

Illinois Voters Oppose Extending Temporary Income Tax Increase

March 24, 2014

Tables

Table 1							
Make the Temporary Income Tax Increase Permanent?							
	All	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Strongly Favor	9.6%	17.6	8.4	4.3	14.2	14.3	3.1
Favor	16.9%	23.7	20.3	10.4	23.8	14.3	10.2
Oppose	22.2%	22.6	26.2	20.3	23.6	17.5	23.2
Strongly Oppose	38.1%	24.3	30.42	53.5	25.1	42.9	53.5
Don't Know	13.2%	11.8	14.7	11.5	13.4	11.1	9.9
N= 1001							
Question 1: "Do you favor or oppose a proposal to make permanent the temporary state income tax increase passed in 2011?"							

Table 2	
Making the Tax Increase Permanent: Further Considerations	
Strongly Favor	2.9%
Favor	14.4%
Oppose	28.7%
Strongly Oppose	45.1%
Don't Know	8.8%
N= 603	
Question 2: "The Governor's budget office estimates that if the temporary tax increase expires, it will add \$2 billion dollars a year to the state's budget deficit. If you were convinced this was the case, would you favor or oppose making permanent the temporary income tax increase?"	

Table 3

Approval for Pension Reform Bill							
	All	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Strongly Approve	16.7%	17.2	18.5	15.2	16.4	26.9	17.0
Approve	30.5%	35.1	33.6	26.2	32.2	19.1	30.6
Disapprove	19.2%	18.2	18.5	20.1	19.9	17.5	19.6
Strongly Disapprove	20.01%	17.2	17.5	24.1	18.3	12.7	22.9
Don't Know	13.6%						

Question 3: "Last year the legislature passed and the governor signed a pension reform bill. It is designed to save Illinois' under-funded public employee pension system \$100 billion dollars over 30 years, and would eventually fully fund the system. It would decrease the amount workers' pay into the program, but would also cut cost-of-living increases for state retirees. Generally speaking do you approve or disapprove of the new law?"

Table 4

How to Handle the Budget Deficit?							
	All	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrat	Independent	Republican
More Revenue	9.7%	16.9	5.6	8.0	13.6	6.3	6.5
Cut Waste	52.3%	38.5	52.1	61.2	42.9	57.1	62.6
Combination	28.9%	35.5	35.3	21.1	33.5	25.4	24.7
Haven't Thought	5.0%	6.8	3.5	4.3	6.8	4.8	2.6
Don't Know	4.1%	2.4	3.5	5.4	3.3	6.4	3.7
N= 1001							

Question 4: "The state of Illinois has a budget deficit of over 6 billion dollars. I'm going to read three statements that people have made about how to fix the deficit and ask you which one comes closest to your views. If you haven't thought much about this issue, just tell me that".

"Illinois public programs and services have already been reduced significantly. We can only fix the problem by taking in more revenue, such as a tax increase"

"The state takes in plenty of money to pay for public services, but wastes it on unnecessary programs. We can fix the problem by cutting waste and inefficiency in government"

"Illinois' budget problem is so large it can only be solved by a combination of budget cuts and revenue increases"

Table 5							
Proposals to Cut Spending on Programs							
	K-12	University	Public Safety	Natural Resources	Poor People	Disabled	Pensions
Favor	17.7%	36.7	24.1	31.4	26.2	14.8	41.5
Oppose	78.8%	56.6	71.0	61.1	64.8	82.1	51.1
Don't Know	3.5%	6.7	4.9	7.5	8.9	3.2	7.5
N=1001							
Questions 5: "Do you favor or oppose cuts in state spending on (kindergarten through high school education, universities, public safety, natural resources e.g. state parks, poor people, disabled, pensions)?"							

Table 6					
Proposals for Possible Sources of New Revenue					
	Sales Tax	Broaden Sales Tax	Gambling	Retirees	Retirees Above 50k
Favor	18.2%	43.9%	52.7%	21.8%	42.9%
Oppose	78.7%	53.3%	43.7%	71.6%	49.9%
Don't Know	3.1%	2.9%	3.7%	6.6%	7.8%
N= 1001					
Question 6: "Do you favor or oppose raising the state sales tax rate?"					
"Do you favor or oppose expanding the sales tax to cover services like dry cleaning or haircuts, which are not currently taxed?"					
"Do you favor or oppose a proposal expanding legalized gambling in the state?"					
"Do you favor or oppose applying the state income tax to retirement income, such as pensions and Social Security?"					
"Would you favor or oppose applying the state income tax to retirement income if it exempted from taxes the first \$50,000 earned?"					