

# Review & Preview

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

## Polls show Illinois' stance on social, budget issues

Voters continue to show strong disapproval of Illinois' legislative redistricting procedures, according to a poll conducted by the Simon Institute this fall.

More than 76 percent said they disliked how the state draws its legislative districts every 10 years.

Public polling is an annual project at the Institute because it helps guide decision makers as they consider political reform issues in Illinois. The Institute expanded its poll this year by surveying 1,000 registered voters, which included 758 who identified themselves as likely voters. This gave the poll a margin of error of 3.5 percent.

The poll also found that more than 67 percent said Illinois should allow same-sex marriages or civil unions. At the same time, nearly 72 percent said gays and lesbians ought to be able to serve in the military.

Voters also remain uncertain about how to close Illinois' budget deficit. They still don't favor tax increases, but they could not

come to a consensus on where budget officials should cut spending.

Overall, Illinoisans showed they believe state programs can be maintained without any new revenue being raised.

More than half of the respondents said the state has enough waste and fraud in its budget to realize significant savings if cut. Cuts to public pensions and state parks were the most favored spending reductions.

Though a tax increase was still disapproved overall, support for an income tax increase rose by roughly 9 percentage points compared to last year.

Less than 25 percent said they support expanding the state sales tax.

"Illinois faces hard budget choices," said institute director David Yepsen. "Voters have no stomach for cuts or tax increases."

Full results can be downloaded at [www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org).

## 2010 midterms discussed

To truly understand what happened in this year's midterm elections, refer to the experts.

That's why the Simon Institute hosted a series of post-election analysis sessions following the primary in February and the November general election.

This year's participants, which included political scientists, journalists and state legislators, shared their views on why Congressional Republicans regained control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Visiting professor John Jackson said Democrats were bound to lose some of their control by being the party in power during the recent recession.

Because politics is about what elected officials promise to do for their constituents, and not what they have done already, Republicans were triumphant because they pledged no new taxes and to create more jobs, said Institute director David Yepsen.

However at the state level, the Democrats retained control of the Legislature and the governor's office despite a national Republican trend. Visiting professor Charlie Leonard credited part of the Illinois results to this year's early primary election. Had there been more media coverage of the primary and additional campaign time, the Republican ticket may have been different, he said.

State Rep. John Bradley (D - Marion) and State Sen. David Luechtefeld (R - Okawville) also contributed to the discussion.

Bradley said some Republican candidates were too conservative for voters' tastes. Luechtefeld said Republicans had a good electoral year but strong turnout in northeastern Illinois prevented the party from unseating more Democrats.

The Bradley-Luechtefeld discussion is online at [www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org)



Students from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines visited the United States as part of the 2010 Summer Institute program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the Simon Institute. Here, they ask a panel of SIUC journalism and political science professors about the future role of the media. It was one of the many activities arranged for them by Drs. John Foster, Barbara Brown and John Jackson,



## A Message from

*David Yepsen*

We've had an exciting year in 2010 and are looking forward to an even better one in 2011. I can't thank you enough for your financial help, your encouragement and your attendance at our events.

We'll be focused on three things in the coming year:

First, we want to keep up and expand our research into public opinion and political reform issues in the state. Paul Simon felt strongly about things like balanced books and ethical government and we need that same focus now more than ever. The polling we do about those questions can help guide policy makers and opinion leaders.

Institute staff will continue to teach classes, lead conferences, write papers and do the academic spade work required at a first-rate university.

Second, we provided policy expertise to policy-makers and advocates. As the Illinois legislature and political activists worked to change the way legislative district lines are drawn, work the Institute did helped to shape the debate.

Having legislators and advocates arguing over who best represented Paul Simon's ideals was a tribute to our work. The debate continues and the work will intensify in 2011.

Third, we will teach and mentor students. Whether it is civic education or leadership development, we seek to play a role in helping young people prepare for careers in public service and leadership roles in their communities. From leadership weekends to "Pizza and Politics" sessions with various leaders, we were there last year to give students the tools needed to shape their own futures — and ours — and will do so again.

To do all we do, we continue to need your financial help. I hope you will keep us in mind as you make your decisions about charitable giving.

A good public policy institute brings together students, academics and practitioners to study problems, make change, and develop leaders. It's a never-ending task but it's one we welcome.

## Preserving Paul's legacy

Time has put distance between now and Paul Simon's death. Many students who were too young to following politics during his life are now at SIUC. Educating them, as well as reminding ourselves of what Paul stood for, has become a priority at the Institute.

With Institute help, WSIU-TV producer Jak Tichenor is assembling a documentary about Paul's life.

Also, WSIU-TV, Morris Library archivists and the Institute formed a partnership to preserve old recordings of Simon dating back to the 1950s. Some of these artifacts are starting to deteriorate.

Visiting professor John Jackson is also sifting through Paul's many books, newspaper columns and political papers to publish a collection of essential Paul Simon works.

## Sheila Simon elected Lt. Gov.

Paul's daughter, Sheila Simon, followed in her father's footsteps in November when she was elected Illinois' lieutenant governor.

As a result, she resigned her position on the Institute's Board of Counselors to avoid any conflict of interests.



## Institute to "livestream" speeches and events

The Institute has started broadcasting many of its events live on the Internet.

"Livestreaming opens the Institute's work to more people," said director David Yepsen. "People are busy. Many can't get to campus or don't live near Carbondale. This effort makes more of our programs more accessible."

You can access the programs at [www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org) as they happen.



After more than 10 years of service to the Institute, Pam Gwaltney became interim Assistant Director of the University Honors Program this fall.

She now advises some of SIUC's brightest students on how best to obtain scholarships.

Gwaltney was hired in 2000 as Sen. Simon's transcriptionist and moved up the ranks to become his personal assistant. She later worked alongside directors Mike Lawrence and David Yepsen.

Emily Burke, the Institute's program coordinator, will fill the position on an interim basis until a search is conducted.

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## Three Lawrence scholarships awarded

Three outstanding students associated with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute received the inaugural Mike Lawrence Scholarships.

R. Mason Sloan, a graduating senior from Harrisburg, Sylvester D. Woodhouse, a junior from East St. Louis, and Cary A. Bryant, a graduate student from Centralia, received \$750 scholarships at a ceremony on Monday, May 3.

Lawrence retired as Institute director in November 2008. The veteran newsman, press secretary and political analyst joined the Institute in 1997 as associate director, and became director in 2004.

## Water for the World passes Senate; Illinois redistricting overhaul fails

Federal lawmakers were more friendly to proposals backed by the Institute than their counterparts in Springfield.

In September, a bi-partisan group of U.S. Senators passed the Water for the World Act. The initiative, which is now in the U.S. House for consideration, declares that providing clean water for countries where it is scarce is now a matter of national interest. It creates new foreign aid programs for countries struggling to provide the basic human need.

“It will continue the work Paul Simon started many years ago,” said John Jackson, a visiting professor who worked on the proposal with Simon after he left the Senate.

Water for the World was approved

five years after President George W. Bush signed the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, which calls on the U.S. to help underprivileged nations gain access to clean water.

Simon’s widow, Patti Simon, continues to follow the bill and press for House passage.

Meanwhile, a proposal to overhaul Illinois’ legislative redistricting procedures failed in the Illinois House by one vote.

The Institute’s plan revises the redistricting procedures, which currently allow one party to draw the map to its political advantage.

The legislation did not pass, but many reformers, who worked with the Institute, have promised to push for change in 2011.

## Panelists, audience discuss gun laws

With a city like Chicago to the north and rural farm land to the south, it’s no wonder gun laws are one of the most sensitive issues in Illinois.

To foster better understanding of all the issues involved, the Institute sponsored a panel discussion about the Second Amendment and recent decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The panel included former National Rifle Association president Kayne Robinson, Chris Boyster of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence and Leonard Gross, a professor at the SIU School of Law.

Video of the discussion is available at [www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org)

## Supporting students remains a hallmark of the Institute

Efforts to engage the next generation of decision makers in public policy issues expanded this year.

The Institute sponsored a student to participate in a fellowship program run by Paul Simon’s 1988 presidential campaign press secretary, Terry Michael. The Washington Center for Politics and Journalism provides an internship within a D.C. press bureau and holds seminars led by veteran journalists.

The Institute also assisted in establishing activities for students that signed up to be part of the “Political Junkies” living-learning community within University Housing.

The Institute continued to place students in internships with various state offices through the Vince Demuzio Internship Program. As a sign of the program’s success, state agency supervisors asked the Institute for additional interns.

And this was the second year for guest speakers at “Pizza & Politics” events, which cater to students interested in careers within public service.



*Lee Stewart, a senior studying political science, delivers his presentation on setting and achieving goals to a group of students at the Simon Institute. Stewart, who lived at the USA Olympic Training Camp during high school, draws on his experiences as an athlete in his message. He says long-term goals can only be realized by accomplishing a series of many short-term goals.*

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## Janice Jacobs

### Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Consular Affairs

Ambassador Jacobs has been with the U.S. Department of State for nearly three decades. Her career in the U.S. Foreign Service has taken her to posts in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Washington, D.C. Jacobs came back to campus to talk about the federal government's international policies and the benefits of working in the public sector. She is an SIUC alumna.

*Photo by U.S. Department of State*



## Iris Martinez

### Illinois State Senator (D - Chicago)

Iris Martinez was a lobbyist for the City of Chicago in 2003 when she was elected to serve in the legislature, making her the first Latina to be elected to the state Senate. She is the chairperson of the Senate Licensed Activities Committee and vice-chairperson of the Pensions Committee. Sen. Martinez came to speak as part of Latino Heritage Month, to talk about careers in public service and the rise of Latinos in government. Sen. Martinez said in some cases all it takes to be elected is to relate with constituents and voice their concerns during public discussion.



## J. Phil Gilbert

### Judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois

Phil Gilbert was appointed to serve in the Southern Illinois District of the U.S. District Courts by President George H.W. Bush. He is a past chairman of the Illinois State Board of Elections and a judge on the First Judicial Circuit. Judge Gilbert came for a Pizza & Politics session with students interested in public service to talk about careers in the legal system and how politics can play into nomination procedures. He talked about how important connections can be for someone trying to break into government and how the more qualified job candidates are not always hired.



## Lilly Ledbetter

### Fair Pay Activist

Lilly Ledbetter was a long-time manager at Goodyear Tires when she discovered her male counterparts were earning significantly more and subsequently sued. Her case went to the U.S. Supreme Court where the majority sided with the company over a technical issue. The first act Barack Obama signed as president closed that loophole and was named in her honor. During her Carbondale appearance, Ledbetter reflected on her work to further fair pay issues and how female employees can handle a similar problem.

*Photo by Democratic Central Committee*



## Other Simon Institute Happenings in 2010

- **PIZZA & POLITICS** Speakers included visiting professor **Charlie Leonard**, who discussed how to interpret public polls; political science professor **J. Tobin Grant**, who talked about the state of politics before the election; Chicago Tribune political reporter **Rick Pearson**; **Ethan Watters**, author of *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche*; and **Tom Logan**, who talked about his ongoing missionary work digging wells for rural African villages.
- **IS LEGALIZED GAMBLING A GOOD BET?** As Illinois lawmakers consider gambling expansions in the state, the Institute asked **Tom Swoik**, executive director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, and **Thomas Grey**, senior adviser to the Stop Predatory Gambling Foundation, to debate the matter.
- **GOING BROKE ON EDUCATION** A discussion on the escalating cost of higher education with **Sandy Baum** of The College Board; President **Anne Neal** of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni; Don Sevener from the Illinois Board of Higher Education; Illinois state Rep. **Mike Boland** and **Michael Dannenberg** from the Department of Education.
- **U.S. SEN. DICK DURBIN**, who started his political career as an intern to then-Sen. Paul Simon, came back to the Institute this April to meet exclusively with students interested in careers in public service.



## Sara Imhof

### Concord Coalition

Dr. Sara Imhof of the Concord Coalition, a non-partisan group that promotes fiscal responsibility, was on campus to lead a discussion and brainstorming activity showing the difficulties government budget directors face when mapping out a year-long spending plan. The activity was part of the Institute's "Rising Debt: Sinking Our Future?" conference focusing on the national debt and its impact. Those in attendance were divided into groups and asked to present areas of the national spending plan they would cut in order to produce a balanced budget.



## John Shimkus

### U.S. Representative from Illinois

John Shimkus has represented Illinois' 19th Congressional District since 1996. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and a retired lieutenant colonel from the Army Reserves. Rep. Shimkus was a guest during a September Pizza & Politics session and talked to students with an interest in politics about serving in local and federal government. Shimkus encouraged the students to get involved early and at any level of government. He also was a guest in David Yepsen's political reporting class.



## Jeffrey Sedgwick

### Former Assistant U.S. Attorney General

Dr. Jeffrey Sedgwick was this fall's installment of the Morton-Kenney Public Affairs Lecture series. He spent his career within the U.S. Departments of State and Justice. He was an assistant U.S. Attorney General in the administration of President George W. Bush and is a past director of the Department of Justice's Bureau of Statistics. A professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Sedgwick spoke about crime patterns and gave audience members the type of statistical presentation he delivered to past Attorneys General.



## Fulton Armstrong

### Former Adviser to President Bill Clinton

Fulton Armstrong is a specialist on the Western Hemisphere for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and is one of the most knowledgeable experts on the relationship between the United States and Cuba. His expertise has led him to positions within the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Department of State. Armstrong was a speaker during a conference on U.S. and Cuban relations. He said the United States is morally obligated to deal with Cuba because of the impact we have had on the island nation.

*Photo by Stephen Rickerl, Southern Illinoisan*

## A Preview of What's to Come in 2011

Following up this fall's conference on the national debt, the Institute is coordinating a similar event to **focus on the Illinois state budget deficit**. Not including pension and Medicaid shortfalls, the state is likely to face a budget deficit worth \$15 billion. That shortage will require either big cuts or big tax increases, or a little of both.

Our annual **Youth Government Day** is scheduled for April 9 and will feature young leaders such as Illinois state Rep. Jehan Gordon (D-Peoria) and Mayor Justin Nickels of Manitowoc, Wisc. This was one of Paul's signature programs designed to spark interest in government and politics among young people.

In honor of Women's History Month, the Simon Institute will welcome **Illinois state Rep. Patti Bellock** (R-Hinsdale) to Carbondale on March 7. Rep. Bellock was one of only three Republicans appointed by Democratic House Speaker Michael J. Madigan to serve as chairperson of a House committee.

Visit our Web site to watch for more upcoming events: [www.paulsimoninstitute.org](http://www.paulsimoninstitute.org)



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## SIUC retirees support Institute through Planned Giving



*Candis and Fred Isberner with Institute guest Christopher Gardner of "The Pursuit of Happiness."*



*Paulette Curkin with Institute guest speaker Ray Suarez of The NewsHour on PBS.*

Three university retirees have announced their intentions to support the Institute through a planned gift.

Carbondale residents and recent retirees Paulette Curkin and Fred and Candis Isberner have long been considered strong supporters of the Simon Institute by their consistent giving and attendance at its programs.

"We are grateful to Paulette and to Fred and Candy for their staunch support and for their decision to honor the Institute by including it prominently in their planned giving," said Institute associate director Matt Baughman.

As a coordinator in SIU's GLBT Resource Center, Curkin encouraged students she mentored to join her for Institute events. "The Institute adds a tremendous value to the campus and community through its free public programming," Curkin said. "It's a treasure for the students, faculty and retirees and we should all provide support to help fulfill the mission Senator Simon set for it."

The Isberners retired from the university in 2008 -- Fred as professor and associate dean of the College of Applied

Sciences and Arts and Candis as executive director of WSIU, the regional PBS and NPR affiliate.

"The Simon Institute enriches the educational experience for our students and is a valuable partner for countless university departments," said Candis. "We are pleased to include it in our planned giving to bolster the Paul Simon legacy of focusing on significant issues that impact our region and the nation."

They are hopeful others will join them on the ever-growing list of planned giving donors.

"I encourage those who are interested to learn more about planned giving options to contact me," Baughman said. "There are planned giving opportunities for everyone; some even have the potential to bring considerable tax benefits for the donor, such as a charitable gift annuity."

*There are a number of different options you can learn about by contacting Matt Baughman at (618) 453-4001 or [baughman@siu.edu](mailto:baughman@siu.edu).*