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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2018

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None of the Top Political Leaders Get High Marks from Illinois Voters

The top three political leaders in the state and nation all got low job ratings from Illinois voters in a poll recently released by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The Simon Poll™ was based on a statewide sample of 1001 registered voters conducted February 19-25. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percent.

The voters were asked whether they approved or disapproved of the job President Donald Trump, Governor Bruce Rauner, and Speaker of the House Michael Madigan were doing in their respective offices. In each case the leader received significantly more negative than positive evaluations.

President Trump's job approval was 36% positive and 62% negative. These totals included 54% who strongly disapproved, 8% who somewhat disapproved, 18% who strongly approved and 18% who somewhat approved of his performance in office. In shorthand terms he was 26% "underwater."

Governor Rauner's total positive rate was 31% who either somewhat approved (23%) or strongly approved (7%). His total negative rating was 63% with 39% who strongly disapproved and 24% who disapproved. This put him at 32% underwater.

"It is notable that Governor Rauner's job approval in Illinois is somewhat more negative than President Trump's. This is the opposite of the more usual finding of other polls in other states", said John Jackson of the Paul Simon Institute, one of the directors of the poll.

Speaker Madigan fared somewhat worse than Governor Rauner at a 21% approval rate with 18% who somewhat approve and 3% who strongly approve. He is at 68% total disapprove with 49% strongly disapprove and 19% who somewhat disapprove.

The respondents were next asked, "Has President Donald Trump's record in office made you more or less likely to vote this year for a Republican for Illinois executive offices including: Governor and Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, or Attorney General?"

Overall, 27% said more likely; 55% said less likely, and 11% said neither. There were 17% who said much more likely and 10% who said somewhat more likely while 13% said somewhat less likely and 43% who said much less likely.

This was followed by a similar question of whether President Trump's record in office made you more or less likely to vote for a Republican for U. S. Congress from Illinois this year. A total of 30% chose more likely with 20% who said much more and 10% said somewhat more likely. 57% of the respondents chose less likely with 47% saying much less likely and 11% somewhat less likely. 9% said neither.

Another question asked if Trump's record made them more or less likely to vote for a Republican for the Illinois General Assembly this year. 29% chose more likely; 56% chose less likely and 10% chose neither.

43% said much less likely and 13% said somewhat less likely. 10% said somewhat more likely and 18% selected much more likely.

“The Republicans should not expect a boost in Illinois for their congressional and state legislative candidates this year from Trump's coattails while the Democrats will try to use opposition to Trump's record as a motivator for a higher turnout for their candidates” said John Shaw, director of the Paul Simon Institute.

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The margin of error of the entire sample of 1,001 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 of 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. Among self-identified primary election voters, the margin is plus or minus 6 percentage points in the 259-voter sample of Republicans, and 4.5 percentage points in the sample of 472 Democrats.

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). The sample obtained 51% male and 49% female respondents. 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 February 19 through February 25. 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.

The Institute's 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 "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 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?

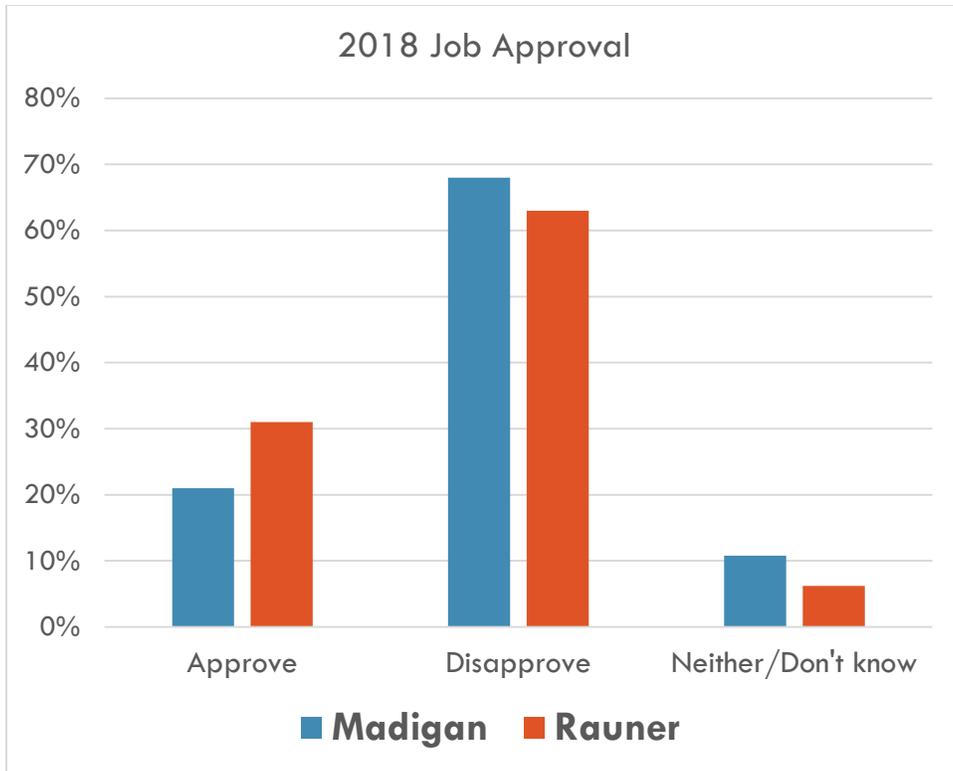
Response	Percent (n=1001)
Approve	31%
<i>Strongly approve</i>	7%
<i>Somewhat approve</i>	23%
Neither	2%
Disapprove	63%
<i>Somewhat disapprove</i>	24%
<i>Strongly disapprove</i>	39%
Other/Don't know (not read)	5%

Speaker Madigan

And what about Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Mike Madigan? Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job Speaker Madigan is doing?

Response	Percent (n=1001)
Approve	21%
<i>Strongly approve</i>	3%
<i>Somewhat approve</i>	18%
Neither	3%
Disapprove	68%
<i>Somewhat disapprove</i>	19%
<i>Strongly disapprove</i>	49%
Other/Don't know (not read)	8%

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



President Trump

And what about President of the United States Donald Trump? Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job President Trump is doing?

Response	Percent (n=1001)
Approve	36%
<i>Strongly approve</i>	18%
<i>Somewhat approve</i>	18%
Neither	1%
Disapprove	62%
<i>Somewhat disapprove</i>	8%
<i>Strongly disapprove</i>	54%
Other/Don't know (not read)	1%

TRUMP EFFECT
Vote for GOP Executive Offices

Has President Donald Trump's record in office made you more or less likely to vote for a Republican for Illinois executive offices including: Governor & Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General this year? [If more or less] Is that very or somewhat more/less likely?

Response	Percent (n=1001)
More	27%
<i>Much more</i>	17%
<i>Somewhat more</i>	10%
Neither	11%
Less	55%
<i>Somewhat less</i>	13%
<i>Much less</i>	43%
Other/Don't know	7%

Vote for GOP Congress

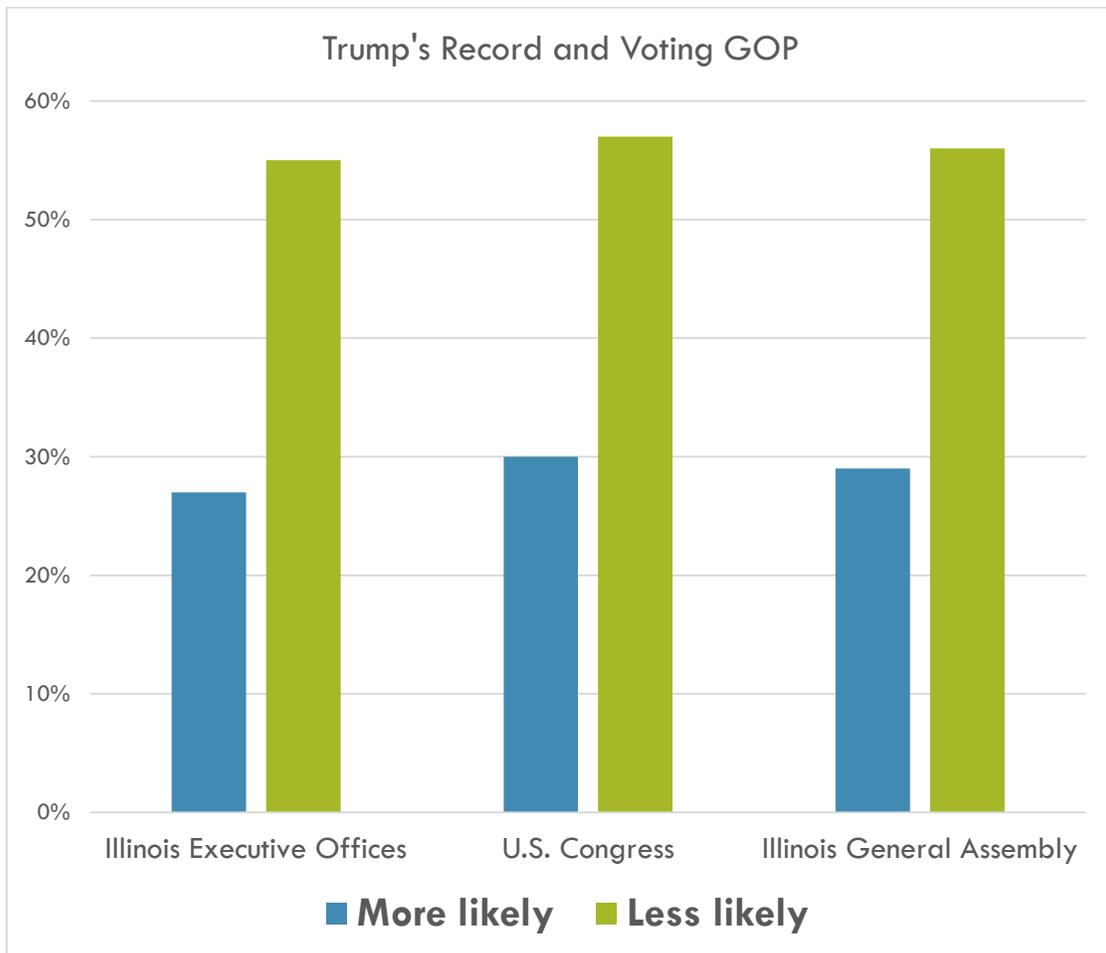
Has President Donald Trump's record in office made you more or less likely to vote for a Republican for United States Congress from Illinois this year? [If more or less] Is that very or somewhat more/less likely?

Response	Percent (n=1001)
More	30%
<i>Much more</i>	20%
<i>Somewhat more</i>	10%
Neither	9%
Less	57%
<i>Somewhat less</i>	11%
<i>Much less</i>	47%
Other/Don't know	4%

Vote for GOP Illinois General Assembly

Has President Donald Trump's record in office made you more or less likely to vote for a Republican for the Illinois General Assembly this year? [If more or less] Is that very or somewhat more/less likely?

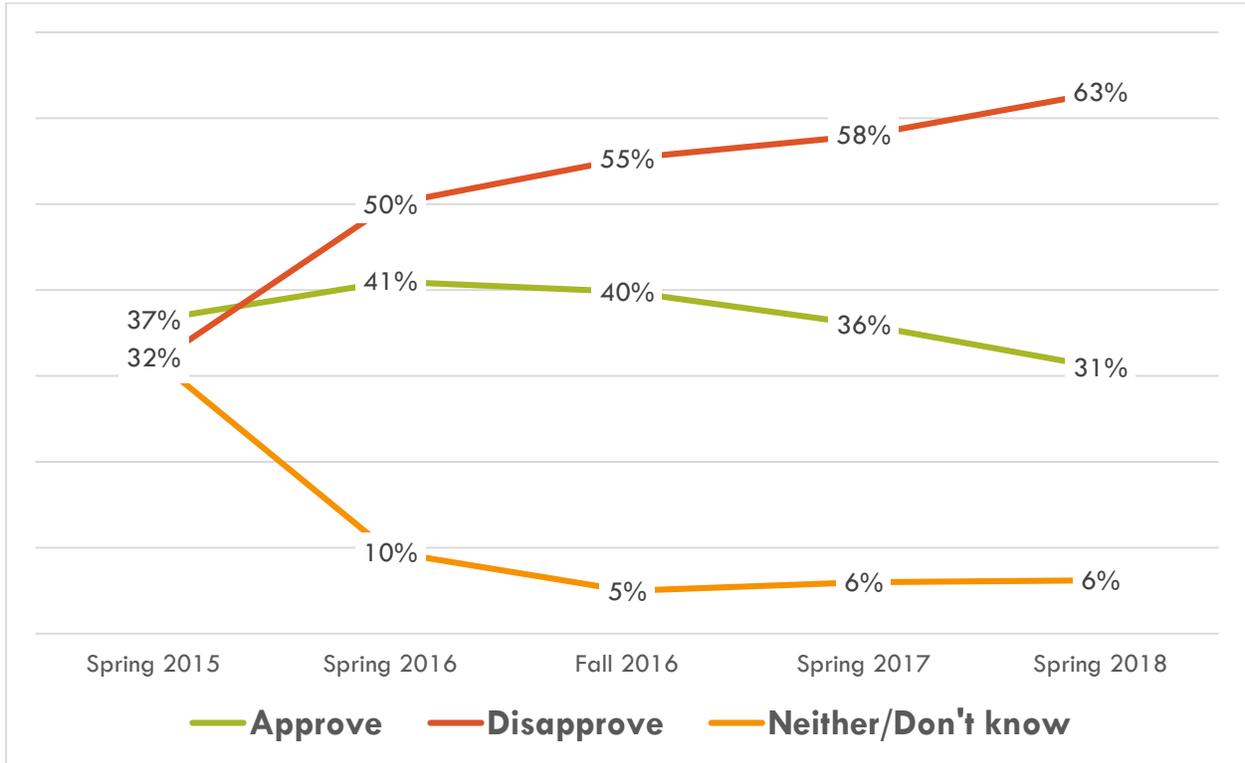
Response	Percent (n=1001)
More	29%
<i>Much more</i>	18%
<i>Somewhat more</i>	10%
Neither	10%
Less	56%
<i>Somewhat less</i>	13%
<i>Much less</i>	43%
Other/Don't know	4%



Demographic Crosstabs and Historical Trends

JOB APPROVAL

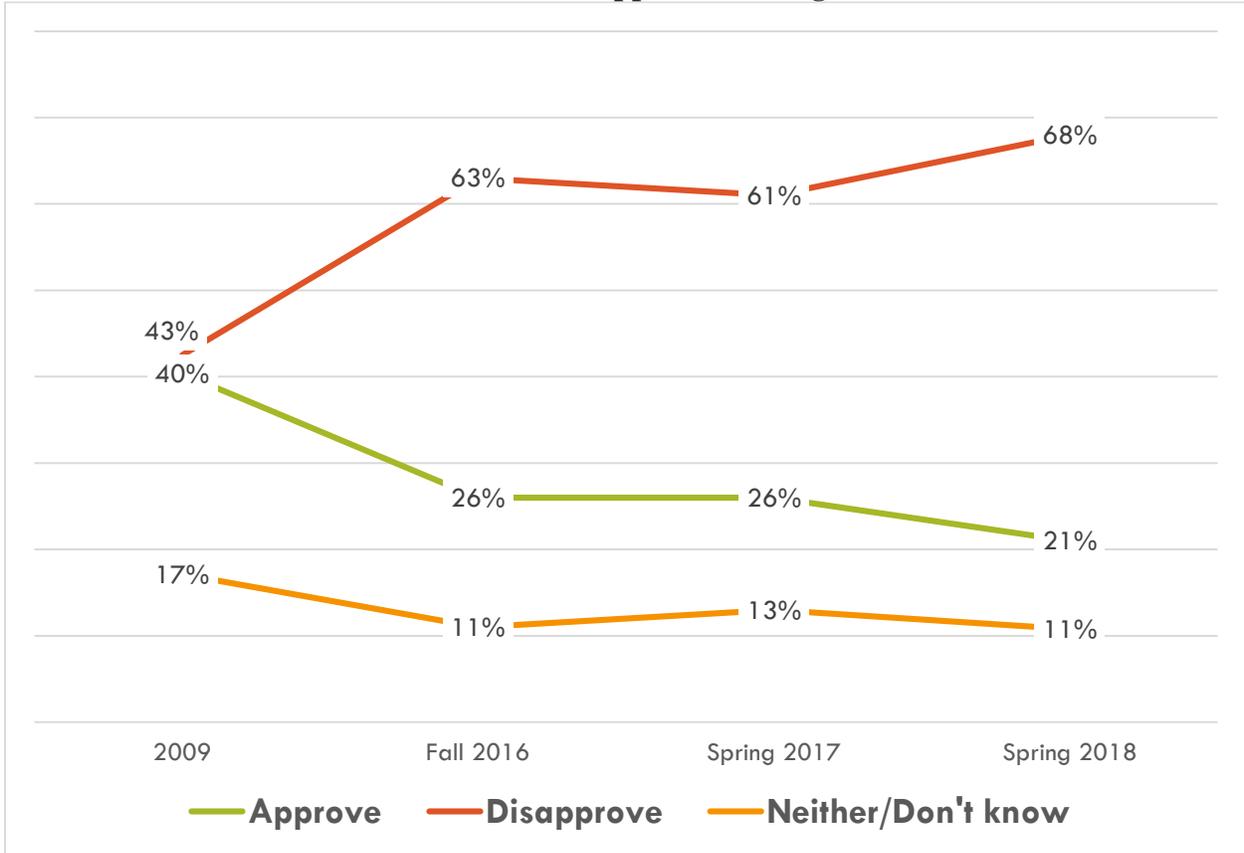
GOVERNOR RAUNER Historical Job Approval: Rauner



Rauner by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Approve	24%	29%	39%
Disapprove	71%	65%	55%
Neither/Don't know	6%	6%	7%

SPEAKER MADIGAN
Historical Job Approval: Madigan



Madigan by AREA

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Approve	24%	20%	19%
Disapprove	62%	70%	70%
Neither/Don't know	14%	9%	11%