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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 4, 2016

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Clinton Leads Trump; Duckworth Leads Kirk in Illinois

Democrat Hillary Clinton leads Republican Donald Trump by an overwhelming 53 percent to 28 percent margin among likely voters in the 2016 race for president in Illinois, according to a new poll by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Libertarian Gary Johnson garnered 5 percent and the Green Party candidate, Jill Stein, received 2 percent support. Nine percent said they remained undecided at this point.

The poll was conducted in the week after the first debate starting on Tuesday, September 27 and ending on Sunday, October 2. The sample included 1,000 registered voters, 865 of whom said they were likely voters. The likely voter sample has a margin of error of 3.3 percentage points.

The poll also showed:

*Republican Senator Mark Kirk trailing his challenger, Democratic Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth. This race showed Duckworth with a lead of 48 percent to Kirk's 34 percent among likely voters. The Libertarian candidate, Kent McMillen, received the support of 3 percent of the respondents while 2 percent said they would vote for the Green Party candidate, Scott Summers, and 10 percent remained undecided.

*Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan is more unpopular than Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner among all registered voters. The two are locked in a stalemate over the state budget and voters aren't much impressed by either. There are 63 percent who disapprove of Madigan's performance and 55 percent who disapprove of Rauner's.

* In the race for state Comptroller, incumbent Leslie Munger is running to retain the seat she was appointed to by Governor Rauner upon the death of Judy Baar Topinka. She is being challenged by Democrat Susana Mendoza. Mendoza is leading by a 40 percent to 32 percent margin among likely voters. There is a large 22 percent of the voters who remain undecided.

Madigan aside, with a month to go, things are looking good for statewide Democratic candidates.

“This is Clinton’s home state and it is a state that has not voted for a Republican presidential candidate since 1988,” said John Jackson, one of the designers of the poll and a Visiting Professor at the Institute. “This poll shows that Clinton is certainly living up to the conventional expectations for a Democratic candidate in the kind of big and diverse Midwestern state she must win to be elected.”

The poll showed Clinton winning by 67 percent to Trump’s 19 percent in the City of Chicago where Democratic candidates usually do well while Trump is more competitive downstate where the candidates are essentially tied (Trump 40 percent to Clinton’s 39 percent). Suburban Cook and the collar counties are where the balance of power resides in Illinois and Clinton is winning there by about 30 percentage points (Clinton 56 percent to Trump 25 percent).

In the U.S. Senate race, the geographic breakdown is 61 percent for Duckworth in the city of Chicago to 26 percent for Kirk. In suburban Cook and the collar counties, 51 percent plan to vote for Duckworth compared to 31 percent for Kirk. Downstate Kirk is winning with 44 percent compared to Duckworth’s 36 percent.

The pattern holds in the Comptroller contest: Mendoza is leading in the City of Chicago at 52 percent compared to Munger’s 23 percent. Downstate the incumbent, Munger, is leading by 43 percent compared to Mendoza’s 28 percent. The balance of power is held in the Cook county suburbs and collar counties where Mendoza is leading by 42 percent to Munger’s 28 percent.

David Yepsen, director of the Institute, said “Republican candidates who win statewide need to run better in the collar counties than Trump, Kirk and Munger are running. As always, that will be the battleground region in the coming month.”

Job Approvals

The advertising in many of the 2016 legislative campaigns in Illinois has focused largely on three people who are not on the ballot, that is, Governor Bruce Rauner, Speaker of the House Michael Madigan, and Senate President John Cullerton. The poll asked whether the respondents approved or disapproved of the job each was doing.

The results for Rauner show that his job approval ratings are underwater with 40 percent somewhat approving or strongly approving and 55 percent somewhat disapproving or strongly disapproving of the job he is doing.

However, the governor is more popular downstate where he is somewhat closer to positive territory with 45 percent approving and 51 percent disapproving of the job he is doing. In the suburban areas, Rauner is in negative territory with 55 percent disapproving and 39 percent approving.

The Governor’s biggest problem is in the City of Chicago where his disapproval outnumbers starkly overtake his approval (62 percent to 34 percent).

Speaker Madigan’s overall job approval ratings are also in negative territory with 63 percent somewhat disapproving or strongly disapproving and 26 percent somewhat approving or strongly approving.

Madigan's best job approval ratings are in the City of Chicago where the ratings are 32 percent approve and 56 percent disapprove. His suburban Cook and collar county job approval ratings are 28 percent approve to 59 percent disapprove. Downstate yields the harshest assessment of the Speaker's tenure with 73 percent disapproving and 20 percent approving.

In the recent negative ads wars, Senate President John Cullerton has not been the lightning rod that the Speaker has. There are 41 percent who disapprove or strongly disapprove of Cullerton's performance while 26 percent approve and 29 percent aren't sure.

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The margin of error for the entire sample of 1,000 voters is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for likely voters (n=865) is plus or minus 3.3 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.

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/repoEntity/list>), 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/>).

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Frequency Tables¹

JOB APPROVAL

Governor Rauner

I would like for you to tell me how Governor Bruce Rauner is doing his job. Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job Governor Rauner is doing?

Response	Percent (n=865)
Approve	39.8%
<i>Strongly approve</i>	13.2%
<i>Somewhat approve</i>	26.6%
Neither	1.3%
Disapprove	55.3%
<i>Somewhat disapprove</i>	19.8%
<i>Strongly disapprove</i>	35.5%
Other/Don't know (not read)	3.7%

Speaker Madigan

Now, I'd like for you to tell me how well Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Michael Madigan is going his job?

Response	Percent (n=865)
Approve	26.2%
<i>Strongly approve</i>	4.4%
<i>Somewhat approve</i>	21.8%
Neither	2.1%
Disapprove	62.9%
<i>Somewhat disapprove</i>	17.5%
<i>Strongly disapprove</i>	45.4%
Other/Don't know (not read)	8.8%

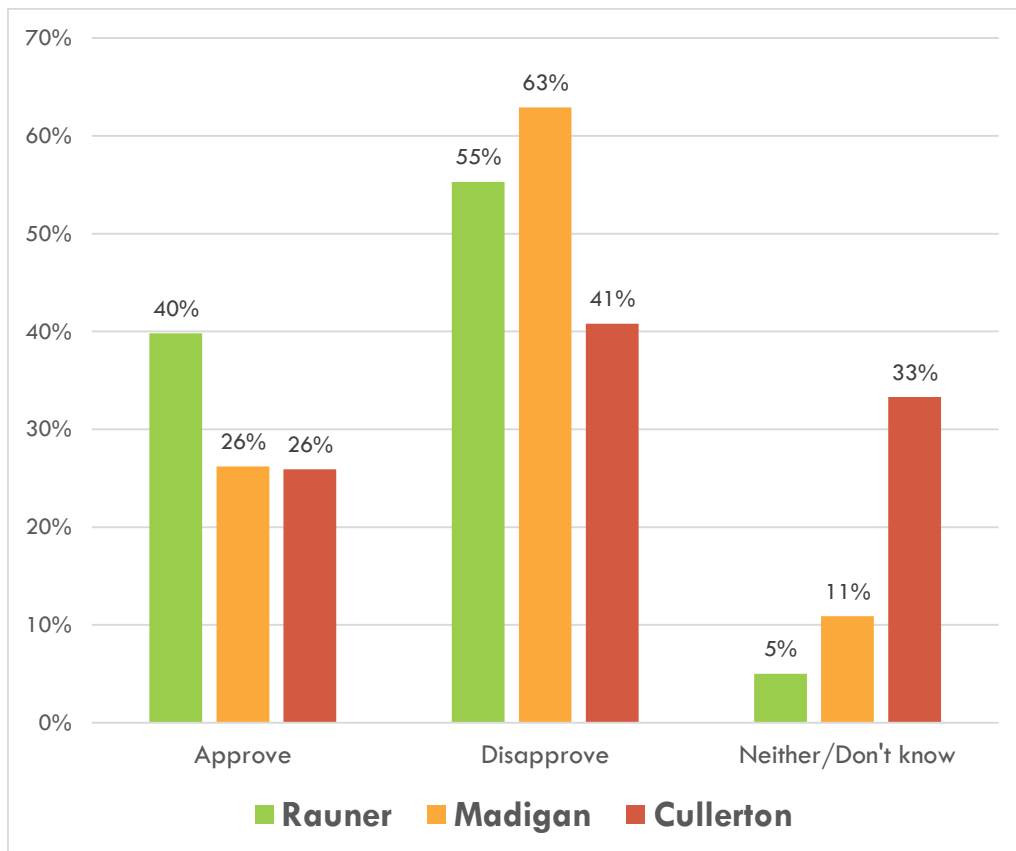
¹ Values are rounded and may not sum to 100%.

Senate President Cullerton

Next, I'd like for you to tell me how well Illinois Senate President John Cullerton is doing his job.

Response	Percent (n=865)
Approve	25.9%
<i>Strongly approve</i>	3.1%
<i>Somewhat approve</i>	22.8%
Neither	4.5%
Disapprove	40.8%
<i>Somewhat disapprove</i>	19.2%
<i>Strongly disapprove</i>	21.6%
Other/Don't know (not read)	28.8%

Job Approval Comparison: Rauner, Madigan, Cullerton

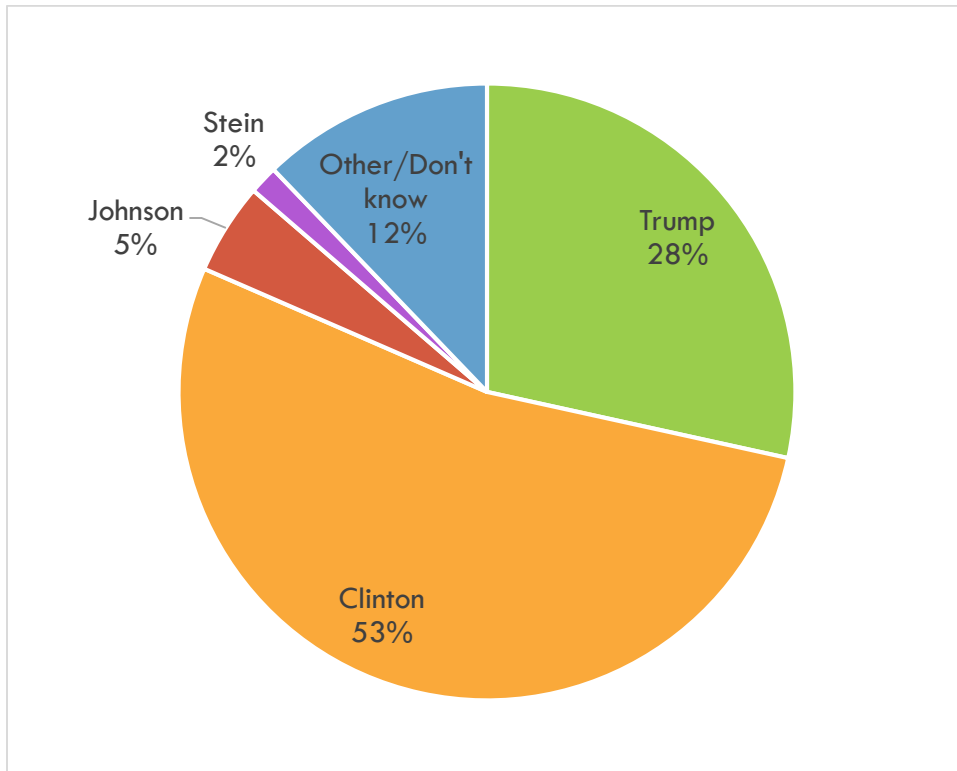


ELECTIONS

United States President

If the election for president were being held today, would you vote for...?

Response	Percent (n=865)
Trump	28.4%
<i>Republican candidate, Donald Trump</i>	<i>27.1%</i>
<i>Lean Trump</i>	<i>1.4%</i>
Clinton	53.2%
<i>Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton</i>	<i>50.5%</i>
<i>Lean Clinton</i>	<i>2.7%</i>
Johnson	4.7%
<i>Libertarian candidate, Gary Johnson</i>	<i>3.6%</i>
<i>Lean Johnson</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
Stein	1.5%
<i>Green Party candidate, Jill Stein</i>	<i>1.2%</i>
<i>Lean Stein</i>	<i>0.3%</i>
Someone else	2.7%
Don't know	9.5%



United States Senator

If the election for US Senator from Illinois were being held today, would you vote for...?

Response	Percent (n=865)
Kirk	34.0%
<i>Republican candidate, Mark Kirk</i>	<i>32.1%</i>
<i>Lean Kirk</i>	<i>1.8%</i>
Duckworth	48.4%
<i>Democratic candidate, Tammy Duckworth</i>	<i>46.4%</i>
<i>Lean Duckworth</i>	<i>2.1%</i>
McMillen	3.5%
<i>Libertarian candidate, Kent McMillen</i>	<i>3.0%</i>
<i>Lean McMillen</i>	<i>0.5%</i>
Summers	1.7%
<i>Green Party candidate, Scott Summers</i>	<i>1.5%</i>
<i>Lean Summers</i>	<i>0.2%</i>
Someone else	2.0%
Don't know	10.4%

Illinois Comptroller

If the election for Illinois Comptroller were being held today, would you vote for...?

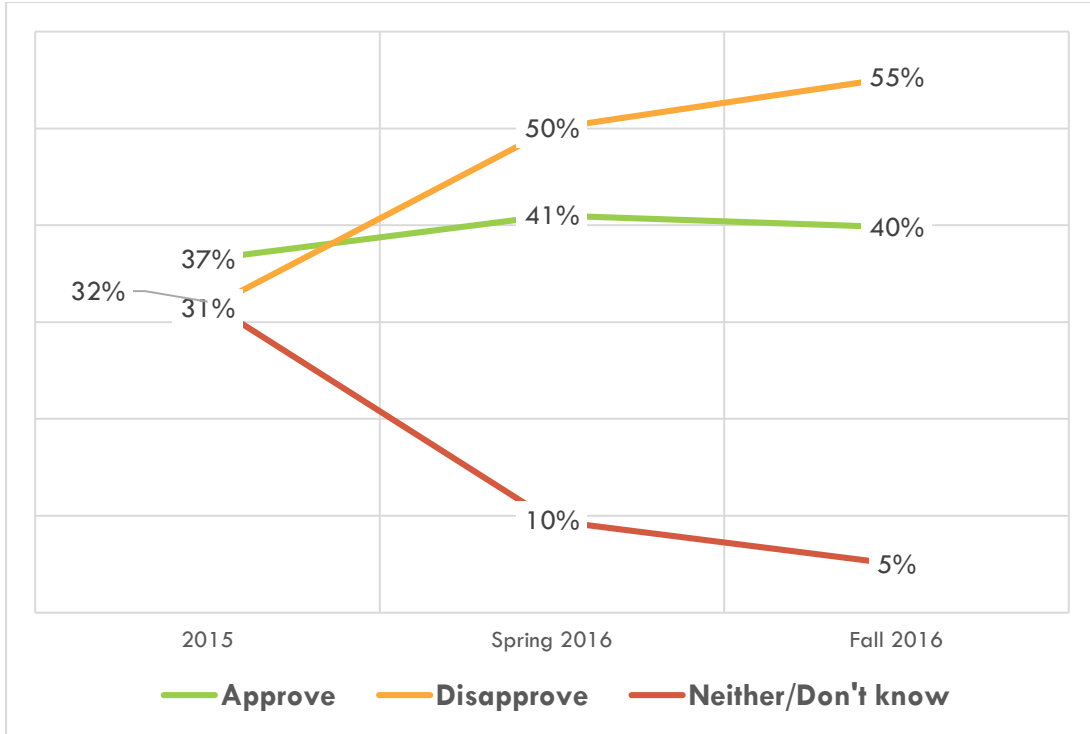
Response	Percent (n=865)
Munger	31.6%
<i>Republican candidate, Leslie Munger</i>	<i>29.8%</i>
<i>Lean Munger</i>	<i>1.7%</i>
Mendoza	39.7%
<i>Democratic candidate, Susana Mendoza</i>	<i>37.1%</i>
<i>Lean Mendoza</i>	<i>2.5%</i>
Ball	2.4%
<i>Libertarian candidate, Claire Ball</i>	<i>2.2%</i>
<i>Lean Ball</i>	<i>0.2%</i>
Curtin	2.1%
<i>Green Party candidate, Tim Curtin</i>	<i>1.7%</i>
<i>Lean Curtin</i>	<i>0.3%</i>
Someone else	1.7%
Don't know	22.5%

Demographic Crosstabs and Historical Trends

JOB APPROVAL

GOVERNOR RAUNER

Historical Job Approval: Rauner



Rauner by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Approve	34.1%	38.9%	44.9%
Disapprove	62.4%	55.3%	50.6%
Neither/Don't know	3.5%	5.8%	4.6%

SPEAKER MADIGAN

Madigan by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Approve	31.8%	28.0%	19.8%
Disapprove	56.5%	59.3%	73.0%
Neither/Don't know	11.8%	12.7%	7.2%

SENATE PRESIDENT CULLERTON

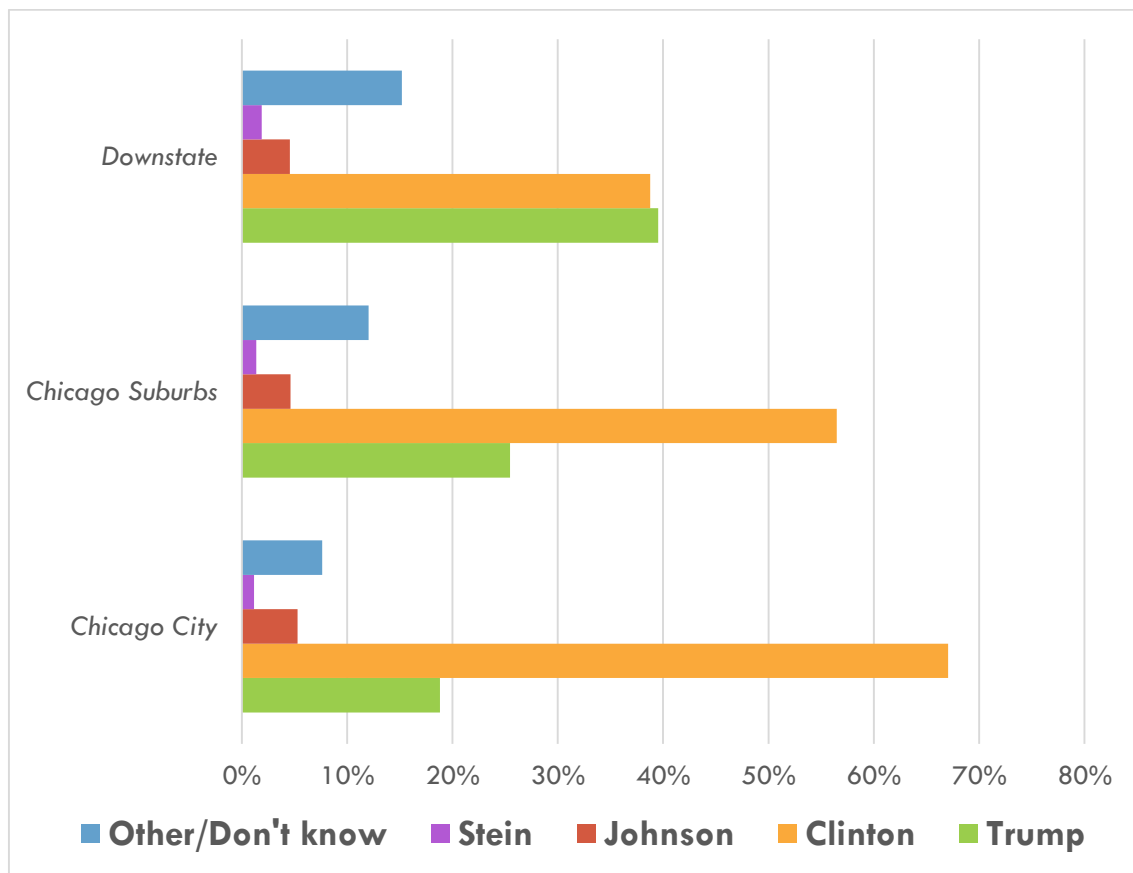
Cullerton by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Approve	30.0%	26.4%	22.4%
Disapprove	41.8%	40.0%	41.4%
Neither/Don't know	28.2%	33.6%	36.1%

ELECTIONS

United States President by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Trump	18.8%	25.5%	39.5%
Clinton	67.1%	56.5%	38.8%
Johnson	5.3%	4.6%	4.6%
Stein	1.2%	1.4%	1.9%
Other/Don't know	7.6%	12.0%	15.2%



United States Senator by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Kirk	25.9%	30.8%	44.5%
Duckworth	60.6%	51.2%	36.1%
McMillen	1.2%	5.3%	1.9%
Summers	0.6%	2.1%	1.9%
Other/Don't know	11.8%	10.6%	15.6%

Illinois Comptroller by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Munger	22.9%	28.0%	43.0%
Mendoza	51.8%	41.9%	28.1%
Ball	1.8%	2.3%	3.0%
Curtin	1.8%	2.1%	2.3%
Other/Don't know	21.8%	25.7%	24.3%