

# Illinois Statewide Survey – Political Attitudes

Conducted by Illinois Wesleyan University

Department of Political Science

October 15 – 18, 2007

Sample Size N = 395 (Confidence Interval +/- 5%)

1. Do you ever get news or information about political candidates and campaigns from the Internet?

33% Yes 66% No 1% Unsure/NR

2. Would you say that you generally approve or generally disapprove of the way that Rod Blagojevich is handling his job as governor of Illinois?

23% approve 60% disapprove 18% Other/undecided/NR

3. Would you say that you generally approve or generally disapprove of the way that Dick Durbin is handling his job as Senator from Illinois?

54% approve 22% disapprove 24% Other/undecided/NR

4. Would you say that you generally approve or generally disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as President?

21% approve 69% disapprove 10% Other/undecided/NR

5. If the upcoming elections for the U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you like to see win in your district, the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

49% Democratic candidate 27% Republican candidate 24% Undecided/NR

6. If you had to choose, which of the following would be more important to you – increasing spending on domestic issues such as education and health care, or holding down the federal budget deficit?

52% Increasing spending on domestic issues 33% Holding down the deficit  
8% Both (if they offer) 7% Undecided/other/NR

7. An emerging national controversy is how to handle the large number of people who have been convicted of non-violent drug-related offenses. If two political candidates held the following views, which would you prefer to win?

25% Candidate 'A' says we should increase penalties and incarceration of these offenders

62% Candidate 'B' says we should not build more prisons but focus upon drug treatment programs

20% No preference/Undecided/NR

4% Other (specify response)\_\_\_\_\_

8. How convinced are you that global warming or the greenhouse effect is actually happening – would you say you are completely convinced, mostly convinced, not so convinced or not at all convinced?

34% completely convinced    32% mostly convinced  
16% not so convinced        13% not at all convinced  
5% undecided/other/NR

9. In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, or not?

59% Yes, a mistake    33% No, not a mistake    8% other/undecided/NR

10. Should the U.S. troops in Iraq stay as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, or should U.S. troops leave as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable?

33% stay as long as it takes    52% leave as soon as possible  
15% other/undecided/NR

13. Would you say that you generally support or generally oppose government funding for medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos?

63% generally support    27% generally oppose    10% depends/undecided/NR

14. Which comes closest to your view - Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

28% Allowed to legally marry    27% civil unions  
34% no legal recognition        11% other/undecided/NR

15. The U. S. Supreme Court ruled in Roe v. Wade that a woman has right to an abortion if she chooses at any time during the first three months of pregnancy. Would you say that you generally favor or oppose that ruling?

58% favor    34% oppose    8% undecided/other/NR

17. In your opinion, is the United States ready for a woman president?

67% yes    21% no    6% depends (if they offer)    6% undecided/other/NR

18. Do you think the United States is ready for an African American president?

71% yes    17% no    7% depends (if they offer)    5% undecided/other/NR

19. Although the presidential primaries for 2008 are still a few months away, if the choice among Republican candidates was between John McCain, Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson and Mike Huckabee, who would you like to see win the Republican nomination?

21% McCain    23% Giuliani    9% Romney    9% Thompson  
6% Huckabee    4% OTHER – specify \_\_\_\_\_  
29% Undecided/No Response

20. On the Democratic side, if the choice were between Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards, who would you like to see win the Democratic nomination?

26% Clinton 36% Obama 16% Edwards

5% OTHER – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

18% Undecided/No Response

Finally, I have just a few questions to ask about your background.

21. In what county are you registered to vote? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Do you generally consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

25% Republican 40% Democrat 35% Independent/other/NR

23. Would you say that you are generally conservative, liberal or moderate?

34% conservative 20% liberal 46% moderate/other/NR

24. Which of the following best describes your religious preference?

27% Catholic 54% Protestant/Other Christian 2% Jewish 13% Unaffiliated  
5% NR

25. In which of the following age categories do you fall?

8% 18-35 24% 36-50 33% 51-65 32% Over 65 3% NR

26. Which of the following best describes your racial background?

13% Black 78% White 6% Hispanic/Mixed Race/Other  
3% NR

27. Which of the following best describes your educational background?

3% less than a high school diploma 20% high school diploma  
32% some college 23% four-year college graduate  
17% graduate degree 4% other/NR

28. Which of the following categories best describes your annual family household income?

14% less than \$25,000 20% between \$25 and \$50,000  
19% between \$50 and \$75,000 28% over \$75,000  
19% other/NR

29. Gender:

37% Male 62% Female 1% Unable to determine