

[paulsimoninstitute.org](http://paulsimoninstitute.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 2, 2018

Contact:  
John Jackson  
618-453-3106  
Charlie Leonard  
618-303-9099  
John Shaw  
618-453-4009

### **PRITZKER HOLDS LEAD FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION**

Democrat J. B. Pritzker holds a comfortable lead in the race for Governor of Illinois, with GOP incumbent Bruce Rauner and other candidates trailing. The number of undecided voters is relatively small with one month left to go in the campaign for governor. That is the major conclusion of a statewide poll of likely voters released today by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The poll was conducted September 24-29 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage point for the entire sample. The poll covered a sample of 1,001 registered voters. The election analysis presented here is based on 715 likely voters. The margin of error for likely voters is 3.7 percentage points.

When asked, “If the election were held today...who would you vote for?” Forty-nine percent chose Pritzker; 27 percent chose Rauner with 4 percent who selected the conservative Sam McCann and 4 percent who selected Libertarian Kash Jackson. The remaining 17 percent were undecided.

Pritzker led in Chicago by 65 percent to 22 percent and the five suburban Collar Counties by 53 percent to 23 percent. Pritzker and Rauner were essentially tied downstate with Pritzker at 35 percent and Rauner at 34 percent. Pritzker enjoyed an 81 percent to 6 percent lead among Democrats while Rauner took a 67 percent to 6 percent lead among Republican voters. McCann was taking 7 percent among Republican voters while Jackson garnered 6 percent among Republicans.

In the other high-profile statewide race for a constitutional office, Attorney General, State Senator Kwame Raoul held a 36 percent to 26 percent lead over Champaign attorney Erika Harold with 39 percent undecided. Raoul led in Chicago by 50 percent to 23 percent with 26 percent undecided. He also led in the Collar Counties by 41 percent to 25 percent with 34 percent undecided; Harold led downstate by 27 percent to 19 percent with 53 percent undecided.

“There is an unusually large percentage of undecided voters in this race perhaps reflecting the low level of attention it has received compared to the high-profile governor’s race”, said Institute

Director John Shaw. “This indicates that this race is still very much dependent on the late deciders.”

The voters were also asked “Are you more enthusiastic than usual about voting, or less enthusiastic? The results showed that the Democrats are 19 percent more enthusiastic than the Republicans. Seventy percent of Democrats said they were more enthusiastic while 51 percent of Republicans said they are more enthusiastic about going to vote in the November elections. Independents trailed with 50 percent saying they were more enthusiastic and 26 percent saying they were less enthusiastic about voting this year.

Conservative voters chose more enthusiastic compared to less enthusiastic by 61 percent to 24 percent while liberal voters chose more enthusiastic by 73 percent to 14 percent.

“Illinois Democrats are displaying greater enthusiasm about this midterm election than are Republicans or Independents. The so-called “enthusiasm gap” is comparable to what we have been seeing across the country for some time” said Simon Institute Visiting Professor Charlie Leonard. “If it holds up and is reflected in comparable turnout numbers, it will be a major advantage for the Democrats.

Summarizing these results, John Jackson, one of the directors of the poll said, “While the Democrats clearly have an advantage in both of these high-profile races at this point, November 6<sup>th</sup> is still one month away. The campaigns and the candidates’ closing arguments and get out the vote efforts can still make a significant difference by then.

###

The margin of error for the entire sample of 1,001 voters is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for likely voters (n=715) is plus or minus 3.7 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.

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 percent female). The sample obtained 52 percent male and 48 percent 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 September 24 through September 29. 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](http://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 Tables<sup>1</sup>**  
**LIKELY TO VOTE**

***Likelihood***

*As you are probably aware, Statewide elections in Illinois will be held Tuesday, November 6. Thinking ahead, are you certain to vote in the election, is there a small chance you might not get a chance to vote, or will you probably not vote?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=1001)</b>
Certain	90%
Might not	6%
Probably not	2%
Other/Don't know (not read)	1%

***Know Place***

*We are interested in how well local election officials communicate with voters about the location of polling places in Illinois. Thinking about your polling place for the upcoming elections, do you know its exact location, are you pretty sure of its location, or are you unsure at this point where your polling place is?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=1001)</b>
Know exact location	76%
Pretty sure	14%
Unsure	10%

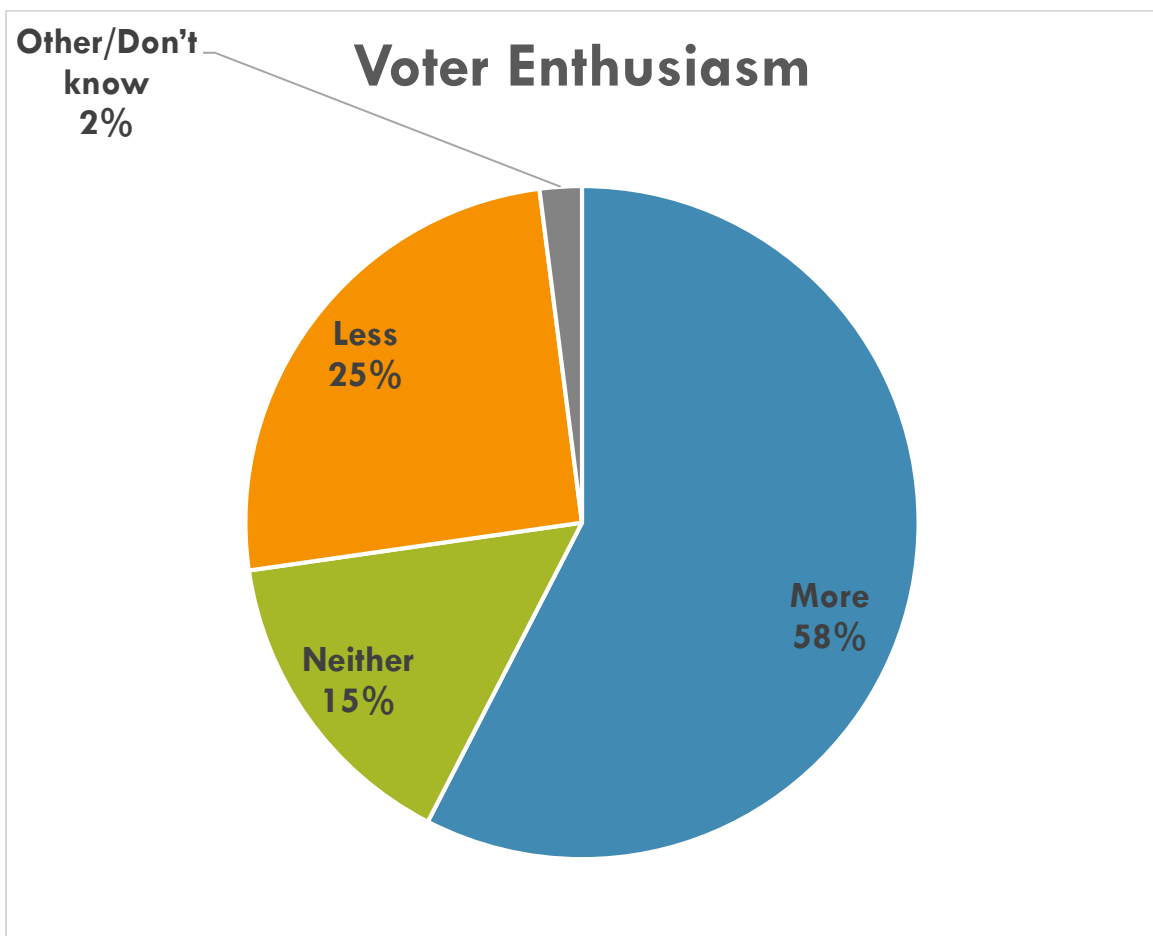
---

<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded and may not sum to 100 percent.

## VOTER ENTHUSIASM

*Thinking about the upcoming elections, are you more enthusiastic than usual about voting, or less enthusiastic?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=1001)</b>
More	57%
Neither	15%
Less	25%
Other/Don't know	2%

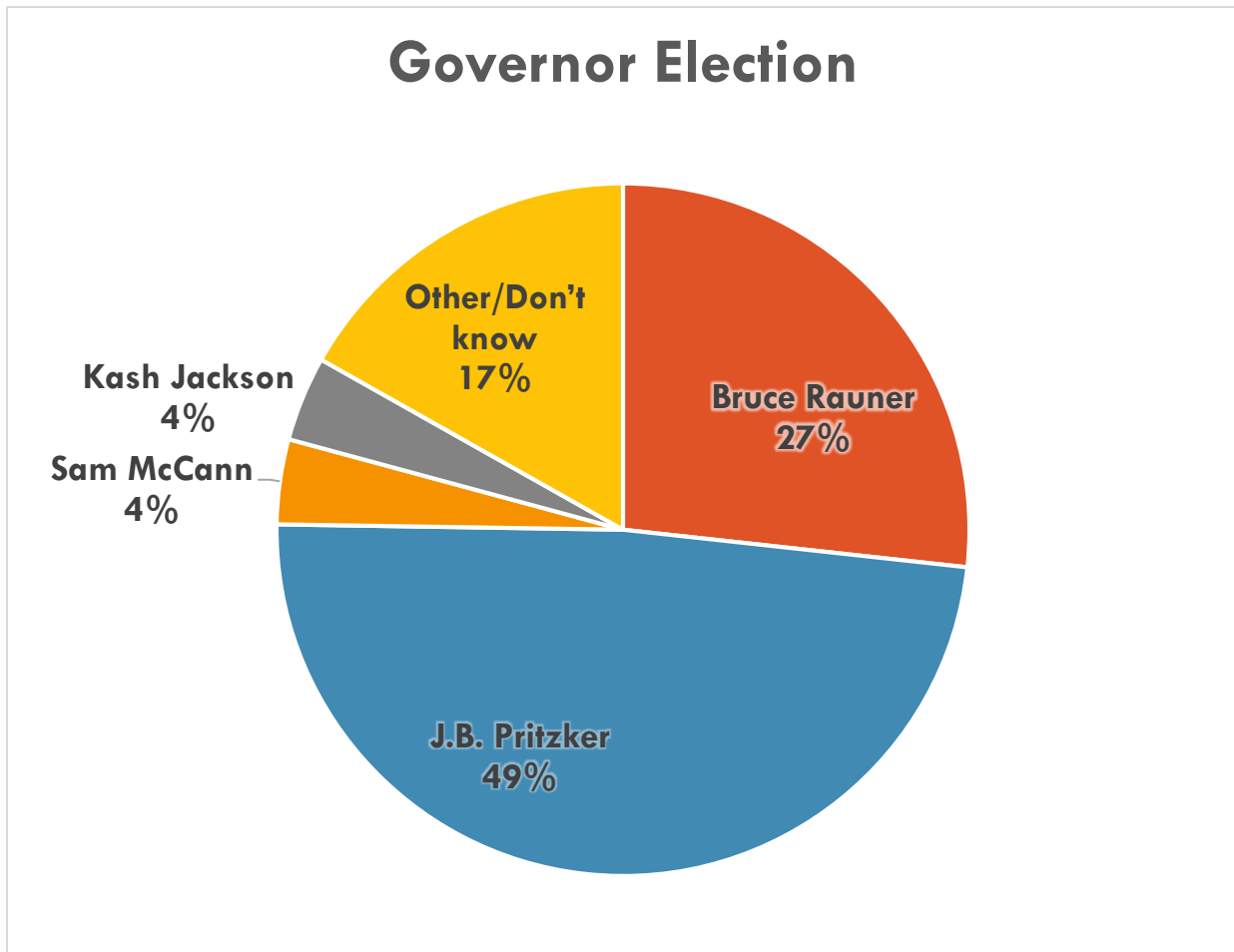


## HEAD TO HEAD

### Governor

*If the general election for Illinois governor were being held today, and the Republican candidate was Bruce Rauner, the Democratic candidate was J.B. Pritzker, the Conservative Party candidate was Sam McCann, and the Libertarian Candidate was Kash Jackson (rotate) who would you vote for?*

Response	Percent (n=715)
Bruce Rauner	27%
J.B. Pritzker	49%
Sam McCann	4%
Kash Jackson	4%
Other/Don't know	17%



*Attorney General*

*And if the general election for Attorney General were being held today, would you vote for ....(randomize candidates)... Kwame Raoul or Erika Harold?*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percent (n=715)</b>
Kwame Raoul	36%
Erika Harold	26%
Other/Don't know	39%

## **Demographic Crosstabs**

### **LIKELY VOTER**

**(n=1001)**

#### ***By AREA***

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Likely voter	68%	68%	79%
Unlikely voter	32%	32%	21%

#### ***By PARTY***

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Likely voter	72%	73%	72%
Unlikely voter	28%	27%	28%



**VOTER ENTHUSIASM**  
(n=1001)

*By AREA*

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
More	65%	55%	56%
Neither	11%	15%	17%
Less	21%	27%	25%
Other/Don't know	2%	3%	2%

*By PARTY*

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
More	65%	47%	54%
Neither	13%	22%	13%
Less	19%	30%	32%
Other/Don't know	3%	1%	1%

*By IDEOLOGY*

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
More	73%	53%	61%
Neither	11%	21%	12%
Less	14%	24%	25%
Other/Don't know	2%	2%	2%

**HEAD TO HEAD: GOVERNOR**  
**(n=715)**

***By AREA***

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Bruce Rauner	22%	23%	34%
J.B. Pritzker	65%	53%	35%
Sam McCann	1%	4%	5%
Kash Jackson	3%	3%	6%
Other/Don't know	9%	17%	20%

***By PARTY***

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Bruce Rauner	6%	25%	67%
J.B. Pritzker	81%	36%	6%
Sam McCann	1%	5%	7%
Kash Jackson	1%	5%	6%
Other/Don't know	11%	28%	14%

**HEAD TO HEAD: ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**(n=715)**

***By AREA***

	Chicago City	Chicago Suburbs	Downstate
Kwame Raoul	50%	41%	19%
Erika Harold	23%	25%	27%
Other/Don't know	26%	34%	53%

***By PARTY***

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Kwame Raoul	57%	26%	8%
Erika Harold	13%	29%	46%
Other/Don't know	30%	45%	46%