



Illinois Policy Institute - Pension Reform Survey Topline For Public Release
Survey of n=600 Registered Voters in Illinois
Field Dates: September 1-9, 2021
Sampled from Illinois state voter file
Conducted via live telephone interview, 50% via cell phone + 50% via landline

LANDSCAPE

- 1. [QPensioner] Are you or is someone in your household eligible for or receiving a government pension from a state or local government in Illinois?**
 1. Yes, I am 6%
 2. Yes, someone in my household is 6%
 3. No 86%
 4. Don't know/Refused 1%

- 2. [QStateRightTrack] Would you say that things in the state of Illinois are headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track?**
 1. Right direction 40%
 2. Wrong track 53%
 3. Don't know/Refused 7%

- 3. [QIssue] If you had to choose just one of the following, which would you say is the biggest issue facing Illinois? [RANDOMIZE 1-10]**
 1. Taxes 20%
 2. Crime 16%
 3. The state budget crisis 13%
 4. The state pension crisis 9%
 5. Jobs and the economy 7%
 6. The cost of living 7%
 7. Healthcare 6%
 8. People leaving Illinois for other states 6%
 9. Education 5%
 10. Drugs 1%
 11. Something else 7%
 12. Don't know/Refused 3%

[Favorability Battery] Now, I am going to read you a list of names of some people or groups that have been in the news lately. After I read each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable view of this person or group. If you've never heard of them, just tell me and we'll move on to the next one.

[If favorable/unfavorable: And is that a VERY favorable/unfavorable view, or SOMEWHAT favorable/unfavorable view?] [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS IN FAVORABILITY BATTERY]

1. Very favorable 2. Somewhat favorable 3. Heard of, no opinion 4. Somewhat unfavorable 5. Very unfavorable 6. Never heard of

		V/S FAV.	V/S UNFAV.	1. Very favorable	2. Somewhat favorable	3. Heard of, no opinion	4. Somewhat unfavorable	5. Very unfavorable	6. Never heard of
A.	J.B. Pritzker	47%	46%	22%	24%	4%	10%	37%	3%
B.	Public employee unions	42%	35%	17%	25%	12%	15%	20%	10%
C.	Democrats in the Illinois legislature	42%	49%	16%	26%	6%	13%	36%	3%
D.	Government employee unions	38%	39%	15%	23%	12%	17%	23%	11%
E.	Republicans in the Illinois legislature	33%	54%	11%	23%	10%	25%	29%	3%

4. [QGovApproval] Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way J.B. Pritzker is handling his job as Governor? [If approve/disapprove: And would you say that you STRONGLY approve/disapprove, or SOMEWHAT approve/disapprove?]

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE	51%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	47%
1. Strongly approve	24%
2. Somewhat approve	27%
3. Somewhat disapprove	12%
4. Strongly disapprove	35%
5. Don't know/Refused	3%

5. [QGovApprovalBudget] Now more specifically, do you approve or disapprove of the way J.B. Pritzker is handling the state budget? [If approve/disapprove: And would you say that you STRONGLY approve/disapprove, or SOMEWHAT approve/disapprove?]

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE	41%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	50%
1. Strongly approve	13%
2. Somewhat approve	28%
3. Somewhat disapprove	14%
4. Strongly disapprove	36%
5. Don't know/Refused	9%

6. **[QPensionHeard] Have you seen, read, or heard anything in the news lately about the pension crisis in Illinois? [If yes: And have you seen, read, or heard A LOT or A LITTLE about the pension crisis in Illinois?]**
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| TOTAL YES | 49% |
| 1. Yes, a lot | 22% |
| 2. Yes, a little | 27% |
| 3. No | 49% |
| 4. Don't know/Refused | 2% |
7. **[QPensionProblem] Based on what you know, would you say the pension crisis in Illinois is a big problem or a small problem? [If big/small: And would you say the pension crisis in Illinois is a VERY big/small problem or a SOMEWHAT big/small problem?]**
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| VERY/SOMEWHAT BIG | 76% |
| VERY/SOMEWHAT SMALL | 12% |
| 1. Very big | 53% |
| 2. Somewhat big | 22% |
| 3. Somewhat small | 10% |
| 4. Very small | 3% |
| 5. Don't know/Refused | 12% |
8. **[QPensionAware] Were you aware that the pension clause in Illinois' state constitution prohibits any changes to retirement benefits for current workers and retirees, including both for benefits already earned and also the future growth in benefits?**
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Yes | 50% |
| 2. No | 46% |
| 3. Don't know/Refused | 4% |
9. **[QAmendmentPropose] Some have proposed a constitutional amendment that would preserve public retirement benefits already earned, but would allow for changes to future pension benefits.**
- Do you support or oppose this constitutional amendment? [If support/oppose: And would you say you STRONGLY support/oppose or SOMEWHAT support/oppose?]**
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORT | 61% |
| STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT OPPOSE | 28% |
| 1. Strongly support | 33% |
| 2. Somewhat support | 28% |
| 3. Somewhat oppose | 12% |
| 4. Strongly oppose | 16% |
| 5. Don't know/Refused | 11% |
10. **[QPensionBlame] Based on what you know, do you think the level of pension benefits currently being received by state and local government retirees are too high, too low, or the right level? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**
- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Too high | 43% |
| 2. Too low | 16% |
| 3. The right level | 27% |
| 4. Don't know/Refused | 14% |

11. [QSolved] Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. The state pension crisis can only be solved by making changes to future benefits that retirees receive | 57% |
| 2. The state pension crisis can only be solved by the state fully funding the pensions it promised to retirees, even if it means raising taxes or cutting services | 31% |
| 3. Don't know/Refused | 12% |

NOTE: These questions were part of a broader study and some questions at the end of the survey, but prior to demographics, do not appear on this topline.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Now, a few final questions for statistical purposes...

12. [QParty] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, independent, or something else?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Republican | 24% |
| 2. Democrat | 37% |
| 3. Independent | 28% |
| 4. Something else | 5% |
| 5. Don't know/Refused | 5% |

13. [QIdeology] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself a conservative, a moderate, or a liberal? [If conservative/liberal ask: And are you VERY conservative/liberal or just SOMEWHAT conservative/liberal?]

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| VERY/SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE | 37% |
| VERY/SOMEWHAT LIBERAL | 23% |
| 1. Very conservative | 18% |
| 2. Somewhat conservative | 20% |
| 3. Moderate | 36% |
| 4. Somewhat liberal | 12% |
| 5. Very liberal | 11% |
| 6. Don't know/Refused | 4% |

14. [Q2020Ballot] For which candidate did you vote in the 2020 presidential election? If you did not vote in the 2020 presidential election, just say so. [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Donald Trump | 34% |
| 2. Joe Biden | 50% |
| 3. Someone else | 2% |
| 4. I did not vote | 8% |
| 5. Don't know | 7% |

15. [QUnionHH] Are you or is anyone in your household a member of a labor union?

TOTAL YES	18%
1. Yes, I am	13%
2. Yes, a member of my household is	6%
3. No	80%
4. Don't know/Refused	2%

16. [QEmployment] What is your current employment status?

1. Employed full-time	45%
2. Employed part-time	6%
3. Freelance, contract, or temporary work	3%
4. Unemployed and looking for work	4%
5. Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	2%
6. Full-time student	1%
7. Retired	35%
8. Something else	3%
9. Don't know/Refused	2%

ONLY ASKED TO THOSE ANSWERING 1. EMPLOYED FULL-TIME OR 2. EMPLOYED PART-TIME TO QEMPLOYMENT:

17. [QPublicEmployee] Are you or is anyone in your household employed by the state or a local government in Illinois, including work in public schools, police, and fire departments?

	(n=289)
TOTAL YES	20%
1. Yes, I am	14%
2. Yes, a member of my household is	6%
3. No	79%
4. Don't know/Refused	*%

ASK ALL:

18. [QPensionEligible] Are you or is anyone in your household eligible for a pension from the state or local government in Illinois?

TOTAL YES	18%
1. Yes, I am	11%
2. Yes, a member of my household is	7%
3. No	79%
4. Don't know/Refused	3%

19. [QIncome] Which range includes your annual household income?

1. Less than \$30,000 per year	12%
2. \$30,000 to \$49,999 per year	17%
3. \$50,000 to \$74,999 per year	19%
4. \$75,000 to \$125,000 per year	21%
5. More than \$125,000 per year	19%
6. Don't know/Refused	13%

20. [QMarital] What is your current marital status?	
1. Single, never married	27%
2. Married	52%
3. Separated	1%
4. Divorced	8%
5. Widowed	9%
6. Don't know/Refused	3%
21. [QRace] What is your race? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-5]	
1. Black	12%
2. White	71%
3. Hispanic/Latino	8%
4. Asian	5%
5. Native American	1%
6. Something else	*%
7. Don't know/Refused	5%
22. [QEducation] What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
1. High school or less	26%
2. Some college	21%
3. Associate's degree	9%
4. Bachelor's degree	26%
5. Graduate degree	16%
6. Don't know/Refused	*%
23. [QAge] What is your age?	
1. 18-29	14%
2. 30-39	14%
3. 40-49	12%
4. 50-64	25%
5. 65+	34%
6. Refused	1%
24. [QGender] BY OBSERVATION	
1. Male	47%
2. Female	53%
25. [Region] County and City Pre-Code from the Voter File	
1. Chicago	21%
2. Collar	20%
3. Cook	19%
4. Northern IL	26%
5. Southern IL	13%
6. Don't know/Refused	1%

26. [Turnout Score] 2022 Turnout Score: 0 indicates a low likelihood of voting. 1 indicates a high likelihood of voting.

1.	0-0.19	1%
2.	0.2-0.39	16%
3.	0.4-0.49	13%
4.	0.6-0.79	11%
5.	0.8-1	60%

SCREENERS

27. [QConsentPhone] Hello, I'm calling on behalf of Echelon, an opinion research company. We are conducting a survey on current issues facing the country and would appreciate the chance to get your opinions. You will not be sold anything at any point in this survey and will never be contacted by us for political or marketing reasons. Your responses will be kept confidential and are only used for research purposes.

1.	Continue	100%
2.	Not Available/Schedule Callback	-
3.	Refused	-

28. [QIndustryPhone] Do you or does anyone in your household work in journalism, the news media, market research, or public relations?

1.	Yes	-
2.	No	100%
3.	Don't know/Refused	-

29. [QRegVote] Are you at least 18 years old and registered to vote in Illinois?

1.	Yes	100%
2.	No	-
3.	Don't know/Refused	-