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### **Simon Poll: Clinton, Trump Lead in Illinois**

Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump lead their parties' presidential races in Illinois, according to a new poll by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The poll was conducted in the week before Saturday's South Carolina GOP primary and Nevada's Democratic caucuses. It provides an early snapshot of how the presidential contests look as the campaign for Illinois' Mar. 15 primary intensifies.

The GOP interviews were also completed before Jeb Bush withdrew as a candidate.

**REPUBLICANS** Businessman Donald Trump led the six-candidate GOP field, with 28 percent of those who said they would vote in the Illinois Republican primary, well ahead of the 15 percent who said they preferred Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. Close behind were Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida (14 percent) and Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, (13 percent).

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and retired surgeon Ben Carson were in the single digits, at 8 percent and 6 percent, respectively. The rest said they either didn't know (15 percent) or would vote for someone else (1 percent).

The sample of 306 Republicans was part of a statewide poll of 1,000 registered voters conducted Feb. 15 to 20. The GOP voter sample has a margin of error of 5.6 percent.

Charlie Leonard, a political scientist who helped supervise the poll, said "Journalists always ask me if there is something surprising in a poll result. A part of me is surprised that Donald Trump leads significantly in a state known for its moderate Republicans, from Everett Dirksen to Jim Edgar to Mark Kirk. On the other hand, the 'not-Trump' vote, combined together, swamps the pro-Trump vote, with somewhere around one in seven voters still up for grabs.

"The other thing that is somewhat surprising was the relatively weak showing of Jeb Bush versus the other so-called 'mainstream' Republicans," Leonard said. A similarly weak showing on Saturday in South Carolina's Republican primary led to Bush's suspending his campaign after the polls closed.

David Yepsen, director of the Institute, said “while this is good news for Trump, the poll also illustrates a problem for him: There are 72 percent of Illinois Republicans who are for someone else or are undecided. If the non-Trump vote rallies around a single candidate, Trump could be upended.”

**DEMOCRATS** For the Democratic presidential primary in Illinois, Clinton leads Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, 51 percent to 32 percent among self-declared primary voters in the state. There are 16 percent who are undecided.

Clinton leads in Chicago, the Chicago suburbs and among downstate Democrats. She and Sanders split the votes of men but she leads among women. And in a pattern seen in earlier contests, Sanders leads with voters under age 35, but Clinton bests him with those over 35. Clinton also holds a comfortable lead among minority voters.

The sample of 422 Democratic primary voters was also from the Feb. 15-20 statewide poll. The Democratic results have a margin of error of 4.7 percent.

“With competitive national races in both parties, the Illinois primaries are shaping up to be important in the battle for delegates – unlike some recent Illinois primary contests,” Yepsen said.

“What we couldn’t measure was any momentum – or deflation – candidates got from their showings in the Saturday contests. One primary or caucus often does have an effect on showings in subsequent contests, and I expect that’s at work in Illinois too,” Yepsen said.

Leonard said, “I know political junkies are hungry for polls and predictions at this stage of the game, but we should remember that these samples of self-reported primary voters are relatively small, and with the large number of Republican candidates, these numbers should be interpreted with caution.”

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Note: On Tuesday, March 8, 2016 the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute will present results and analysis, of these and other survey questions from the latest Simon Poll of Illinois voters. Topics include the Illinois presidential primary; public opinion on the direction of the nation and state; the state budget and taxes; government reform; treatment of veterans; and other social issues. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. at the Varsity Center for the Arts, 418 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required by noon on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> to Leslie Brock at 618-536-7751.

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The sample of 422 Democrats has a margin of error of 4.7 percent. The sample of 306 Republicans has a margin of error of 5.6 percent. Each is reported at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we conducted the survey 100 times, in 95 of those instances, the result would be within plus or minus the reported margin for error for each subsample.

Live telephone interviews were conducted by Customer Research International of San Marcos, Texas. Cell phone interviews accounted for 40 percent of the sample. A Spanish language

version of the questionnaire and a Spanish-speaking interviewer were made available. Field work was conducted from February 15-20. 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. Crosstabs for the referenced questions will be on the Institute’s polling web site, [simonpoll.org](http://simonpoll.org).

Simon Institute polling data are also archived by three academic institutions for use by scholars and the public. The three open source data repositories are: the University of Michigan’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (OpenICPSR), 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.*

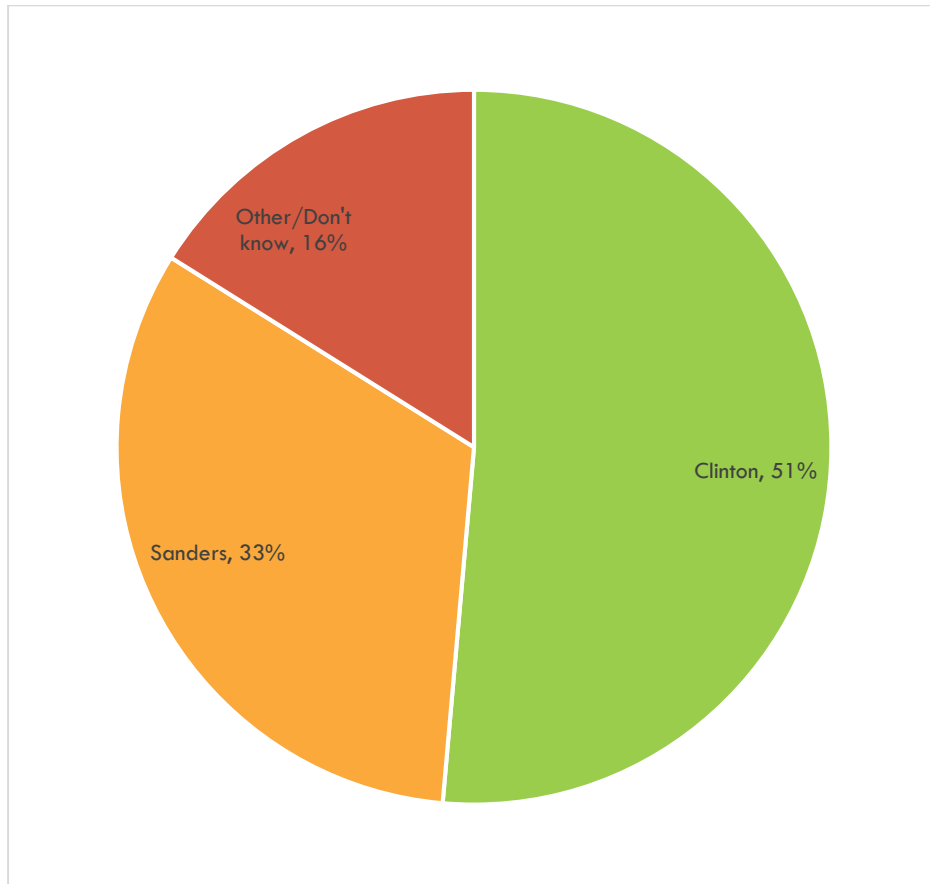
## Frequency Tables

### Democratic Presidential Primary

*If the Democratic primary for president were held today, would you vote for Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=422)</b>
Hillary Clinton	51%
Bernie Sanders	32%
Someone else (not read)	0%
Other/Don't know (not read)	16%

Note: Response options were rotated, only asked of those that earlier identified that they would be voting in a Democratic primary. Values were rounded and do not sum to 100%.



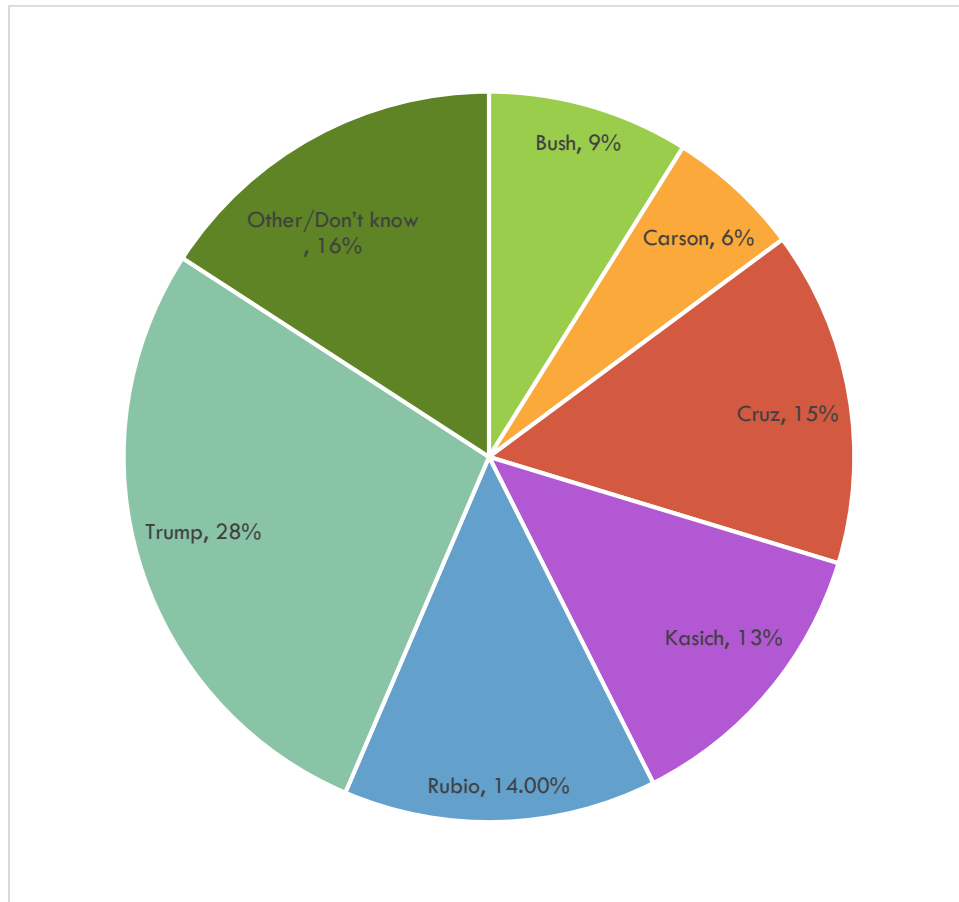
## Frequency Tables

### Republican Presidential Primary

*If the Republican primary for president were held today, would you vote for Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, John Kasich, Marco Rubio, or Donald Trump?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=306)</b>
Donald Trump	28%
Ted Cruz	15%
Marco Rubio	14%
John Kasich	13%
Jeb Bush	8%
Ben Carson	6%
Someone else (not read)	1%
Other/Don't know (not read)	15%

Note: Response options were rotated, only asked of those that earlier identified that they would be voting in a Republican primary.



# Demographic Crosstab Tables<sup>1</sup>

## *DEMOCRATIC RACE*

### **Democratic Presidential Primary by AREA**

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Hillary Clinton	55%	53%	44%
Bernie Sanders	32%	31%	36%
Someone Else	0%	0%	0%
Other/Don't Know	13%	16%	20%

### **Democratic Presidential Primary by GENDER**

	Male	Female
Hillary Clinton	48%	54%
Bernie Sanders	37%	30%
Someone Else	0%	0%
Other/Don't Know	16%	16%

### **Democratic Presidential Primary by AGE**

	<35	35-50	51-65	66+
Hillary Clinton	27%	49%	60%	54%
Bernie Sanders	64%	42%	25%	21%
Someone Else	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other/Don't Know	8%	9%	15%	25%

### **Democratic Presidential Primary by RACE**

	White	Non-White
Hillary Clinton	47%	63%
Bernie Sanders	37%	23%
Someone Else	0%	0%
Other/Don't Know	16%	14%

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

## Demographic Crosstab Tables

### *REPUBLICAN RACE*

#### **Republican Presidential Primary by AREA**

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Jeb Bush	3%	11%	7%
Ben Carson	3%	5%	7%
Ted Cruz	17%	12%	17%
John Kasich	28%	13%	10%
Marco Rubio	11%	18%	10%
Donald Trump	28%	28%	27%
Someone Else	0%	1%	1%
Other/Don't Know	11%	12%	20%

#### **Republican Presidential Primary by GENDER**

	Male	Female
Jeb Bush	9%	8%
Ben Carson	4%	8%
Ted Cruz	18%	10%
John Kasich	15%	11%
Marco Rubio	14%	15%
Donald Trump	29%	27%
Someone Else	1%	0%
Other/Don't Know	11%	21%

#### **Republican Presidential Primary by AGE**

	<35	35-50	51-65	66+
Jeb Bush	14%	9%	7%	10%
Ben Carson	5%	14%	4%	4%
Ted Cruz	10%	12%	10%	19%
John Kasich	19%	9%	14%	11%
Marco Rubio	10%	11%	19%	13%
Donald Trump	24%	25%	34%	27%
Someone Else	5%	2%	0%	0%
Other/Don't Know	14%	19%	13%	16%