stalemate) How has your family been impacted by the lack of a state budget?*

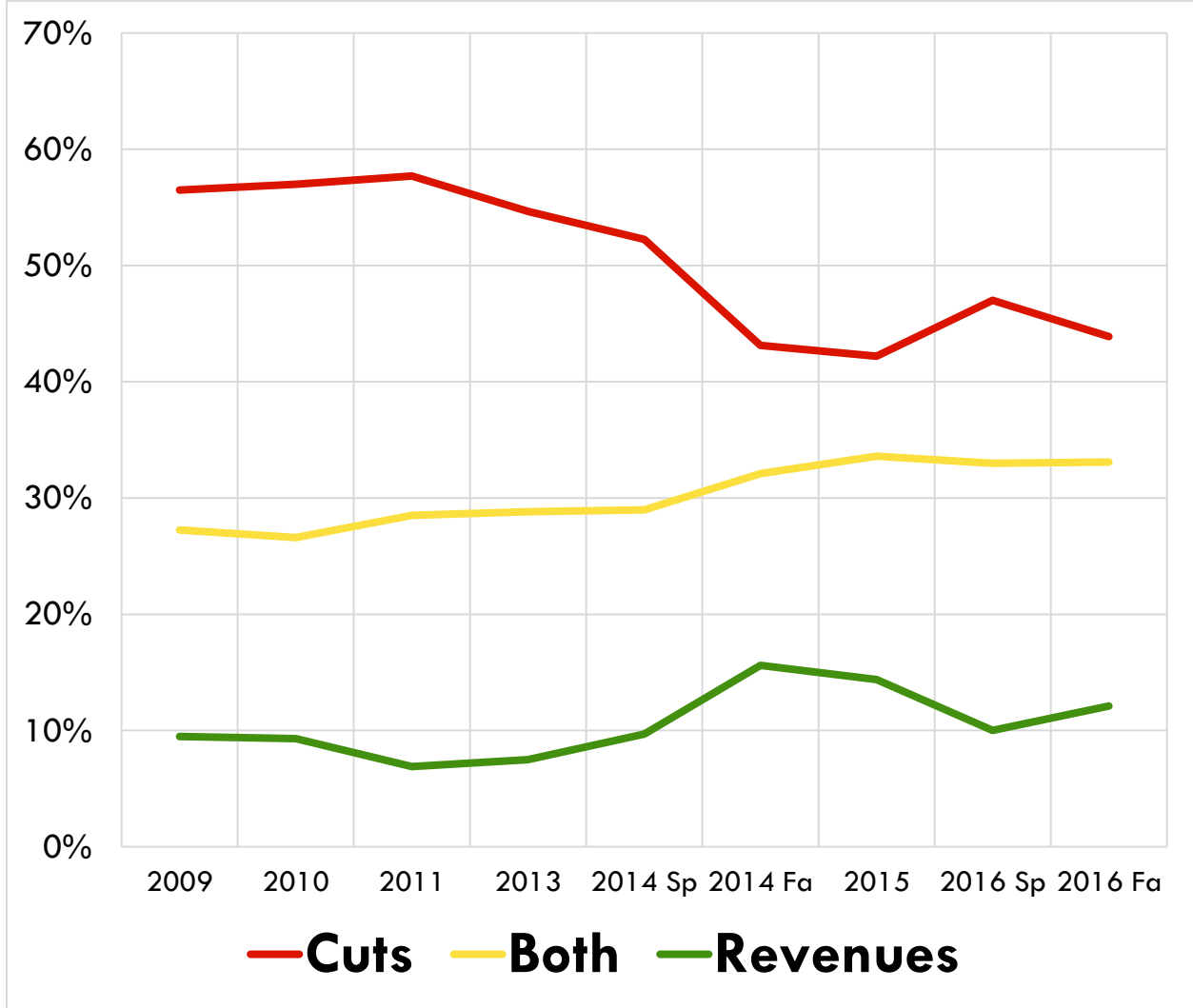
<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=339)</b>
<b>Social Services</b>	<b>47.8%</b>
<i>Social services (generally)</i>	<i>14.7%</i>
<i>K-12 education</i>	<i>13.9%</i>
<i>Mental health care</i>	<i>6.5%</i>
<i>Child care costs/services</i>	<i>5.9%</i>
<i>Higher education (including MAP grants)</i>	<i>5.6%</i>
<i>Drug treatment costs/services</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
<b>Economic (job, housing, etc.)</b>	<b>31.0%</b>
<i>Job lost/threatened</i>	<i>18.3 %</i>
<i>Economy (generally)</i>	<i>8.3%</i>
<i>Housing (affordability/quality)</i>	<i>3.2%</i>
<i>Utility assistance program cuts (home heat, air, etc.)</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
<b>Local government/area</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
<i>Local economy</i>	<i>4.7%</i>
<i>City government cuts</i>	<i>2.4%</i>
<i>Highway and road construction/maintenance</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
<i>Facility closure</i>	<i>1.5%</i>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

Percentages are calculations of those that say they were affected by the budget. Question was open-ended and categorized by response. The margin of error for this limited sample is 5.3 percentage points.

## Demographic Crosstab and Historic Tables<sup>2</sup>

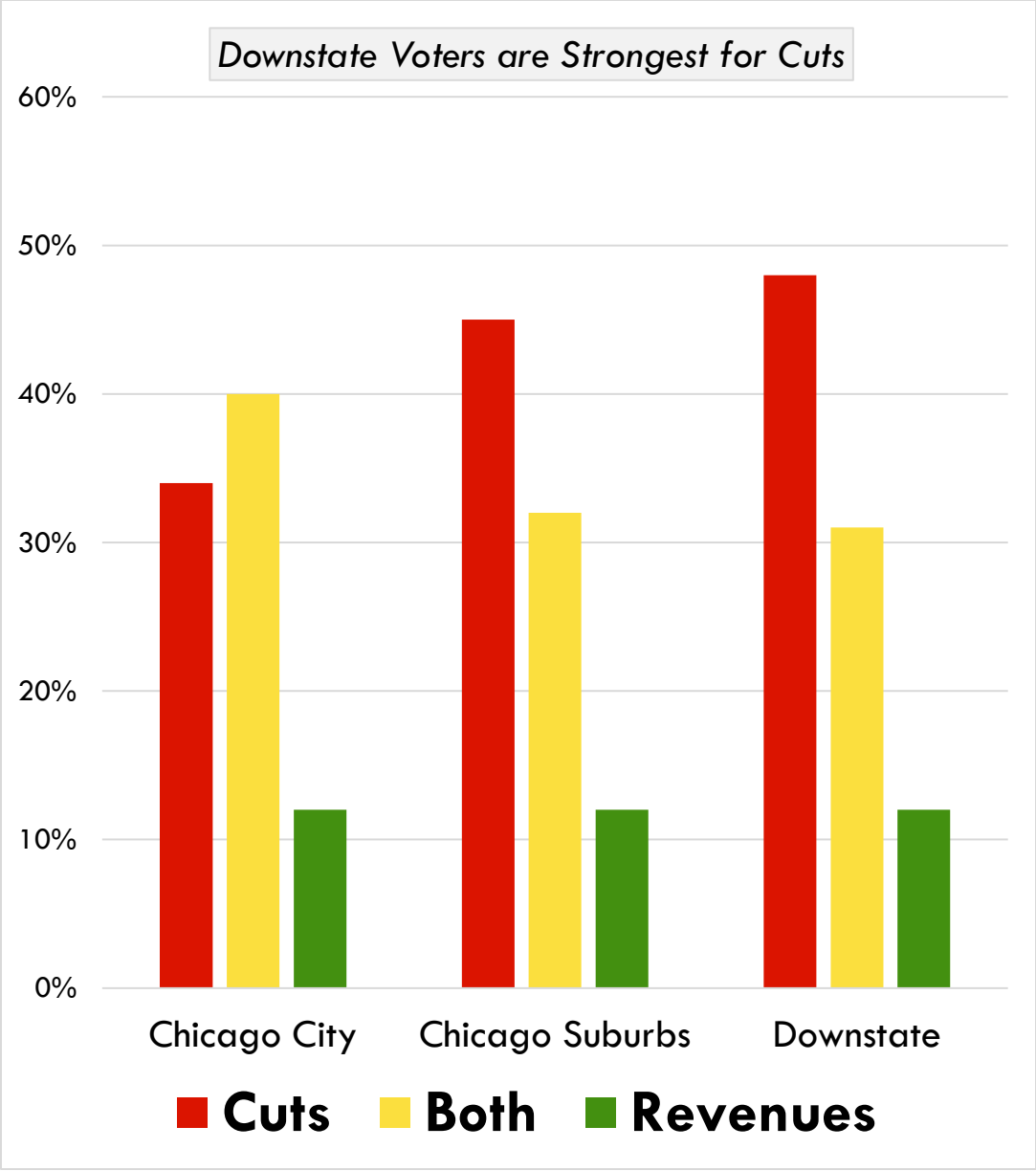
### FIX ILLINOIS DEFICIT

#### Historical Trend



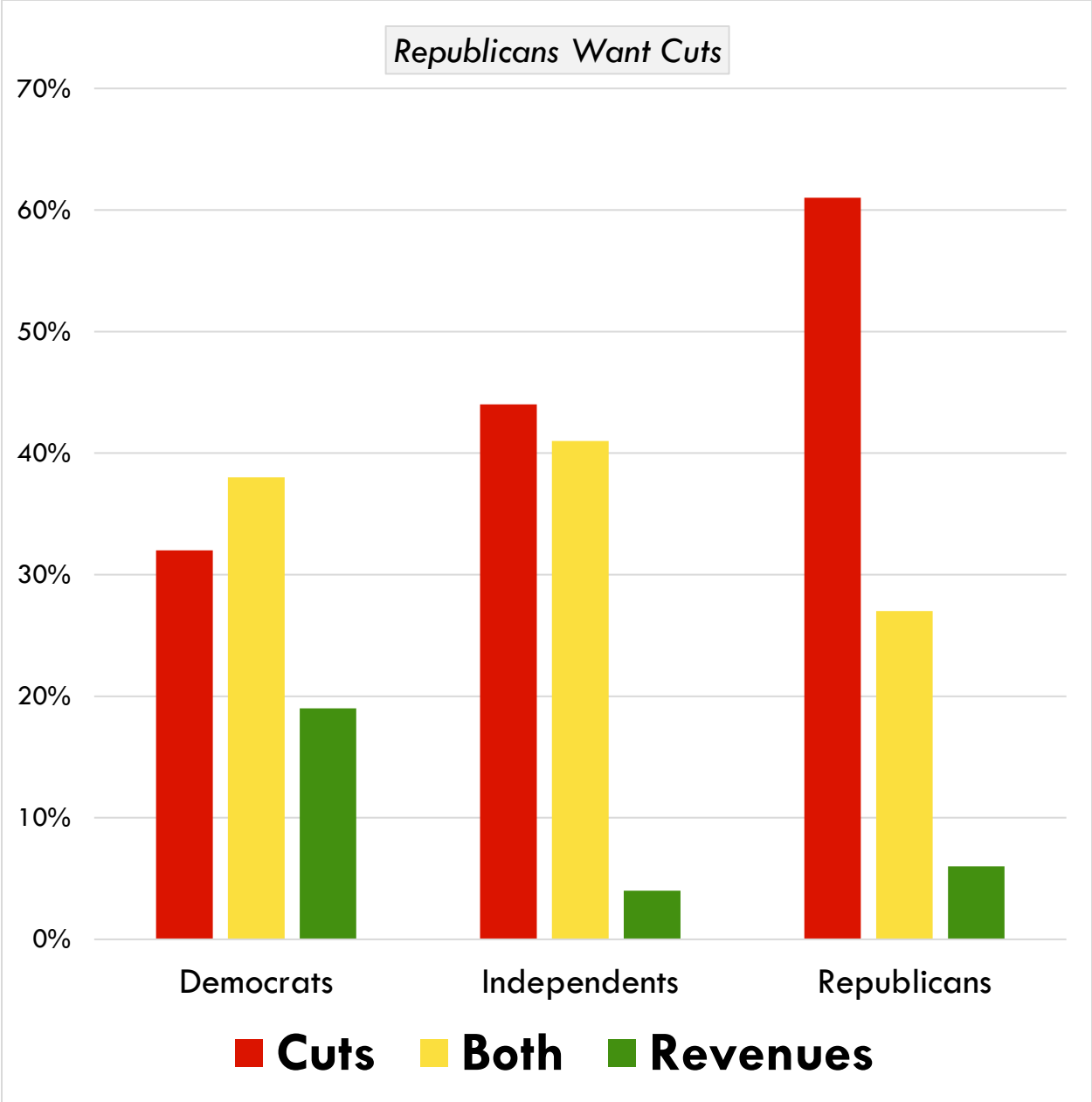
	2009	2010	2011	2013	2014 Sp	2014 Fa	2015	2016 Sp	2016 Fa
Cuts	57%	57%	58%	55%	52%	43%	42%	47%	44%
Both	27%	27%	29%	29%	29%	32%	34%	33%	33%
Revenues	10%	9%	7%	8%	10%	16%	14%	10%	12%
Haven't thought	3%	3%	3%	5%	5%	5%	3%	4%	5%
Other/DK	2%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	6%	6%

<sup>2</sup> Values are rounded so may not sum to 100%.



**By AREA**

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Cuts	34%	45%	48%
Both	40%	32%	31%
Revenues	12%	12%	12%
Haven't thought	7%	5%	3%
Other/DK	8%	6%	5%



**By PARTY**

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Cuts	32%	44%	61%
Both	38%	41%	27%
Revenues	19%	4%	6%
Haven't thought	6%	4%	2%
Other/DK	6%	8%	4%

## AFFECTED BY BUDGET STALEMATE

### Historical Trend

	2016 Sp	2016 Fa
Yes	32%	34%
No	62%	62%
Other/DK	6%	4%

### By AREA

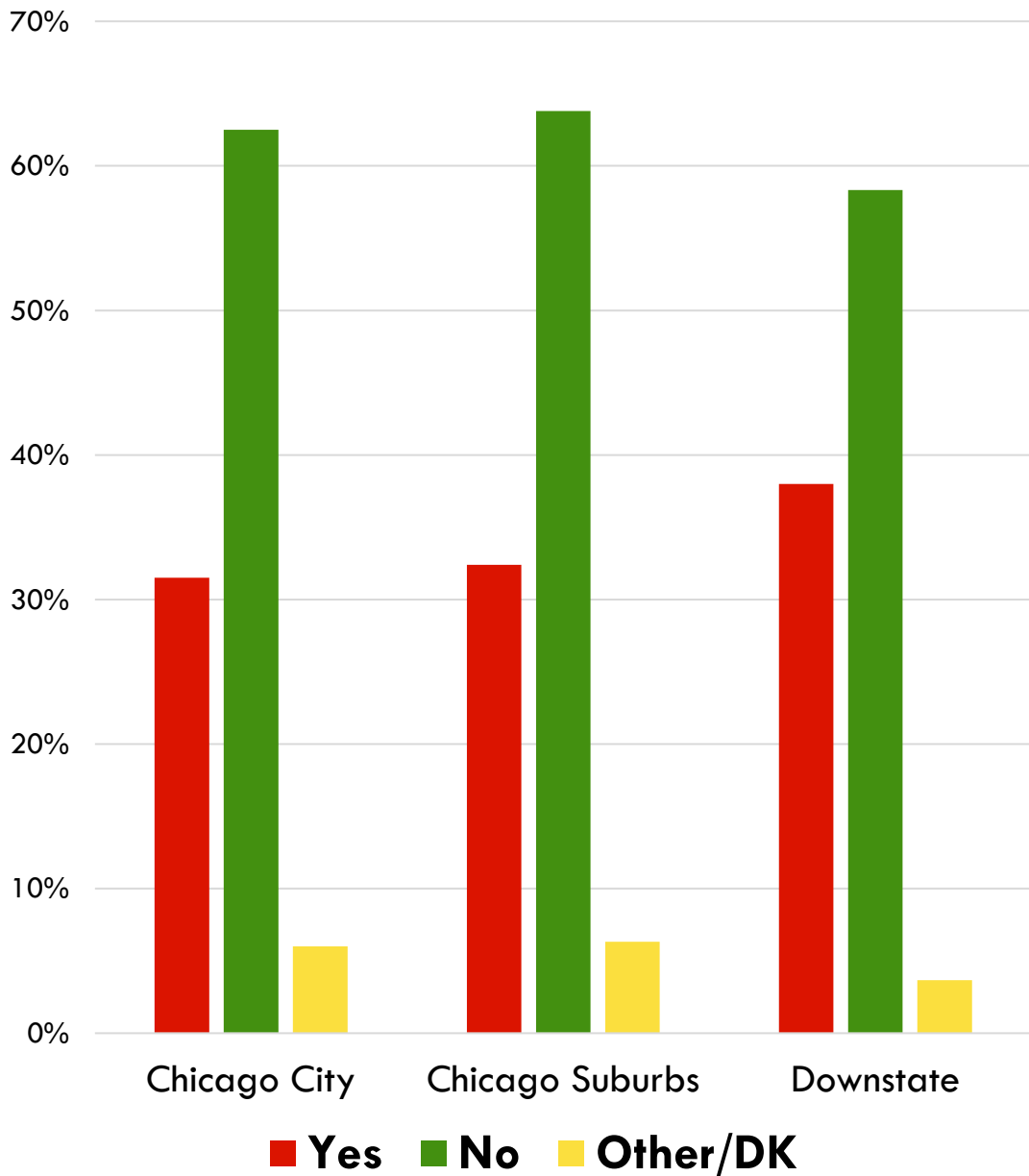
	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Yes	32%	32%	38%
No	63%	64%	58%
Other/DK	6%	4%	4%

### By PARTY

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Yes	37%	34%	29%
No	60%	64%	66%
Other/DK	3%	2%	5%



*Downstate Voters a Bit More Affected*



## HOW AFFECTED BY BUDGET STALEMATE<sup>3</sup>

### By AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Social services	40%	53%	46%
Economic	37%	25%	37%
Local government/area	10%	12%	10%
Other/Don't know	14%	11%	8%

### By PARTY

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Social services	51%	38%	48%
Economic	28%	44%	29%
Local government/area	11%	13%	7%
Other/Don't know	10%	4%	16%

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<sup>3</sup> This question was only asked of those that answered "yes" they had been affected by the budget stalemate (n=339). The margin of error for this limited sample is 5.3 percentage points.

### Suburbanites Really Feel Social Service Cuts

