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