



Paul Simon Public Policy Institute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Simon Institute Poll: Uncertain Races for Governor in Illinois

CARBONDALE, ILL. – Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn leads his rival for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, Comptroller Dan Hynes, by a two-to-one margin among likely primary voters, according to the latest survey by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

In the six-way race for the Republican nomination, there is no clear front-runner, as State Sen. Bill Brady's slight lead over State Sen. Kirk Dillard is not statistically significant.

"What we see is a very fluid electoral environment," said Charles Leonard, the Simon Institute Visiting Professor who supervised the poll, "particularly on the Republican side, on which a large field with low name recognition makes it anybody's guess. On the Democratic side, half of the likely voters have still not made up their minds, though our poll looks very much like others we've seen that has Governor Quinn up two to one over Comptroller Hynes."

David Yepsen, the institute's director, said the poll shows a plurality of voters in each party have yet to decide on a preference. "The so-called 'frontrunner' in this race is someone named 'Don't Know.'"

By wide margins, registered voters in both parties also say the state is headed in the wrong direction and give two key leaders, House Speaker Michael Madigan and U.S. Senator Roland Burris, poor job approval ratings.

The Institute's non-partisan survey is done to help Illinois policymakers, leaders and academic researchers better understand public opinion on key questions. The survey of 800 registered Illinois voters was taken Sept. 8 to Oct. 9 and has a margin of error of 3.4 percent.

Of those surveyed, 322 respondents said they would vote in the Democratic primary, and of those, 208 offered an answer. The results of the Democratic contest have a margin of error of

± 5.4 percent. There were 201 respondents who said they would vote in the Republican primary, and of those, 89 offered an answer. Those findings have a margin of error of ± 6.9 percent.

Results from the entire sample have a statistical margin for error of ± 3.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we were to conduct the survey 100 times, in 95 of those instances the results would vary by no more than plus or minus 3.4 points from the results obtained here. The margin for error will be larger for demographic, geographic, and response subgroups.

Table 1. Democratic contest

Of those who responded to the Democratic primary question, 33.9% indicated a vote for Quinn versus 16.5% who said they would vote for Hynes. Another 14.2% offered names not on the ballot and 35.4% said they didn't know or gave no answer.

Several candidates have announced that they will seek the Democratic nomination for governor of Illinois. If the election were held today, would you vote for:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Governor Pat Quinn	33.9%
State Comptroller Dan Hynes	16.5%
Someone else	14.2%
Don't know/No answer	35.4%

Table 2. Republican Contest

On the Republican side, 201 respondents said they would vote in the Republican primary, and most did not know for whom they would vote. Of those 201 respondents, 10.0% indicated a vote for Brady, 7.5% said they would vote for Dillard, 4.0% intended to vote for State Sen. Matt Murphy, 3.5% said they would vote for DuPage County Board Chair Bob Schillerstrom, 3.5% for radio commentator Dan Proft, and 2.0% for Chicago-area businessman Adam Andrzejewski. About one in seven (13.9%) gave a name not on the ballot or “other” response. Another 55.7% said they did not know or gave no answer. The number of Republicans with a primary preference is too small for any of the results to be statistically significant.

Several candidates have announced that they will seek the Republican nomination for governor of Illinois. If the election were held today, would you vote for:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Percent</u>
State Senator Bill Brady	10.0%
State Senator Kirk Dillard	7.5%
State Senator Matt Murphy	4.0%
DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillserstrom	3.5%
Radio Commentator Dan Proft	3.5%
Businessman Adam Andrzejewski	2.0%
Someone else	13.9%
Don't know/No answer	55.7%

Yepsen also said the gubernatorial poll has two significant limitations: The sample sizes of likely voters contain results with high margins of error. Also, since the poll went into the field the names of several additional candidates have been floated.

“Still, we feel pretty comfortable in saying the Republican race is a jumble and that while Governor Quinn leads Dan Hynes, he doesn't have a lock on the nomination,” Yepsen said.

Job Approval Ratings

The Simon Institute survey also asked Illinois voters' opinions on job approval for President Barack Obama and a number of politicians with statewide profiles. President Obama's approval rating in Illinois came in at 64%, significantly higher than his nationwide approval rating of 52% in the latest Gallup Poll release.

The statewide officeholder with the highest approval rating was Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes, with 82% approval from those who offered an opinion. However, that rating masks Hynes' low name recognition; 41% of those surveyed were unable to offer a job approval rating.

Of those more widely recognized, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan had the highest rating; of those with an opinion of the Attorney General, 81% approved, and only 16% were unable to offer an opinion on her performance. The officeholder with the lowest rating was U.S. Sen. Roland Burris, for whom 24% offered approval.

Other than Burris, the only other politician on the list with a negative approval rating is Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan. Of those with an opinion on the Speaker, 49% approved and 51% disapproved.

Also noteworthy among the job-approval findings is that while State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias's approval rating seems high at 71%, nearly half, at 47%, were unable or unwilling to offer an opinion on his performance. This relatively low name recognition for a statewide official seeking nomination to President Obama's U.S. Senate seat may be disconcerting.

**Table 3: Job Approval Ratings from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Second Annual Statewide Poll**

Official	%No Opinion	%Approval Among those w/opinion	%Disapproval Among those w/opinion
President Barack Obama	2.6%	64.4%	35.5%
Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn	12.8%	66.5%	33.5%
Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan	16.0%	81.1%	18.9%
Illinois Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno	75.0%	67.5%	32.5%
Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias	46.8%	70.7%	29.3%
House of Representatives Minority Leader Tom Cross	64.6%	73.1%	26.9%
Illinois Senate President John Cullerton	61.4%	59.9%	40.1%
Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Mike Madigan	17.1%	48.7%	51.3%
U.S. Senator Dick Durbin	7.3%	63.6%	36.4%
U.S. Senator Roland Burris	16.4%	23.5%	76.5%
Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes	41.0%	82.4%	17.5%

Right Track/Wrong Track

The Simon Institute survey was conducted against a backdrop of voter pessimism regarding the state's general direction. Fewer than one-fourth (23.0%) agreed that in the State of Illinois "things are going in the right direction." In contrast, 44% said things in the United States are going in the right direction. More than half (54%) said things in their part of the State of Illinois are going in the right direction.

"It's noteworthy that during such hard economic times, more people in Illinois say the state is headed in the wrong direction than say the country is pointed that way," Yepsen noted.

As bad as this sounds, voter confidence in the direction of the State of Illinois has improved significantly in the year since the last Simon Institute statewide poll. The Institute's 2008 survey showed that just 12.4% thought Illinois was moving in the right direction, compared to the 23.0% who gave that response this year.

The increase in optimism was remarkably more evident in respondents' confidence in the nation's direction. Only 6.3% said the country was moving in the right direction last year, compared with 44.1% in the 2009 survey. In a question new to the Simon Institute poll, more than half (52%) said they thought their city or part of the state was headed in the right direction.

Table 4: Direction of Country, State, and Area

	Country/USA	State/IL	City or Area of State
Right Direction	44 %	23 %	54 %
Wrong Direction	53 %	72 %	42 %
Other/DK	3 %	5 %	4 %

Releases next week from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute's second annual statewide poll will address political reforms, budgetary policy questions, social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, along with health insurance reform.

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute created and directed this telephone survey of 800 registered voters across the state of Illinois. Interviews were conducted between September 9,

2009, and October 8, 2009, by the Survey Research Center at the University of North Texas. Respondents were chosen at random, and each interview lasted approximately 15 minutes.

NOTE TO REPORTERS:

The gubernatorial contest results and job approval ratings released Friday represent a few of the findings from the Simon Institute's second annual statewide poll. Results of Illinois opinions on ethics and political reform measures will be released Monday morning in simultaneous 10:30 a.m. news conferences in the State Capitol in Springfield, and at the Institute on the Southern Illinois University Carbondale campus.

Results of voter opinions on the state budget—including tax hikes and budget cuts—will be released by e-mail Wednesday morning, Oct. 21. The poll's findings on health care, abortion and gay marriage will be released later.

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**Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

**Poll Results of Registered Voters in Illinois
Conducted September 8-October 9**

Released October 16, 2009

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?

Right Direction	44.1%
Wrong Direction	52.6%
Other/Don't Know	3.3%

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?

Right Direction	23.1%
Wrong Direction	71.9%
Other/Don't Know	5.0%

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

Right Direction	53.8%
Wrong Direction	42.4%
Other/Don't Know	4.0%

4. Regardless of what you think about the direction of 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 area is...

Excellent	13.0%
Good	42.1%
Average	32.0%
Not so good	9.4%
Poor	3.5%

Next, I'd like for you to tell me how well some statewide elected officials are performing their jobs. For each one that I read, I'd like you to tell me if you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job that official is doing.

5. U. S. President Barack Obama?

Strongly Approve	36.6%
Somewhat Approve	26.1%
Somewhat Disapprove	12.0%
Strongly Disapprove	22.6%
Don't Know	2.6%

6. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn?

Strongly Approve	10.3%
Somewhat Approve	47.8%
Somewhat Disapprove	18.8%
Strongly Disapprove	10.5%
Don't Know	12.8%

7. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan?

Strongly Approve	33.5%
Somewhat Approve	34.6%
Somewhat Disapprove	10.6%
Strongly Disapprove	5.3%
Don't Know	16.0%

8. Illinois Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno?

Strongly Approve	2.8%
Somewhat Approve	14.1%
Somewhat Disapprove	4.9%
Strongly Disapprove	3.3%
Don't Know	75.0%

9. Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias?

Strongly Approve	9.4%
Somewhat Approve	28.3%
Somewhat Disapprove	9.5%
Strongly Disapprove	6.1%
Don't Know	46.8%

10. House of Representatives Minority Leader Tom Cross?

Strongly Approve	4.1%
Somewhat Approve	21.8%
Somewhat Disapprove	6.8%
Strongly Disapprove	2.8%
Don't Know	64.6%

11. Illinois Senate President John Cullerton?

Strongly Approve	3.4%
Somewhat Approve	19.8%
Somewhat Disapprove	9.4%
Strongly Disapprove	6.1%
Don't Know	61.4%

12. Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Mike Madigan?

Strongly Approve	8.3%
Somewhat Approve	32.1%
Somewhat Disapprove	20.8%
Strongly Disapprove	21.8%
Don't Know	17.1%

13. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin?

Strongly Approve	27.9%
Somewhat Approve	31.1%
Somewhat Disapprove	11.1%
Strongly Disapprove	22.6%
Don't Know	7.3%

14. U.S. Senator Roland Burris?

Strongly Approve	4.6%
Somewhat Approve	15.0%
Somewhat Disapprove	21.1%
Strongly Disapprove	42.9%
Don't Know	16.4%

15. Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes?

Strongly Approve	12.0%
Somewhat Approve	36.6%
Somewhat Disapprove	6.8%
Strongly Disapprove	3.6%
Don't Know	41.0%

Now, I'm going to ask a few questions about elections in Illinois in 2010.

16. Several candidates have announced that they will seek the Democratic nomination for governor of Illinois. If the election were held today, would you vote for:

Governor Pat Quinn	33.8%
State Comptroller Dan Hynes	16.4%
Someone Else	14.2%
Don't Know/No Answer	35.4%

17. There are several candidates who have announced that they will run for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senator from Illinois. If the election were held today, would you vote for:

State Senator Bill Brady	9.9%
State Senator Kirk Dillard	7.4%
State Senator Matt Murphy	3.9%
DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillserstrom	3.4%
Radio Commentator Dan Proft	3.4%
Businessman Adam Andrzejewski	1.9%
Someone Else	13.9%
Don't Know/No Answer	55.7%

**Some columns do not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.*