



## May 2011: The Pulse of Illinois

*Results of a poll commissioned by the Illinois Policy Institute*

1. Would you say that things in Illinois are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?  
*13% Right direction  
76% Wrong track  
11% Not sure*
2. Illinois has a budget deficit of more than \$8 billion. When a state has budget problems, is it better to raise taxes or cut spending?  
*11% Raise taxes  
81% Cut spending  
7% Not sure*
3. Generally speaking, would you prefer a more active government with more services and higher taxes or a smaller government with fewer services and lower taxes?  
*17% More services and higher taxes  
71% Fewer services and less taxes  
12% Not sure*
4. State officials passed a 67 percent increase to the Illinois state income tax in January, raising the average household tax bill by approximately \$1500. Do you favor or oppose this tax increase?  
*20% Favor  
74% Oppose  
7% Not sure*
5. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose a measure to limit the growth of government spending to the rate of inflation plus the percentage of population growth?  
*30% Strongly support  
28% Somewhat support  
15% Somewhat oppose  
17% Strongly oppose  
12% Not sure*
6. Does the average government employee in Illinois earn more than the average private sector worker in your state, less than the average private sector worker in your state or do they earn about the same amount?  
*47% More  
13% Less  
18% About the same  
22% Not sure*
7. The cost of public pensions in Illinois is growing rapidly. Are you willing to pay higher taxes to cover the rising costs of government employee pensions, or should future benefits for current workers be reduced?  
*21% Pay higher taxes  
59% Reduce benefits  
20% Not sure*
8. As companies and entrepreneurs consider opening new businesses and establishments in America does Illinois have a more attractive business and political climate than most states, a less attractive climate, or is Illinois about the same as any other state?  
*12% More attractive  
58% Less attractive  
25% About the same  
5% Not sure*
9. As young people in Illinois enter the job market, can they find their ideal job in Illinois, or will they move elsewhere?  
*21% Find ideal job in Illinois  
57% Move elsewhere  
22% Not sure*
10. Which will do more to help create jobs in Illinois—decisions made by government officials to help the economy grow or decisions made by business leaders to help their own businesses grow?  
*22% Decisions by government officials  
56% Decisions by business leaders  
21% Not sure*
11. In reacting to our current economic problems, what worries you more: that government will do too much or that the government will not do enough?  
*42% Too much  
46% Not enough  
13% Not sure*
12. Looking back, were the bailouts of banks, auto companies, and insurance companies good for the United States or bad for the United States?  
*40% Good  
50% Bad  
10% Not sure*
13. Should the federal government provide bailout funding for states with serious financial problems?  
*28% Yes  
56% No  
15% Not sure*
14. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has been doing as President... do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job he's been doing?  
*46% Strongly approve  
14% Somewhat approve  
9% Somewhat disapprove  
28% Strongly disapprove  
3% Not sure*