

**Appendix:
The Simon Poll Spring 2013
Response Frequencies**

The introduction to the various options for pension reform was read to each respondent: “As you may have heard, the state of Illinois has an unfunded pension liability of about 96 billion dollars. Some say this liability will grow rapidly as more people reach retirement age, and will hurt the state’s ability to fund other services, such as education, public safety, and roads. Others say that pensions are a binding contract between the state and its employees, and can’t be altered or reduced. I’m going to read some proposals that state officials have made to fix the pension liability. For each, please tell me whether you favor or oppose that proposal.”

1. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to suspend retirees’ annual cost of living increase for six years?

Strongly favor	21.8%
Favor	14.7%
Oppose	20.7%
Strongly oppose	36.3%
Other/Don’t know	6.5%

2. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to apply cost-of-living increases only to the first \$25,000 of retirees’ pensions?

Strongly favor	21.5%
Favor	23.7%
Oppose	16.3%
Strongly oppose	28.0%
Other/Don’t know	10.5%

3. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to defer retirees’ cost-of-living increases until they reach age 67?

Strongly favor	30.7%
Favor	27.7%
Oppose	12.8%
Strongly oppose	24.7%
Other/Don’t know	4.2%

4. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to increase the age at which retirees can receive full pension benefits from 65 to 67 years of age?

Strongly favor	35.7%
Favor	21.2%
Oppose	11.7%
Strongly oppose	29.7%
Other/Don’t know	1.8%

5. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to increase the age at which retirees receive state-paid health care benefits from 65 to 67 years of age?

Strongly favor	29.7%
Favor	19.3%
Oppose	14.8%
Strongly oppose	33.8%
Other/Don't know	2.3%

6. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to increase the share that Illinois school districts pay for their employees and to reduce the amount that the state pays?

Strongly favor	21.7%
Favor	23.5%
Oppose	19.3%
Strongly oppose	23.3%
Other/Don't know	12.2%

7. The state of Illinois has a budget deficit of about 4 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 the issue, just tell me that.

First is . . .

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.

Next is . . .

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.

Third is . . .

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

More Revenue	7.5%
Cutting Waste and Inefficiency	54.7%
Combination of Budget Cuts and Revenue Increases	28.8%
Haven't thought much about it	4.5%
Other/Don't know	4.5%

8. Do you favor or oppose a proposal to make permanent the recently passed temporary state income tax increase?

Strongly favor	11.8%
Favor	16.8%
Oppose	19.0%
Strongly oppose	44.3%
Other/Don't know	8.0%

9. Do you favor or oppose expanding the sales tax to cover services like dry cleaning or haircuts, which are not currently taxed?

Strongly favor	16.3%
Favor	21.0%
Oppose	16.0%
Strongly oppose	43.5%
Other/Don't know	3.2%