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### **Simon Poll: Rauner Leads Primary Field; No Clear Favorite Against Gov. Quinn**

In the Republican primary race for Illinois governor, Winnetka investment banker Bruce Rauner maintains a comfortable lead over his three rivals, according to the latest statewide poll from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University.

Another set of questions suggests Gov. Pat Quinn could be in trouble for re-election, but shows there is no clear favorite among the Republican candidates.

Of the 1001 Illinois registered voters interviewed, 295 indicated that they would vote in the March 18<sup>th</sup> primary, and of those Republican voters, 32.5 percent said they would be voting for or leaning toward Rauner, with 12.2 percent for State Senator Bill Brady, 10.9 percent for State Senator Kirk Dillard, and 9.8 percent for Illinois Treasurer Dan Rutherford. More than a third (34.6 percent) were undecided. The margin for error in the Republican primary subsample is plus or minus 5.7 percentage points.

“There are a couple ways to look at these numbers,” said David Yepsen, director of the Institute. “Yes, Rauner is ahead, and that's probably due to all the money he's spent on advertising. Yet for all that money, the largest bloc of Republicans remain undecided. And looking at Republicans as a whole, two thirds of them are either undecided or want someone else besides him. He may well win the primary because none of the other candidates are rallying the anti-Rauner vote.”

The survey, conducted Feb. 12 – 25, also asked the full sample of voters a series of questions pitting each of the Republican candidates against Quinn, and came up with similar results. The margins, while small, were largest for Dillard, whose advantage over Quinn was 40.2 to 36.5 percent. Brady's advantage over Quinn was a slim 39.8 to 37.3 percent, while Rauner's advantage was 40.1 to 38.0 percent. Only Rutherford trailed Quinn in the matchups, by a tiny margin of 38.4 to 37.7 percent. The margin for error in the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

“This looks more like a ‘Quinn/not Quinn’ referendum than a clear preference for any single Republican candidate,” said Charlie Leonard, the Simon Institute visiting professor

who supervised the poll. “In each of the four hypothetical general election matchups, about 60 percent of Democrats stuck with Quinn, and about 70 percent of Republicans chose whichever Republican we were asking about.”

Fieldwork began two days after a former Treasurer’s employee filed a lawsuit against Rutherford, alleging harassment and forced campaign work on state time.

“That episode of the campaign is taking its toll on Rutherford. He’s now running in fourth place,” Yepsen said.

The 2014 Simon Poll interviewed 1,001 registered voters across Illinois. It has a margin for error of plus or minus 3 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 points from the results obtained here. The margin for error will be larger for demographic, geographic and response subgroups.

Live telephone interviews were conducted by Customer Research International of San Marcos, Texas. Cell phone interviews accounted for 30 percent of the sample. A Spanish language version of the questionnaire and a Spanish-speaking interviewer were made available. Customer Research International reports no Illinois political clients. The survey was paid for with non-tax dollars from the Institute’s endowment fund.

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**Table 1: Republican Primary Vote\***

If the Republican primary for Governor were being held today, would you vote for . . . (IF NOT SURE: Well, which way are you leaning?)

Candidate	Response	Total	*
Bruce Rauner	29.8%	32.5%	
Lean Rauner	2.7%		
Bill Brady	9.5%	12.2%	
Lean Brady	2.7%		
Kirk Dillard	9.2%	10.9%	
Lean Dillard	1.7%		
Dan Rutherford	8.1%	9.8	
Lean Rutherford	1.7%		
Undecided		34.6%	

\* N=295

**Table 2: Head-to-Head Republican Candidates vs. Gov. Quinn**

If the general election for Illinois governor were being held today and the Republican candidate was (insert candidate) and the Democratic candidate was Pat Quinn, who would you vote for? (IF NOT SURE: Well, which way are you leaning?)

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>*</u>
Bruce Rauner	37.9%	40.1%	
Lean Rauner	2.2%		
Pat Quinn	36.6%	38.0%	
Lean Quinn	1.4%		
Someone else/Don't know		22.0%	
Bill Brady	37.5%	39.8%	
Lean Brady	2.3%		
Pat Quinn	35.8%	37.2%	
Lean Quinn	1.4%		
Someone else/Don't know		23.0%	
Kirk Dillard	37.5%	40.2%	
Lean Dillard	2.7%		
Pat Quinn	35.0%	36.5%	
Lean Rutherford	1.5%		
Undecided	34.6%	23.3%	
Dan Rutherford	36.4%	37.8%	
Lean Rutherford	1.4%		
Pat Quinn	36.6%	38.4%	
Lean Rutherford	1.8%		
Undecided	34.6%	23.9%	

\* N=1,001; Totals may not be exactly 100% due to rounding