



POLLING MEMORANDUM

To: Illinois Policy
From: M3 Strategies
Re: Illinois Statewide Tracking Survey – Q3, 2025
Date: July 22nd, 2025

BACKGROUND

M3 Strategies surveyed 752 likely 2026 General Election voters in Illinois from July 15th - July 18th. The survey has a margin of error of 3.57%. Respondents were randomly selected from a pool of individuals who are likely to vote in the 2026 General election and all responses were generated via MMS to web survey.

KEY FINDINGS

Top Issues & Inclination to remain an Illinois Resident

- High Taxes dominate as the top issue statewide, cited by 60% of respondents.
- State Governance (26%), The Economy (25%), and Crime (19%) also register as major concerns.
- Despite frequent media and political focus, Education (17%), Housing (13%), and Immigration (12%) fall further down the priority list.
- 50.1% of respondents say they would prefer to move away from Illinois if given the opportunity. Only 41.0% say they would prefer to stay, and 8.9% are unsure.
 - Notably, Trump voters (86%) are far more likely to want to leave the state than Harris voters (24%), indicating ideological dissatisfaction may be fueling the desire to relocate. Regionally, Southern Illinois (69%) and Central Illinois (55%) voters show the strongest intent to move.

Policy Change Suggestions

- **Tax Relief and Fiscal Reform:** By far the most dominant theme, respondents repeatedly called for lower taxes, especially reductions in property taxes and income taxes. Calls to reduce government spending and eliminate wasteful programs were common, often paired with references to public pensions and fiscal mismanagement.
- **Anti-Chicago Sentiment and Regional Resentment:** Many voters, especially from outside Cook County, expressed hostility toward Chicago's political influence, with frequent mentions of separating Chicago from the rest of Illinois or limiting its dominance in state politics.
- **Education Reform and School Funding:** Education emerged as a significant theme, with voters divided between demands for increased school funding and calls for education reform, especially opposition to teachers' unions and support for school choice.



- **Criminal Justice and Public Safety:** Voters expressed strong concern about crime in Chicago and called for better policing, stricter enforcement, and tougher penalties. The issue was frequently linked with concerns over illegal immigration and sanctuary state policies.
- **Immigration Enforcement:** A notable share of respondents demanded the repeal of Illinois' sanctuary policies, with multiple references to "illegal immigrants" and calls for stronger border control and deportation measures.
- **Government Accountability and Leadership:** Many voters singled out Governor J.B. Pritzker by name, calling for his removal or criticizing his leadership. Terms like "get rid of Pritzker", "replace the governor", and "government reform" were common.

Chicago Teachers Union

- The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) is especially polarizing and unpopular in broader Illinois, with strong unfavorable ratings and a net favorability of -34.15%.

Governor J.B. Pritzker

- Governor Pritzker's favorability decline continues. Where he used to enjoy a modest low single-digit positive net favorability, his net favorability has softened, and for the first time in these ongoing tracking polls, Pritzker has registered a negative net favorability of -2.98%.

Teachers Union Political Contributions

- 37.5% of respondents say they are *less likely* to vote for a candidate that receives contributions from Teachers Unions, while only 24.1% say they are *more likely*, with the remainder indifferent.

TOPLINE RESULTS

Which one or two of the following would you say is the biggest issue facing Illinois right now?

	%
High Taxes	60%
State Governance	26%
The Economy	25%
Crime	19%
Education	17%
Housing	17%
Immigration	16%



Regardless of whether you have any current plans to move or not, if you had the opportunity, would you rather...

	%
Move away from Illinois	50%
Stay in Illinois	41%
Unsure	9%

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Chicago Teachers Union?

	%	Net Favorability
Strongly favorable	10%	21.70%
Somewhat favorable	12%	
No opinion	20%	Net Favorability -34.15%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%	55.80%
Strongly unfavorable	45%	
Never heard of	3.0%	

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker?

	%	Net Favorability
Strongly favorable	34%	47.20%
Somewhat favorable	13%	
No opinion	3%	Net Favorability = -2.988%
Somewhat unfavorable	7%	50.20%
Strongly unfavorable	43%	



Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for public office if they accepted campaign contributions from teachers' unions?

	%	Net Likelihood
Much more likely	6%	15.20%
Somewhat more likely	9%	
No difference	37%	Net Likelihood = -32.733%
Somewhat less likely	14%	47.90%
Much less likely	34%	