

Illinois residents see broad corruption in state government and seek action for change

Analysis of a statewide survey

January 2009

As Illinois residents contemplate the current scandal surrounding Governor Blagojevich, distrust in state government has reached an all time high and two-thirds support the creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois' campaign finance laws (66% support). Another two-thirds would like to see more tax dollars spent on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics (65% support).

Illinoisans are more likely to think of Governor Blagojevich's alleged actions as the norm rather than an aberration in Illinois politics. Nearly six in ten (58%) see Blagojevich's alleged behavior as "common among public officials" in the state compared to four in ten (39%) who say it is unusual. Corruption in state government and the influence of money in state politics top the concerns of Illinois residents for the state (61% and 54% respectively "extremely" concerned). These concerns score even higher than residents' worries about the economy (50%) or jobs (45%).

Opinions of the state legislature are much more negative than they were a few months ago and just as the legislature reconvenes, the public does not have much confidence that lawmakers will address the issue of money in politics. A large majority of voters says a legislator's support for laws to reduce the influence of money in politics would be important to their decision to re-elect their legislator (89%) and half (50%) says it would be "very" important.

The 2009 Belden Russonello & Stewart survey for the Joyce Foundation (www.joycefdn.org) is a random sample telephone survey of adults in Illinois on attitudes toward government and political reform. A total of 802 interviews were conducted by telephone January 5 through 11, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points at the 95% level of tolerance. Some of the questions in the current survey track attitudes from BRS surveys on political reform conducted in 2008 and 2006.

Overview

The 2009 Joyce Illinois statewide survey uncovers seven main points on attitudes toward state government and reforms:

1. Pessimism on the direction of the state and distrust in the Illinois state government has risen over the last few months:
 - Eight in ten Illinois residents (78%) say the state is off on the wrong track, an increase over the 68% who thought so in April-May 2008.
 - Similarly, a large majority (81%) says it only trusts the state government “some of the time” or “almost never.” The percent saying they “almost never” trust the state government rose from 25% in April-May 2008 to 29% this January.
2. Concerns about corruption in state government and the influence of money in state politics top residents’ list of concerns for the state, and these concerns are not likely to dissipate with the departure of the governor.
 - Six in ten (61%) are “extremely” concerned about corruption in state government and over half (54%) about the influence of money in state politics. Concerns of corruption exceed concerns over the economy (50%), jobs (45%), and the state budget (46%).
 - A majority (58%) believes Governor Blagojevich’s alleged behavior is “common” among Illinois public officials, while 39% find it an “unusual and extreme case of corruption.” Concerns about corruption and the influence of money in politics, therefore, are deeper than the current scandal and are likely to continue even if the governor is removed.
3. Even during tough economic times, two-thirds of Illinois residents support the creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois’ campaign finance laws (66% support) and spending more tax dollars on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics (65% support).

4. Strong support exists for a range of reform efforts. Seven in ten to over eight in ten Illinoisans believe each of the reforms tested in the survey will make a difference in helping state government work better. In particular, large percentages believe tougher campaign finance laws and public financing will make a difference in state government:
 - Eight in ten (78%) say passing “tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by corporations to candidates and political parties” will make a difference.
 - Three-quarters say so with regard to “tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by unions to candidates and political parties;” (76%) and “tougher campaign finance laws that limit the amount of money individuals can give to political candidates and political parties” (74%).
 - Seven in ten (71%) believe public financing of political candidates will make a difference in helping state government work better.

5. As the Illinois legislature prepares to reconvene, residents of the state place importance on the legislature addressing the issue of money in politics but hold a generally unfavorable attitude toward the job the legislature has been doing.
 - Nine in ten voters (89%) say their legislator’s support for legislation to reduce money in politics would be important to their decision to re-elect their legislator with half (50%) saying it would be “very” important.
 - Illinois residents, however, hold a decidedly more negative opinion of the state legislature than they did last spring. Nearly half (49%) say the legislature is doing a “poor” job compared to 26% who said so in April-May 2008.
 - And, as the legislature prepares to address the governor’s scandal and the issue of money in politics, public confidence is low. Only 48% of Illinois residents have confidence the legislature will pass new laws to reduce the influence of money in state politics and 51% are not confident.

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6. Although they have little faith in state government, Illinoisans still believe reform efforts are worthwhile.
 - A majority continues to believe it is “worth getting money out of politics” (57%); and
 - Two-thirds (67%) reject the idea that corruption will always be present in state government.

 7. Illinois residents tend to be of one voice as they consider these issues and the job ahead for the state legislature. Even though Republicans voice more criticism than Democrats toward the state government, Democrats, Republicans and independents come together in their concerns about corruption in the state and their support for policy changes:
 - “Limiting the amount of campaign money Republican and Democratic leaders of the legislature are allowed to contribute to other legislative candidates” (Total 71% support; Democrats 71%; Republicans 77%; independents 73%).
 - “State government spending more taxpayer dollars on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics” (Total 65% support; Democrats 63%; Republicans 68%; independents 66%).
 - “Creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois’ campaign finance laws” (Total 66% support; Democrats 71%; Republicans 61%; independents 66%).

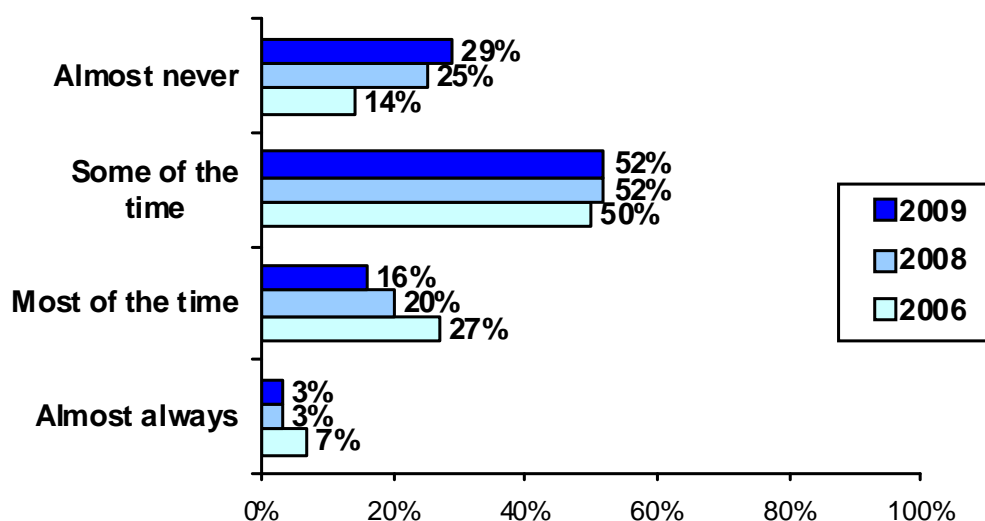
Findings

1. Active distrust in state government rising

Over the last few months, Illinoisans have grown more pessimistic about the direction of their state and more distrustful of the Illinois state government. Eight in ten Illinois residents say the state is off on the wrong track (78%), an increase over the 68% who thought so in April-May 2008. Less than two in ten (18%) currently see the state heading in the right direction. Republicans (88% wrong track) and residents of northwest Illinois¹ (89%) hold the most pessimistic attitudes about the direction of the state.

Residents of Illinois express increasingly sizeable distrust in their state government. Eight in ten (81%) trust the Illinois government to do what is right “only some of the time” (52%) or “almost never” (29%). Sixteen percent trust state government “most of the time” and only three percent “almost always” trust government to do what is right. Distrust of the Illinois state government has greatly increased over the past three years, with the percent saying they “almost never” trust the state government rising from 14% in June-July 2006, to 25% April-May 2008, to 29% this January. Residents most distrustful of state government include men (34% “almost never”) and Republicans (39%).

Trust in State Government to Do What is Right



Q3. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Illinois to do what is right: almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

¹ Illinois counties included in each region outlined in Methodology section at back of this report.

2. Concerns about corruption outrank economy and jobs

Topping Illinoisans' list of concerns are "corruption in state government" and "the influence of money in state politics;" six in ten (61%) say they are "extremely" concerned about corruption in state government, and over half (54%) are "extremely" concerned about money in politics. Corruption and the influence of money in politics outrank all the other concerns included in the survey, including concerns about the state's economy (50%), the state budget (46%), jobs (45%), state taxes (41%), and health care (38%).

Since April-May 2008 Illinois residents' concerns about corruption in state government have increased (49% to 61% "extremely concerned"), as have concerns about the influence of money in politics (46% to 54%). Yet even before the Blagojevich scandal, corruption and the influence of money ranked among the top tier of Illinoisans' concerns in spring 2008, on par with concerns about the economy.

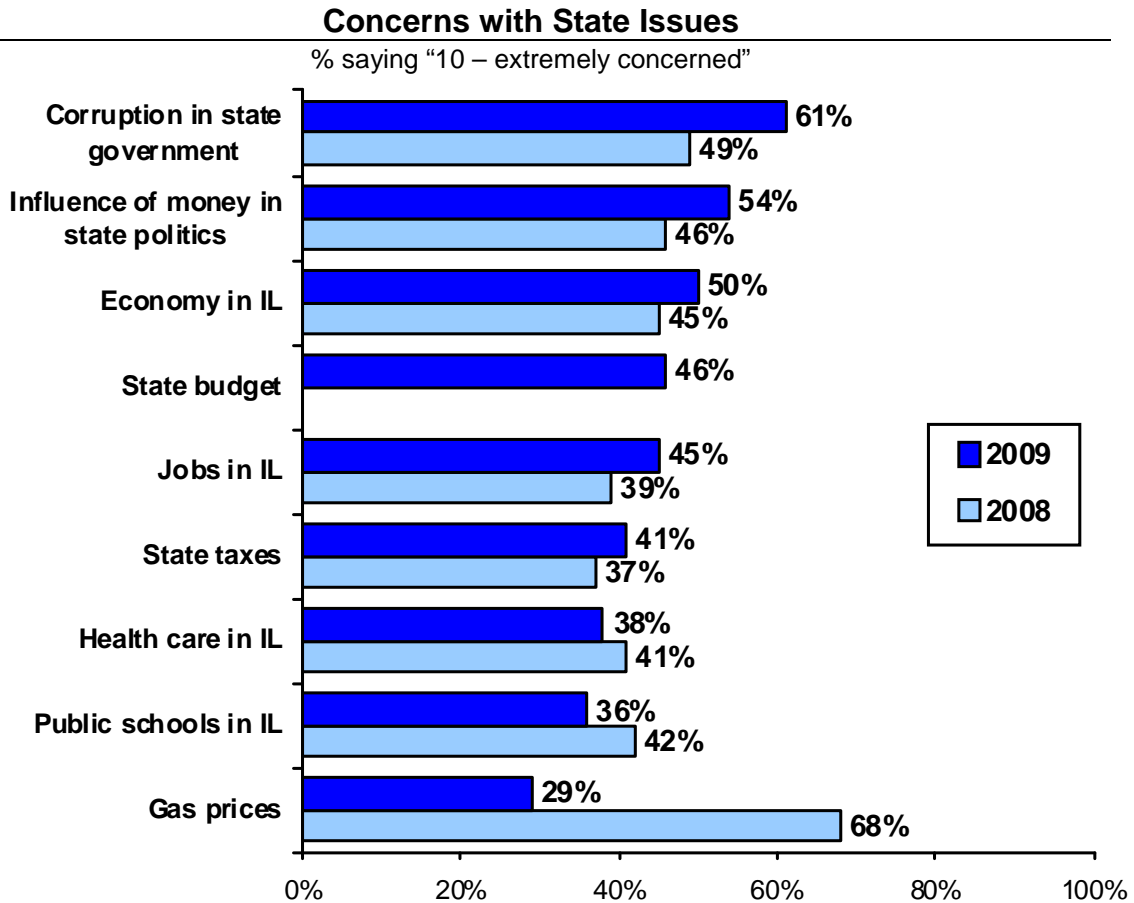
Residents 40 years old and older express more concern than younger residents about corruption in state government and influence of money in politics.

Concern with Corruption and the Influence of Money By Age

On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: Q6. Corruption in state government. Q9. The influence of money in state politics.

<i>% saying "10"</i>	Corruption in state government	Influence of money in state politics
Total	61%	54%
18-39	48%	45%
40-59	72%	65%
60+	69%	53%

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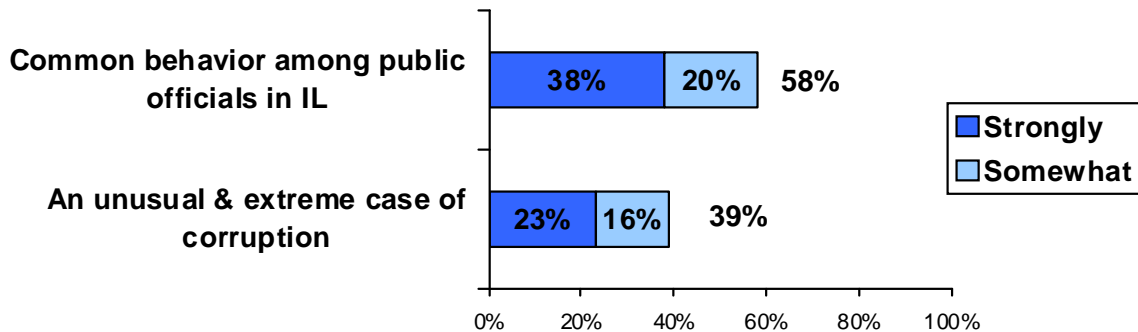
On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: Q6. Corruption in state government. Q9. The influence of money in state politics. Q4. The economy in Illinois. Q12. The state budget. Q13. Jobs in Illinois. Q7. State taxes. Q5. Health care in Illinois. Q8. Public schools in Illinois. Q10. Gas prices.

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

3. Majority believes Governor Blagojevich's alleged behavior is "common" among public officials

The current scandal surrounding Governor Blagojevich serves as a telling illustration of Illinoisans' concerns about corruption and money's influence in their state government. A majority (58%) sees Governor Blagojevich's alleged behavior as "common among public officials" in the state. While four in ten (39%) say the alleged behavior is an "unusual and extreme case of corruption." Overall, those who strongly believe the governor's alleged behavior is common (38%) outrank those who strongly believe the case is unusual and extreme (23%). Majorities of almost all demographic groups across the state see the governor's alleged behavior as common rather than unusual in Illinois politics.

Governor Blagojevich's Alleged Behavior Is...



Q13. Do you think Governor Blagojevich's alleged behavior is an unusual and extreme case of corruption or do you think this type of behavior is common among public officials in Illinois? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you believe this strongly or somewhat?

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

4. Reducing influence of money in politics is a role for Illinois legislature, but body viewed in increasing negative light

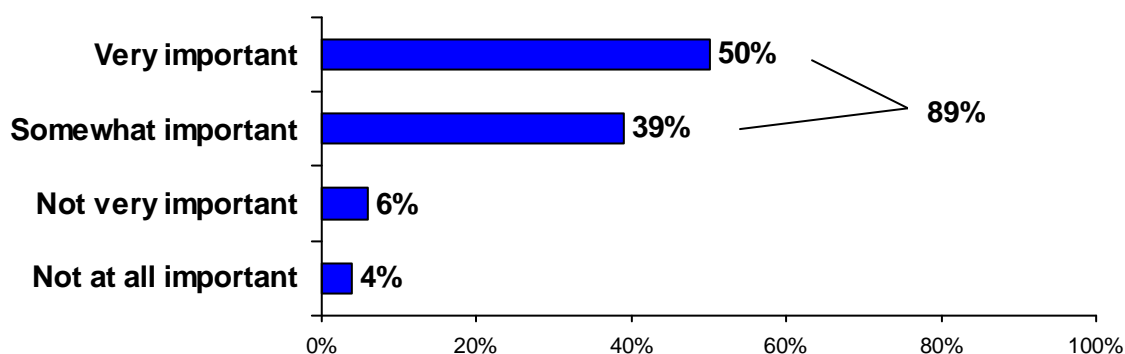
Illinois residents place a fairly high level of importance on their legislature addressing the issue of money in politics, but hold a generally unfavorable attitude toward the job the legislature has been doing.

Among registered voters, over eight in ten (89%) say that if their “state representative repeatedly supported legislation to reduce the influence of money in politics” it would be important in their decision to re-elect their legislator, with half (50%) saying it would be “very” important.

Those who feel strongly about this issue include:

- Voters 40 to 59 (54% “very” important to re-election);
- Voters 60+ (60%); and
- African Americans (63%).

Re-election Based on Support for Reducing Money in Politics

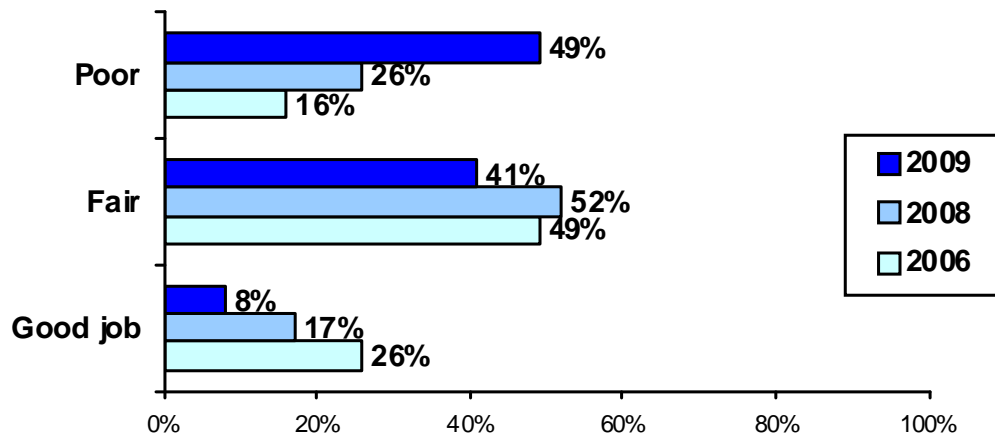


BASE: Registered voters; n=732. Q31. If your state representative repeatedly supported legislation to reduce the influence of money in politics, how important would that be to you in deciding to vote to re-elect your legislator – very, somewhat, not very or not at all important?

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=732 registered voters in Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

Illinois residents' negative opinion of the state legislature's job performance has nearly doubled since last spring and tripled since three years ago. Nearly half (49%) say the legislature is doing a "poor" job compared to 26% who said so in April-May 2008, and 16% who said the same in 2006. Currently, four in ten (41%) say the legislature is currently doing a "fair" job, and only eight percent give it a rating of "good." Men (57% "poor") and Republicans (61%) hold the most negative views.

Increasing Dissatisfaction with State Legislature



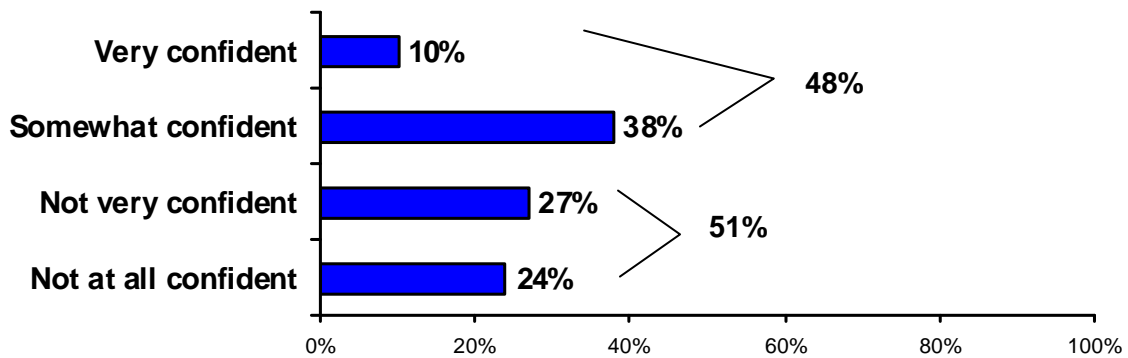
Q2. How would you rate the job that the Illinois state legislature is doing -- a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

As the legislature prepares to address the governor's scandal, public confidence is also lacking on whether lawmakers will reduce the influence of money in state politics. Only 48% of Illinois residents have confidence the legislature will pass new laws to reduce the influence of money in state politics, while a majority (51%) is not confident.

Republicans (61% not confident; 39% confident) and independents (60%; 40%) express much less confidence than Democrats (40%; 58%).

Confidence that the Legislature will Take Action



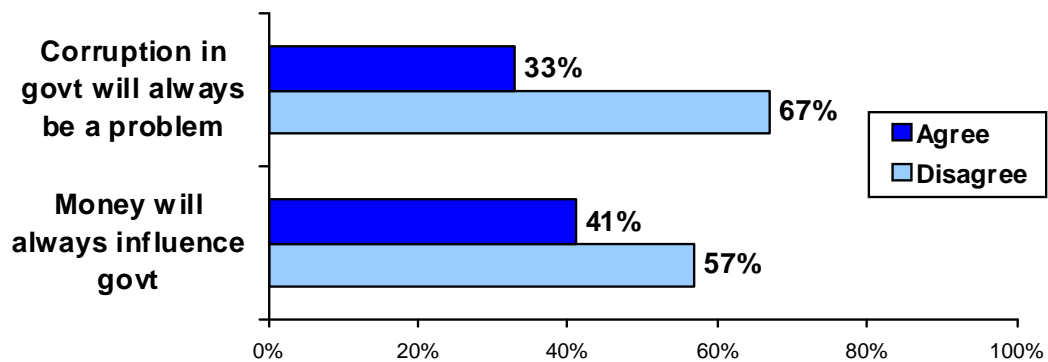
Q14. How confident are you that the Illinois legislature will pass new laws this year to reduce the influence of money in state politics? Very confident, somewhat, not very, or not confident at all?

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

5. Despite waning faith in state government, majorities believe reform efforts are worthwhile

Despite their lack of trust in government, Illinoisans still have hope for change in state government. Two-thirds (67%) reject the idea that “corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference,” while only a third (33%) agrees. A majority (57%) also disagrees that “money will always influence government decisions, so it is not worth trying to reduce the amount of money in politics,” while four in ten (41%) agree.

Belief that Government Can Improve, Reforms Worthwhile



Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Is that strongly or somewhat [agree/disagree]? Q26. Corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference. Q27. Money will always influence government decisions, so it is not worth trying to reduce the amount of money in politics.

Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009

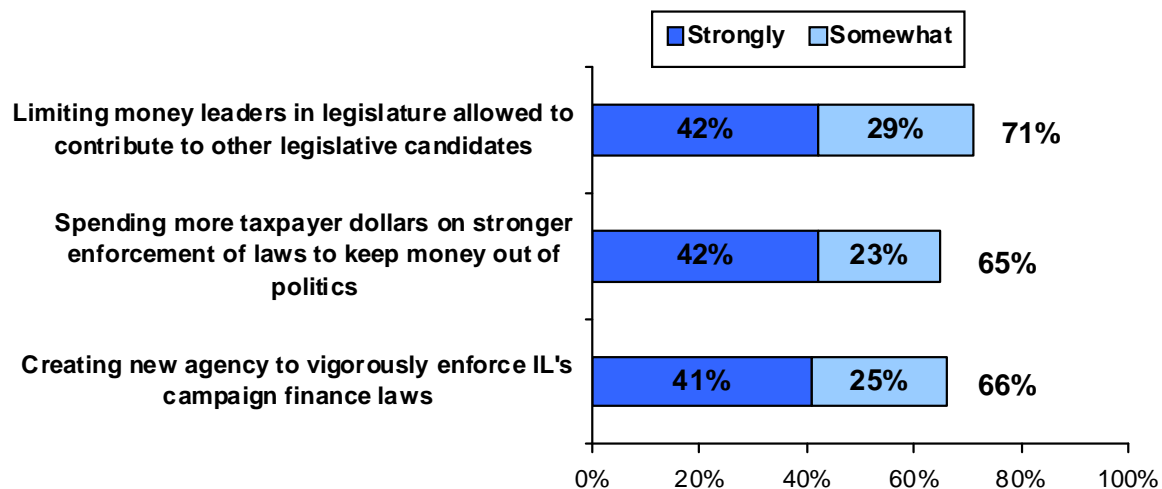
6. Strong support for many reforms, including creating and funding new enforcement agency for state campaign finance laws

All of the specific reforms tested in the survey garner majorities in favor of the policies. Three proposals especially pertinent to the current Blagojevich scandal earn strong majorities in support. These include:

- Seven in ten (71%) support “limiting the amount of campaign money Republican and Democratic leaders of the legislature are allowed to contribute to other legislative candidates” (42% strongly).
- Two-thirds (65%) support “spending more taxpayer dollars on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics” (42% strongly). Residents 60 years old and over “strongly” support this proposal (56%).
- Two-thirds (66%) also supports the “creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois’ campaign finance laws” (41% strongly). Chicago residents (47%) and African Americans (51%) are among the most likely to strongly support the new agency.

Large majorities across the state support each of these reforms, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents.

Support for Reforms



Q24. Would you support or oppose a law limiting the amount of campaign money Republican and Democratic leaders of the legislature are allowed to contribute to other legislative candidates? Do you (support/oppose) that strongly or somewhat? Q25. Would you support or oppose state government spending more taxpayer dollars on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics? Is that strongly or somewhat (support/oppose)? Q23. Would you support or oppose the creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois’ campaign finance laws? Do you (support/oppose) that strongly or somewhat? *Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=802 residents of Illinois, January 5 to 11, 2009*

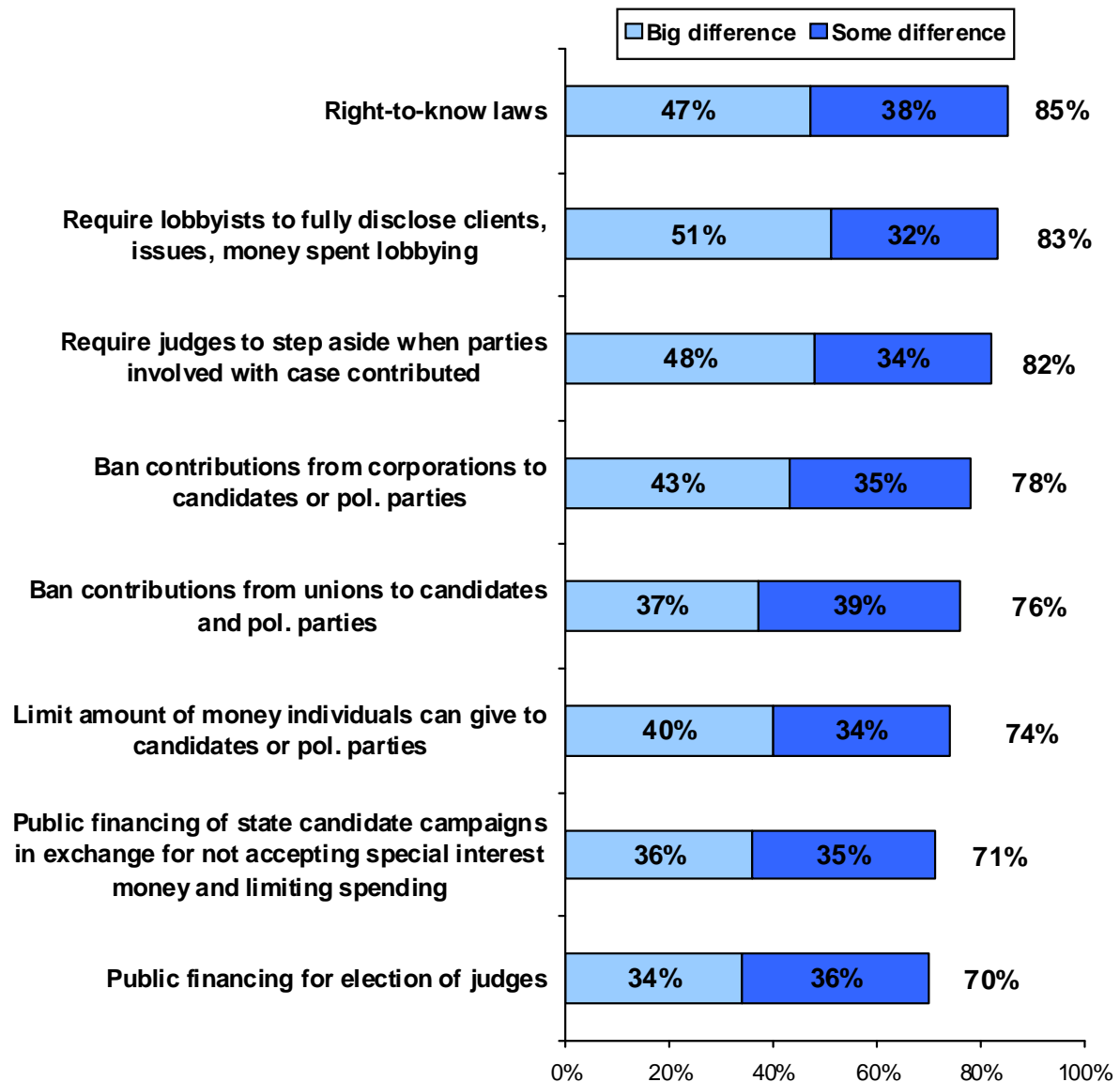
In addition, three-quarters or more of Illinoisans believe reforms related to openness, including right-to-know laws and public reporting for lobbyists, conflict of interest issues with judges, as well as tougher campaign finance laws will make a “difference” in making Illinois state government work better.

- “Right-to-know laws that give the public more access to state government decisions on spending and programs” (85% make a difference; 47% “big difference”).
- “Require lobbyists to fully disclose their clients, what issues they are working on, and the money they spend on lobbying lawmakers” (83% make a difference; 51% “big difference”).
- “Require judges to step aside in cases in which either the lawyers or the parties involved in the case have contributed to their election campaigns” (82% make a difference; 48% “big difference”).
- “Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by corporations to candidates and political parties” (78% make a difference; 43% “big difference”).
- “Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by unions to candidates and political parties” (76% make a difference; 37% “big difference”).
- “Pass tougher campaign finance laws that limit the amount of money individuals can give to political candidates and political parties” (74% make a difference; 40% “big difference”).

Seven in ten, Illinoisans believe reforms that provide state candidates and judges with public financing for their campaigns will make a difference in how their state government works.

- “Use tax dollars to provide state candidates with public funds to run their campaigns in exchange for agreeing not to accept money from special interests and to limit their campaign spending” (71% make a difference; 36% “big difference”).
- Public financing for election of judges – that is letting judges use tax dollars to finance their campaigns rather than asking for contributions from lawyers and special interest groups” (70% make a difference; 34% “big difference”).

Proposals to Make Government Work Better



Thinking again about state government, please tell me whether each of the following would make a big difference, some difference, not much difference, or no difference at all in making government work better.

22. Right-to-know laws that give the public more access to state government decisions on spending and programs. 16. Require lobbyists to fully disclose their clients, what issues they are working on, and the money they spend lobbying lawmakers. 20. Require judges to step aside in cases in which either the lawyers or the parties involved in the case have contributed to their election campaigns. 18. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by corporations to candidates and political parties. 19. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by unions to candidates and political parties. 17. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that limit the amount of money individuals can give to political candidates and political parties. 15. Use tax dollars to provide state candidates with public funds to run their campaigns in exchange for agreeing not to accept money from special interests and to limit their campaign spending. 21. Public financing for election of judges – that is letting judges use tax dollars to finance their campaigns rather than asking for contributions from lawyers and special interest groups.

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Detailed Survey Methodology

The questionnaire used in this study was designed by BRS in close collaboration with the Joyce Foundation and its grantees, which offered valuable insights and contributed much to the thinking that developed the survey questions. Some of the questions were also asked in the 2006 and 2008 Political Reform Surveys and are repeated for tracking changes in public opinion.

The fieldwork was conducted by telephone using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system, from January 5 to 11, 2009 by a team of professional, fully-trained and supervised telephone interviewers. BRS monitored the interviewing and data collection at all stages to ensure quality.

Sample: The universe for the 2009 study is all adults 18 and older in telephone-equipped households in the state of Illinois.

The sample was selected in two stages. In the first stage, the sampling frame was a list of randomly created phone numbers (a technique known as random digit dial or RDD) for telephone exchanges in Illinois. Telephone numbers were selected at random from this frame. The second stage was selection at the household level. In residences where working telephones were reached, the survey respondents were selected using a random probability method, i.e., interviewers requested to speak with the adult 18 years or older in the household who had the most recent birthday.

A total of 802 telephone interviews were completed. All sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population under study were interviewed. The margin of sampling error for the entire survey is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every individual adult in Illinois had been interviewed. The sampling error is larger for smaller groups within the sample. Other non-sampling error may also contribute to total survey error.

Data Analysis: The data have been weighted by age, race, and gender to match the demographics to the proper proportion in the current population of Illinois according to U.S. Census figures. All charts and analysis in the text refer to the weighted data.

Regional breakdown: The five regions used in the study include the following Illinois counties:

Chicago	Chicago Suburbs	Northwest Illinois	Central Illinois	South Illinois
City of Chicago- - Cook	Suburban Cook DuPage Kane Kendall Lake McHenry Will	Boone Bureau Carroll DeKalb Fulton Grundy Hancock Henderson Henry Jo Daviess Knox LaSalle Lee Marshall McDonough Mercer Ogle Peoria Putnam Rock Island Stark Stephenson Tazewell Warren Whiteside Winnebago Woodford	Adams Brown Calhoun Cass Champaign Christian Clark Coles Crawford Cumberland De Witt Douglas Edgar Effingham Ford Greene Iroquois Jasper Jersey Kankakee Livingston Logan Macon Macoupin Mason McLean Menard Montgomery Morgan Moultrie Piatt Pike Sangamon Schuyler Scott Shelby Vermilion	Alexander Bond Clay Clinton Edwards Fayette Franklin Gallatin Hamilton Hardin Jackson Jefferson Johnson Lawrence Madison Marion Massac Monroe Perry Pope Pulaski Randolph Richland Saline St. Clair Union Wabash Washington Wayne White Williamson

About BRS

Belden Russonello & Stewart is a public opinion research and communications firm based in Washington, D.C. Since 1982, BRS has conducted survey and focus group research and communications consulting. Learn more about BRS at www.brspoll.com

2009 Joyce Foundation Illinois Survey

Interviewing conducted January 5 to 11, 2009.

N = 802 adults in Illinois

Margin of sampling error is ± 3.5 percentage points.

The data have been weighted by gender, age and race.

2008: April 21 to May 4, 2008; N = 402 adults (MoE ± 4.9).

2006: June 14 to July 6, 2006; N = 408 adults (MoE ± 4.9).

Percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding.

* indicates less than 1%; -- indicates zero.

Hello, my name is ___ and I am an interviewer with BRS - an opinion research firm. We are conducting a public opinion survey in Illinois and your telephone number was selected at random. We are not selling anything. May I please speak to the person 18 years old or older in your household who had a birthday most recently?
**(IF NECESSARY ARRANGE FOR A CALL BACK AND RECORD DATE AND TIME.
REPEAT INTRO AS NECESSARY)**

1. In general, are things in Illinois going in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?		Right direction	Wrong track	DK/REF
	2009	18%	78	4
	2008	27%	68	5
	2006	43%	42	15

2. How would you rate the job that the Illinois state legislature is doing -- a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?		Good job	Fair job	Poor job	DK/REF
	2009	8%	41	49	2
	2008	17%	52	26	5
	2006	26%	49	16	9

3. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Illinois to do what is right: almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?		Almost always	Most of time	Some of time	Almost never	DK/REF
	2009	3%	16	52	29	*
	2008	3%	20	52	25	--
	2006	7%	27	50	14	2

On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: [RANDOMIZE Q4-Q12]

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	DK/ REF
4. The economy in Illinois	2009	3%	*	1	2	6	5	8	13	12	50	--
	2008	2%	1	1	2	8	5	9	16	10	45	*
	2006	2%	2	3	4	11	6	11	16	9	34	1
5. Health care in Illinois	2009	3%	1	4	3	11	7	10	15	7	38	1
	2008	3%	2	2	4	12	5	9	12	11	41	*
	2006	3%	2	2	2	10	5	10	12	9	45	2
6. Corruption in state government	2009	3%	1	1	*	4	3	6	10	10	61	*
	2008	2%	2	3	1	8	8	9	11	8	49	*
	2006	4%	2	3	2	7	5	9	14	9	43	2
7. State taxes	2009	3%	1	2	2	12	8	8	13	8	41	1
	2008	3%	2	5	4	11	5	11	13	11	37	--
	2006	3%	2	3	3	15	8	8	12	7	38	*
8. Public schools in Illinois	2009	4%	2	2	4	10	9	9	14	9	36	*
	2008	3%	2	2	3	10	5	9	13	10	42	1
	2006	2%	2	2	3	10	6	9	13	8	44	1
9. The influence of money in state politics	2009	3%	1	1	2	5	3	8	13	10	54	1
	2008	2%	2	2	2	6	4	9	15	11	46	*
	2006	2%	3	2	2	9	6	9	15	7	44	1
10. Gas prices	2009	6%	4	5	4	14	8	9	13	7	29	*
	2008	2%	1	1	1	3	3	3	9	7	68	*
	2006	4%	2	*	1	5	2	8	8	7	60	1
11. Jobs in Illinois	2009	3%	1	2	2	8	6	8	15	10	45	*
	2008	3%	1	3	3	10	6	9	17	10	39	*
	2006	2%	1	2	4	12	7	10	18	8	35	1
12. The state budget	2009	2%	1	1	1	8	5	11	14	10	46	*
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13. Do you think Governor Blagojevich's alleged behavior is an unusual and extreme case of corruption or do you think this type of behavior is common among public officials in Illinois? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you believe this strongly or somewhat?												
												23%
												16
												20
												38
												3
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14. How confident are you that the Illinois legislature will pass new laws this year to reduce the influence of money in state politics? Very confident, somewhat, not very, or not confident at all?												
												10%
												38
												27
												24
												1

Please tell me whether each of the following would make a big difference, some difference, not much difference, or no difference at all in making state government work better. [RANDOMIZE 15-22]

	A big diff.	Some diff.	Not much diff.	No diff.	DK/REF
15. Use tax dollars to provide state candidates with public funds to run their campaigns in exchange for agreeing not to accept money from special interests and to limit their campaign spending.	36%	35	13	14	1
16. Require lobbyists to fully disclose their clients, what issues they are working on, and the money they spend lobbying lawmakers.	51%	32	8	8	1
17. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that limit the amount of money individuals can give to political candidates and political parties.	40%	34	12	14	*
18. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by corporations to candidates and political parties.	43%	35	13	8	1
19. Pass tougher campaign finance laws that ban contributions by unions to candidates and political parties.	37%	39	12	11	1
20. Require judges to step aside in cases in which either the lawyers or the parties involved in the case have contributed to their election campaigns.	48%	34	8	9	1
21. Public financing for election of judges - that is letting judges use tax dollars to finance their campaigns rather than asking for contributions from lawyers and special interest groups.	34%	36	14	14	1
22. Right-to-know laws that give the public more access to state government decisions on spending and programs.	47%	38	7	6	1

23. Would you support or oppose the creation of a new state agency to vigorously enforce Illinois's campaign finance laws? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you (support/oppose) that strongly or somewhat?	Strongly support	41%
	Somewhat support	25
	Somewhat oppose	15
	Strongly oppose	17
	DK/ REF	3

24. Would you support or oppose a law limiting the amount of campaign money Republican and Democratic leaders of the legislature are allowed to contribute to other legislative candidates? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you (support/oppose) that strongly or somewhat?	Strongly support	42%
	Somewhat support	29
	Somewhat oppose	15
	Strongly oppose	12
	DK/ REF	2

25. Would you support or oppose state government spending more taxpayer dollars on stronger enforcement of laws to keep money out of politics? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Is that strongly or somewhat (support/oppose)?	Strongly support	42%
	Somewhat support	23
	Somewhat oppose	15
	Strongly oppose	16
	DK/ REF	1

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. Is that strongly or somewhat [agree/disagree]? [RANDOMIZE 26-30]

		Strngly agree	Smwht agree	Smwht disagree	Strngly disagree	DK/ REF
26. Corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference.	2009	18%	15	18	49	1
	2008	18%	15	18	49	*
	2006	20%	18	19	41	1
27. Money will always influence government decisions, so it is not worth trying to reduce the amount of money in politics.	2009	23%	18	22	35	2
	2008	27%	14	19	39	1
	2006	26%	20	16	35	3
28. Unless we limit the influence of money in government, elected officials will not be able to keep their promises on issues that are important to people like me.	2009	42%	26	17	14	2
	2008	46%	29	16	9	*
	2006	45%	28	15	9	3
29. Candidates that could represent me do not run for office because they cannot raise the money needed to win.	2009	36%	19	24	18	2
30. State government does not have much impact on my life.	2009	11%	10	19	59	*
	2008	9%	11	17	64	*
	2006	11%	11	23	52	2

BASE: REGISTERED VOTERS; N=732		
31. If your state representative repeatedly supported legislation to reduce the influence of money in politics, how important would that be to you in deciding to vote to re-elect your legislator - very, somewhat, not very or not at all important?	Very important	50%
	Somewhat important	39
	Not very important	6
	Not at all important	4
	DK/ REF	*
D1. What was the last grade of school you completed?		
<HS	4%	
HS Grad	25	
Some/ tech coll.	27	
4-yr coll. grad	29	
Post-grad work or degree	15	
DK/REF	*	
D2. Which of the following best describes the place where you live: a large city, a small city, a suburb of a city, a small town, or a rural area?		
Large city	26%	
Small city	11	
Suburb	39	
Small town	14	
Rural area	10	
DK/ REF	*	
BASE: COUNTY = COOK; N=337		
D2a. Do you live in the city of Chicago or outside of the city?		
In Chicago	22%	
Outside the City	22	
DK/REF	*	
D3. Are you registered to vote at your current address?		
Yes	89%	
No	11	
DK/REF	*	
D4. In terms of your political outlook, do you usually think of yourself as: [READ LIST; REVERSE ORDER]		
Very liberal	12%	
Somewhat liberal	18	
Middle of the road	32	
Somewhat conservative	25	
Very conservative	11	
DK/ REF	1	
D5. Do you consider yourself to be [ROTATE: a Democrat, a Republican], an independent, or something else?		
Democrat	42%	
Republican	24	
Independent	24	
Something else	6	
DK/REF	4	

D6. In what year were you born? Are you between:	18-29	22%
	30-39	19
	40-49	21
	50-59	16
	60+	21
	DK/ REF	1

D7 and D8. Are you of Hispanic or Latino descent? Would you say you are white, black or African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or something else?	White	69%
	Black or African-American	13
	Hispanic/Latino	11
	Asian	2
	Other	1
	DK/ REF	3

D9. Stop me when I come to the category in which your total HOUSEHOLD income fell before taxes last year. Your best estimate is fine.	<\$25K	13%
	\$25-50K	23
	\$50-75K	18
	\$75-100K	17
	\$100K+	20
	DK/ REF	10

GENDER	Male	48%
	Female	52

ILLINOIS REGION (See county-region breakdown on following page)	Chicago	22%
	Chicago Suburbs	49
	Northwest Illinois	11
	Central Illinois	10
	South Illinois	8
