

Southern Illinois Poll Fall 2013 – Reform Questions

**Table 1 – Favor Open Primaries?**

Currently in Illinois, when voting in a PRIMARY election, the voter has to ask for a specific party’s ballot. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to change the primary-election process in Illinois so that voters do not have to publicly declare which party’s ballot they have chosen?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly favor	62.3%
Somewhat favor	13.4%
Somewhat oppose	7.2%
Strongly oppose	10.2%
OTHER/DON’T KNOW	7.0%

**Table 2 – Term Limits for State Legislators?**

A proposal to limit how long state legislators could serve. It would limit state representatives to five consecutive terms and state senators to three consecutive terms. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly favor	50.1%
Somewhat favor	24.6%
Somewhat oppose	10.7%
Strongly oppose	10.4%
OTHER/DON’T KNOW	4.2%

**Table 3 – Term Limits Make Officials More Responsive?**

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: Term limits help make elected officials more responsive to constituents.

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly agree	39.2%
Agree	34.0%
Disagree	12.2%
Strongly disagree	7.7%
OTHER/DON’T KNOW	7.0%

**Table 4 – Term Limits Hamper Development of Expertise?**

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: Term limits don't give elected officials enough time to develop expertise to handle Illinois' challenging problems.

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Strongly agree	11.4%
Agree	20.6%
Disagree	28.8%
Strongly disagree	34.0%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	5.2%

**Table 5 – Term Limits Ensure New Ideas?**

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: Term limits ensure that we'll get new people with fresh ideas coming into office.

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Strongly agree	46.7%
Agree	39.5%
Disagree	8.2%
Strongly disagree	4.0%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	1.7%

**Table 6 – Term Limits Increase Power of Lobbyists/Staff?**

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: Term limits force legislators out of office, even if their constituents want to keep them, thereby giving more power to lobbyists and unelected staff.

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent Responding</u>
Strongly agree	12.9%
Agree	21.3%
Disagree	28.5%
Strongly disagree	26.3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	10.9%

**Table 7 – Term Limits for Legislative Leaders?**

A proposal to limit how long legislators could serve in leadership positions – such as Speaker of the House or President of the Senate – before they stepped down to let other legislators lead. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly favor	52.1%
Somewhat favor	31.0%
Somewhat oppose	8.2%
Strongly oppose	5.2%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	3.5%

**Table 8 – Limits on Transfer of Campaign Funds by Party Leaders?**

A proposal to limit the amount of campaign money that party leaders can transfer to other candidates in the general election. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly favor	40.7%
Somewhat favor	18.4%
Somewhat oppose	11.4%
Strongly oppose	21.3%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8.2%

**Table 9 – Approve Current Redistricting Plan?**

Currently, when the political parties can't agree on a legislative redistricting plan, they end the stalemate by pulling a party's name out of a hat. The winning political party gets to draw the new legislative district map. Do you approve or disapprove of this tie-breaking process?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly approve	5.5%
Somewhat approve	11.2%
Somewhat disapprove	18.4%
Strongly disapprove	56.6%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	8.4%

**Table 10 – Favor a Neutral Tie-Breaker?**

One proposal for improving the state legislative redistricting process would have the Illinois Supreme Court add a neutral person to the redistricting panel in case of a partisan tie. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly favor	39.2%
Somewhat favor	34.7%
Somewhat oppose	8.9%
Strongly oppose	9.2%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	7.9%

**Table 11 – Favor a Neutral Commission?**

Other people have proposed a constitutional amendment that would have legislative district maps created and recommended by a commission that is independent of the elected representatives. Would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Response	Percent Responding
Strongly favor	32.5%
Somewhat favor	32.3%
Somewhat oppose	11.9%
Strongly oppose	10.7%
OTHER/DON'T KNOW	12.7%