

Review & Preview

The newsletter of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
at Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Institute poll focuses on Illinois budget, ethics reform

Registered Illinois voters favor strong and sweeping reforms to state ethics laws, according to a poll released this fall by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

They are less certain what to do about the state's budget crisis. Respondents said they favor budget cuts over tax increases but have a hard time specifying just where to make trims.

A majority (56.5 percent) of Illinoisans polled thought the state's budget problems could be solved by cutting waste and inefficiency in government. Roughly one in ten (9.5 percent) said they thought only a revenue increase could fix the state's budget problems. Another quarter (27.3%) said a combination of budget cuts and tax increases would be needed to solve the budget problem.

But when asked a series of questions about what should be cut, respondents were

hard-pressed to point to anything specific. There are 84.4 percent who oppose cuts to K-12 education; 61.4 percent oppose cuts to higher education; 79.8 percent oppose cuts to state police or prison operations; 63 percent don't want to cut spending on state parks or environmental projects.

Registered voters were much clearer about ethics and political reforms in the state.

*Nearly two-thirds (65.4%) said they favored a proposal that has been a sticking point for campaign finance reform in Springfield: to limit the amount of campaign money that party leaders can redistribute to candidates in legislative races.

*More than three-fourths support imposing legislative leadership term limits.

*More than seven in ten (72.4%) favored a proposal to amend the state constitution to allow

recall elections of all statewide officeholders, up from 65.4% in the 2008 Simon Institute survey.

*Fewer than one in five voters surveyed said they approved of Illinois' current redistricting process, in which partisan stalemates over competing redistricting maps are settled essentially by a coin flip.

*By a margin of more than five to one, survey respondents said political reform should come about as a result of a public vote (64.8%) rather than through legislative action (12.5%).

"Support for reform is strong, and it appears—at least in the one reform question that was repeated from last year's survey—that it is growing," said Dr. Charles Leonard, the Institute's visiting political science professor who supervised the poll. All the polling data is available on the institute's website.

Journalist David Yepsen named new director



Long-time political reporter and columnist David Yepsen was selected as the Institute's third director.

Yepsen, who had been with the *Des Moines Register* since 1974, assumed the role on April 1. He succeeds Mike Lawrence, who retired in November 2008.

Before coming to the Institute, Yepsen was best known for his coverage of the past nine Iowa presidential caucuses for the *Register*.

"Every four years the chief political reporter for the *Des Moines Register* becomes the most important reporter in the nation," Paul Simon wrote in his 1988 book *Winners and Losers*. "To his credit, David Yepsen handled this position with sensitivity and balance, and he worked hard."

Yepsen was a 1989 fellow at the Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard University. He was a fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics in 2008.

He was a regular panelist on Iowa Public Television as well as many national news outlets. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa and holds an MPA from Drake University.

Kea Kicks-Off "Pizza and Politics"



DeJuan Kea (SIUC '06), served as the first speaker for the Institute's new "Pizza and Politics" sessions that bring students interested in careers in government, public policy and politics together with professionals in those and related fields. Kea is the government relations director for the Illinois Principals Association. Opportunities such as this will be provided throughout the school year and may be held anytime of the day. Morning sessions are dubbed "Panera and Politics" while afternoon and evening meetings will serve pizza. The sessions are free to students and funded in part by the university's Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Watch "Talking Politics" featuring institute staff during the 10 p.m. Sunday newscasts on WSIL-TV. You can also visit www.paulsimoninstitute.org for this and other news coverage.

A Message from David Yepsen

Dear Friends:

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute had a successful 2009 and the 2010 agenda is an ambitious one, despite the budget uncertainties we all face these days.

After a 35-year career as a journalist in Iowa, it was great to assume the directorship of Paul's "living legacy" in April, succeeding Mike Lawrence who retired. The entire Southern Illinois University community has been wonderful helping me adjust to life here. (That includes teaching me how to pronounce the names of towns like Vienna and Cairo.)

As we look at the problems facing Illinois and the country, it seems like the work of the Institute in the fields of politics, youth development, ethics and education is needed more than ever. Some of our 2009 accomplishments and plans for 2010 are highlighted below.

Ethics and Politics. The ethical climate in Illinois politics is so bad it's the subject of late night TV humor. Illinois' process for drawing legislative and congressional districts results in legislators picking their constituents instead of the other way around. During 2009, we hosted a three-hour public hearing of the Illinois Senate to discuss redistricting ideas and the Institute's proposed redistricting plan devised during Mike's tenure.

We also polled on the subject and found registered voters in the state favor a less partisan process. They are also prepared to vote for reforms themselves, through the initiative process.

Speakers. Part of our work is bringing key leaders and academics to campus. We hosted Senate President John Cullerton and Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno; Dr. Cornel West from Princeton University; Harvard political scientist Tom Patterson; SUNY political scientist Stephen Wasby and former U.S. Senate historian Richard Baker.

Politics and Youth Development. We spend a lot of time helping students develop their leadership skills. I've started a popular "pizza and politics" session that lets students interested in political or public service careers meet people already in the field to pick up tips on how to prepare for a life "in the arena."

We also hosted our annual "Youth

Government Day" for high school students from around Illinois at the state capitol in Springfield. They had the opportunity to visit legislative chambers and hearing rooms, meet with legislators and hear about various government-related careers from current practitioners. We're planning a Youth Leadership Day at the Institute in January for students from around the Carbondale area to hone their leadership skills.

And we sponsored our 7th annual "leadership weekend conference" on campus for young African-American men from East St. Louis. The agenda includes exercises in leadership and team work, keynote speeches from leaders in different industries, career information and conversations with college students about the challenges and rewards of higher education. The Top Ladies of Distinction organization in the Metro East area gave the Institute an award of merit for the work we've done helping these young men seize new opportunities.

Institute staff partnered with the Barat Foundation, local service organizations, Community Concepts, Inc., and the Adlai Stevenson Center to do a semester-long civic engagement project for 15 young men from the Metro East. Meeting on consecutive Saturdays, the participants talked with local leaders and researched grassroots democracy. One goal was to teach young people how to take an active role in public life and have an impact.

We partnered with the College of Engineering, the Department of Aviation Flight and Management, and the Department of Automotive Technology to develop a curriculum for a Summer Transportation Institute for more than 50 students from Carbondale and the Metro East. One purpose was to introduce the students to careers in transportation and engineering industries.

Education. Working with the Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services, we conducted a survey of college graduates with disabilities to identify barriers they encountered to employment.

We also hosted a session for Advance Illinois on education funding, the disparities in education outcomes in the K-12 populations of students, and the need for global competitiveness.

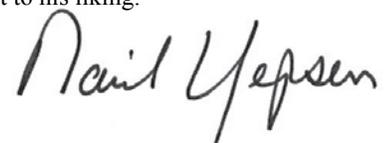
Visiting Faculty. John Jackson, Linda Baker, Charles Leonard, and Bill Freivogel are at work in the political science and journalism classrooms of SIUC. I'm teaching a class on political reporting. John also continues to edit our series of occasional papers on important policy questions known as *The Simon Review*.

Looking Ahead. We're posting regular blogs and those Simon Review papers. In the coming year, we hope to hold conferences on improving U.S. relations with Cuba, finding ways to reduce the cost of higher education and dealing with the growing federal budget deficit.

Finally, despite the tight times, you helped us raise more than \$35,000 for our operating budget and main endowment as well as more than \$50,000 for an endowment creating a scholarship fund in Mike's honor. (We're still accepting donations for both endeavors, just in case you were wondering.)

One of our student employees, Cary Bryant, has revamped our website: paulsimoninstitute.org. It can tell you about all of this and more. I think you'll find it worth your time.

I also hope Paul looks down on our work and finds it to his liking.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Regular readers of the Institute newsletter will notice this version is a bit trimmer than previous editions. It's not a reflection on the quantity or quality of the Institute's work—it's a matter of budgeting. To learn more about what we're doing, visit us on the web and join our Facebook group. You can also sign up online for our new e-newsletter.

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Demuzio interns gain experience

The Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program provides SIUC students with the opportunity to gain valuable experience working in state agencies and other government offices while working toward their undergraduate degrees. The internship program strives to make public policy an attractive career path and better teach students how government works. As of the fall of 2009, students were placed in the Illinois Attorney General's Office, the Illinois Departments of Employment Security, Human Services, and Transportation, the Clyde Choate Mental Health and Development Center, and SIU's Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center and Governmental Relations Office.



Institute visiting professor and Demuzio intern program coordinator John Jackson (far left) and Institute director David Yepsen (far right) pose with some of the 2009-2010 Demuzio Interns. Pictured in the back row (left to right), Jennifer Ihle, Megan Thompson, Brad Bauer, Clayton Black, Heather Walls, Jasmine Walls. Front row (left to right), Travis Eck, Lakeisha Purchase, Stephanie Kennedy. Not pictured: Tyler Allen, Vincent Hardy and Shaka Mitchell.

Student involvement a strength of the institute

The institute continues to cultivate strong relationships with university students to provide them with outstanding learning opportunities while serving key roles for the institute.

Two students are serving in research and conference planning roles for the institute. SIU Presidential Scholar and Honors Program student **Lee Stewart**, a sophomore from Elkhartville, is earning independent study credit by working on U.S.-Cuban relations and **Carol Bedar**, a graduate student in higher education from Carterville, is earning internship credit as she

is looking at what can be done about the rising costs of higher education. **Barton Lorimor**, a junior in journalism from Carlock, is helping the institute's communications efforts. Institute undergraduate student assistant **Cary Bryant**, a senior in media management from Centralia, has redesigned the institute's website and expanded its online content.

And **Austin McCree**, a graduate student in business administration from Carterville, is working on social networking and email communication strategies. The institute staff relies

on three other students, **Sharnique Bryson**, a junior from East St. Louis, **Abby Wagner**, a junior from Champaign, **Natalie Bohnhoff**, a freshman from Effingham, for day-to-day office support.

Additionally, more than a dozen students volunteer with the institute through its Student Ambassador Program, helping with events and special initiatives. Student engagement is a hallmark of the institute and we are proud to continue working with our students in these and other areas.



The Institute hosted its annual Youth Government Day at the State Capitol in Springfield where hundreds of high school students across the state participated, including this group who spent time on the floor of the Illinois Senate. Next year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 20. For more information, contact Chris Rich at 618/453-4078 or crich@siu.edu.

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The institute has a number of special initiatives not currently budgeted for that would improve the ability to serve our students. Most of these items center around enhancing the institute's technological capabilities. For instance, to cut costs and to get more people visiting our office, we're doing more events in our building but without sound equipment (need of \$2,500). We'd also like to add video conferencing (need of more than \$10,000) so that we can connect students directly with state and national leaders. And we'd like to obtain our own video recording equipment (estimated need of \$4,000) so we can add more online content to our website. Your continued donations for these and other initiatives will help us continue improving services for our students and the public. You can make a gift using the enclosed envelope or by visiting us online.

Thank you for your continued support!

www.paulsimoninstitute.org

Notable Speakers Visit Campus



Scott Simon – The host of NPR's news program, Weekend Edition Saturday, visited campus through a partnership between the Institute, WSIU and the College of Mass Communications and Media Arts. Simon helped celebrate WSIU's 50th anniversary during a special luncheon program and delivered a free public lecture that evening. The Peabody and Emmy Award winner also met with students while on campus, including the Virginia Marmaduke Scholars. Marmaduke, nicknamed "The Duchess," was a southern Illinois native who became a trailblazing journalist in the 1940s Chicago. Simon is her godson.

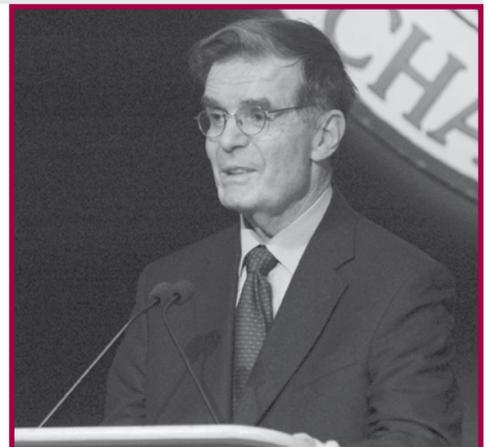
Lisa Madigan – Madigan has served as the Illinois Attorney General since 2003 and visited campus to deliver the Jeanne Hurley Simon Lecture. Madigan's appearance also marked the final speaking engagement presided over by Mike Lawrence before retiring as Institute director. Madigan made special mention of Lawrence during her remarks, which centered on her story of becoming involved in politics and how she was mentored through that process by Paul and Jeanne Simon.



Cornel West – West, a professor of religion and the director of the Afro-American Studies Program at Princeton University, has been described as "one of America's most provocative public intellectuals." His appearance at the university's Shryock Auditorium brought in a standing room only crowd to the 1,200 seat venue. His visit was co-sponsored by the Institute and Black History Month Committee, Student Programming Council, Office of the Associate Chancellor (Diversity), Undergraduate Student Government, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.

Photo by Lane Chistiansen

Ted Sorensen – Sorensen served as special counsel and adviser to President Kennedy. He is widely respected for his role as Kennedy's chief speechwriter. Sorensen began his professional relationship with Kennedy in 1952 and became one of his closest advisers and friends. Sorensen visited campus to deliver the Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture. While on campus, Sorensen also guest lectured in a political science class and visited an exhibit at the University Museum, "Winners & Losers: The Presidential Campaign Memorabilia of Jerome M. Mileur," which was donated to the Institute.



Howard Buffett – A philanthropist, environmentalist, humanitarian and farmer, Buffett visited campus to share about his volunteer role with the United Nations as one of its Ambassadors Against Hunger in the World Food Program. Buffett told of his personal experiences of traveling throughout and working in Africa to help some of the world's most impoverished people gain access to basic needs – like food and water. Buffett runs his own personal foundation, farms land in central Illinois, serves on the Commission on Presidential Debates, is a noted photographer, and also has authored several books.



Richard Baker – In his first public speech since retiring as the Historian of the U.S. Senate, Richard Baker shared insights he gained throughout his 34-year tenure with the “world’s most exclusive club.” Baker was hired as the first official historian in Congress and has since been joined by dozens of other staff members who ensure the proceedings in the U.S. Capitol are carefully preserved. During his visit, Baker served as one of the Institute’s “Panera and Politics” speakers with students and faculty. Baker’s visit was sponsored by the Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture Series coordinated by the Institute and the Department of Political Science.

Christine Radogno – When she was elected the Illinois Senate Minority Leader in 2008, Radogno became the first woman to hold one of the top four leadership posts in the General Assembly. She is the highest ranking Republican woman in the state and visited campus for the Institute’s John J. White Lecture Series where she discussed current events facing the state, talked about the unique challenges facing women in politics and shared her own venture in running for elected office. In addition to the public speech, Radogno toured the university’s Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and was featured at a “Panera and Politics” session with students, faculty and local community members.



Photo provided



Other speakers during the last year included Illinois Senate President **John J. Cullerton** (shown at the left) as part of the John J. White Lecture Series; **Joseph A. Saloom**, a southern Illinois native who has been a U.S. Ambassador and who later served as head of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office for the U.S. State Department, where he oversaw a \$22 billion project; **Michael Mandelbaum**, a leading international affairs

expert based at The Johns Hopkins University, visited campus in partnership with Dr. Max Yen and the university’s Materials Technology Center to focus on the world’s economic situation and how it could impact areas such as opportunities for research and the sciences; and **Doyle McManus**, the then-Washington D.C. bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times, came at the invitation of the Institute and the SIU School of Journalism to deliver his insights on the 2008 presidential election.



**Paul Simon
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Visit the institute online to watch free videos of select events from the past 10 years.

Remember the Simon Institute in your year-end giving

In lieu of the costs of a separate fundraising letter this year, this newsletter doubles as our annual appeal for a year-end gift from our friends. We are grateful for the tremendous support already shown this year but continue to have needs and some uncertainty about the future of the institute's budget. Private giving has been and always will be critical to the In-

stitute's ability to fulfill its mission. We hope items in this newsletter provide you the assurance that Paul Simon's legacy is continuing to make a difference in the lives of those we serve, but especially for young people. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a year-end contribution or make a secure online donation at the website.

Institute's budget, revenue tight but manageable

The Institute's finances have been tight, but things are poised to start getting better, according to Institute associate director Matt Baughman.

"I'm beginning to see that there's a little light at the end of the tunnel," Baughman said. "But we're not out of the woods yet and the state and national economies remain unsteady making things still a bit of an unknown."

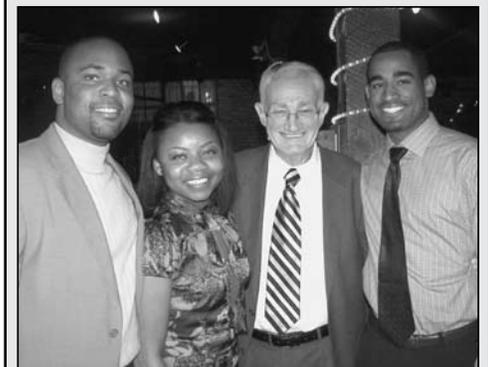
Thanks to generous donations to the Institute's unrestricted fund over the last several months, the Institute is in a much better position than Baughman predicted last spring, he said.

The Institute is in the midst of weathering an 85% drop in endowment revenues, which were exacerbated by a 40% loss in endowment principal and a 75% reduction in the payout rate.

"We are grateful for those who provide unrestricted gifts for current expenses," said Institute director David Yepsen. "But we also know the most long-term benefit for the Institute is to invest those dollars in the endowment."

For more information on making a donation to the Institute, visit the website or contact Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or baughman@siu.edu.

Scholarship established to honor Lawrence



Mike Lawrence poses with students he has mentored, including Chad Hooiser ('06, MPA'09), Dina Timmons ('06, MPH '08) and Shaka Mitchell ('11), during a fundraising event for a scholarship in his honor. He retired as the Institute's director on Nov. 1, 2008. The scholarships will be awarded to students who volunteer with the Institute with a preference that at least one African American is selected each year. More than \$50,000 has been contributed to date and funds are still being raised. Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation.