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February 6, 2009

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SUBJECT: 2009 Illinois General Poll 1

This Chicago Tribune Poll is based on telephone interviews of 500 registered voters in Illinois conducted Wednesday and Thursday evenings, February 4-5. The potential margin of error for the statewide sample of 500 is +/- 4.4% at the 95% level of confidence. Political questions were asked throughout the state. Those findings begin on page 4.

Opinions about Chicago hosting the 2016 Olympics were asked of a sample of 350 in the six-county Chicago metro area that included an over-sample of Chicago residents. Sample area results were weighted to match the actual distribution of voters across state areas. The metro area sample of 350 has a margin of error of +/- 5.2%.

Metro area voters favor Chicago hosting the Olympics by 64% to 28%, a margin of better than two to one. Support is uniform across the metro area. Nearly half strongly favor the plan.

	<u>Whether Favor/Oppose Chicago Hosting The 2016 Chicago Olympics</u>				
	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Cook County</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>	<u>Collar</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Favor (Net)</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>66</u>
Favor strongly	47	47	47	47	46
Favor somewhat	17	15	14	16	20
<u>Oppose (Net)</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>25</u>
Oppose somewhat	10	11	8	15	8
Oppose strongly	18	18	18	19	17
No opinion	8	8	13	4	8
Base:	(350)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)

Q 4. "Chicago is one of four cities competing to host the 2016 Summer Olympics. All things considered, do you FAVOR or OPPOSE Chicago hosting the 2016 Olympic games? [If favor/oppose] Is that favor/oppose strongly or just somewhat?"

In later tables however, issues emerge, the use of tax revenue to help fund the Games in particular.

Local economic expansion is the major advantage of hosting the Olympics for four in ten area residents followed by enhancing Chicago’s worldwide reputation. More suburban residents named economic gain as the primary advantage.

One in five who are opposed to Chicago hosting the Games said there were no advantages. Others opposed named advantages.

Major Advantage Of Chicago Hosting The 2016 Chicago Olympics

	Total	Cook County		Collar	Chicago Olympics			
	Metro	Total	Chicago	Subs.	Counties	Favor	Oppose	No Opin.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Named Advantage (Net)</u> .....	<u>92</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>94</u>
Boost the local area economy .....	<b>40</b>	37	33	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	47	24	45
Enhance city’s reputation worldwide	<b>25</b>	27	28	27	22	27	22	22
Upgrade and improve Chicago’s transit services .....	16	19	20	19	11	14	19	17
The chance to attend Olympic games	8	6	8	4	12	8	11	2
Other advantage .....	2	1	1	1	4	2	1	5
No advantages .....	6	5	6	5	6	-	<b>20</b>	2
Don’t know .....	2	4	4	3	-	2	3	4
Base:	(350)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(220)	(96)	(34)

Q 5a. “Which of these, if any, do you think would be the major ADVANTAGE if Chicago hosted the Olympics... (Shuffle answers)?”

Both Chicago and suburban Cook residents were much more likely to give use of tax revenue as a disadvantage, probably because they would be most affected. Collar counties worry about both use of tax revenue and about congestion, probably road congestion. By a larger margin, opponents of the Games give tax revenue use as the major disadvantage, 55%.

Major Disadvantage Of Chicago Hosting The 2016 Chicago Olympics

	Total	Cook County		Collar	Chicago Olympics			
	Metro	Total	Chicago	Subs.	Counties	Favor	Oppose	No Opin.
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Named Disadvantage (Net)</u> .....	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>98</u>
Use of tax revenue to cover possible deficits .....	41	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	37	33	<b>55</b>	49
Congestion/inconvenience for residents	28	24	22	25	<b>34</b>	33	19	16
Security problems - terrorism threat	18	19	<b>22</b>	16	16	19	15	19
High cost of attending events .....	7	8	7	8	6	6	10	9
Other disadvantage .....	3	2	1	3	4	3	1	5
No disadvantages .....	2	3	3	3	1	3	-	-
Don’t know .....	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2
Base:	(350)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(220)	(96)	(34)

Q 5b. “Which, if any, would be the major DISADVANTAGE if Chicago hosted the Olympics... (Shuffle answers)?”

Over half disagree that nearly all of the cost will likely be covered by revenue other than taxpayer money. This issue appears to drive support for opposition to the Olympics.

	<u>Likelihood That Private Money Will Cover Nearly All Costs</u>							
	Total	<u>Cook County</u>			Collar	<u>Chicago Olympics</u>		
	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No Opin.</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Very/Somewhat Likely (Net)</u>	<b>42</b>	44	49	39	40	<b>56</b>	17	24
Very likely	9	11	13	9	4	11	5	6
Somewhat likely	34	33	36	29	36	45	12	18
<u>Not too/Not at all Likely (Net)</u>	<b>54</b>	54	49	59	56	40	<b>82</b>	71
Not too likely	31	28	25	31	37	27	38	45
Not at all likely	23	26	24	28	19	14	44	26
No opinion	3	2	2	3	4	4	1	5
Base:	(350)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(220)	(96)	(34)

Q 6. “Chicago Olympics officials say nearly all of the cost of the Games will be paid for with PRIVATE money - not TAXPAYER money. How likely do you think PRIVATE money will cover nearly all the cost ...very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?”

Last month, the Tribune reported new plans to use future tax revenue to finance the event, a departure from what organizers promised months ago.

If tax revenue were used to cover a possible revenue shortfall, three in four would oppose its use.

	<u>Whether Approve Of Using Tax Revenue To Cover Loss</u>							
	Total	<u>Cook County</u>			Collar	<u>Chicago Olympics</u>		
	<u>Metro</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>	<u>Counties</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No Opin.</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	23	24	20	28	22	34	3	9
Disapprove	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>77</b>	63	<b>97</b>	87
No opinion	2	3	4	1	1	3	1	4
Base:	(350)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(220)	(96)	(34)

Q 7. “Suppose there is a revenue shortfall for the Olympics – would you APPROVE of using tax revenue to cover the loss ...or DISAPPROVE?”

All groups voice opposition including 63% of those initially in favor of the plan.

**ILLINOIS POLITICS**

The order of Roland Burris and Pat Quinn opinion questions were rotated so that each name came first in half of the interviews. The questions were preceded with “Here are names of people who may or may not be known in your area.”

Given the circumstances of Burris’ appointment to the Senate, his favorability rating could have been worse. He has a 2:1 favorability ratio, an even higher ratio among Democrats. A plurality has no opinion.

	Opinion of Roland Burris								
	State	Cook County			Collar Counties	Down-State	Party ID		
		Total	Chicago	Subs.			Dem	Ind.	GOP
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Heard Of (Net)	95	95	95	95	97	93	95	96	93
Favorable	34	40	51	29	38	25	46	25	24
Unfavorable	18	19	16	21	14	19	13	18	26
No opinion	43	36	28	44	45	48	37	53	43
Never Heard of	5	5	5	5	3	7	5	4	7
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q 8a. “Senator Roland Burris, is your opinion of him favorable, unfavorable, do you have no opinion, or have you never heard of him?”

Opinion of Pat Quinn is much higher, 49% to only 6% unfavorable. More Cook County voters appear to withhold an opinion.

	Opinion of Pat Quinn								
	State	Cook County			Collar Counties	Down-State	Party ID		
		Total	Chicago	Subs.			Dem	Ind.	GOP
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Heard Of (Net)	94	95	96	95	96	92	94	95	95
Favorable	49	39	44	33	58	53	49	50	46
Unfavorable	6	10	11	8	4	3	5	5	7
No opinion	40	47	41	53	34	36	40	39	41
Never Heard of	6	5	4	5	4	8	6	5	5
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q 8b. “Governor Pat Quinn, is your opinion of him favorable, unfavorable, do you have no opinion, or have you never heard of him?”

Voters are divided on whether or not Burris should run next year for the office.

	Whether Would Like To See Burris Run For Senate Next Year								
	State	Cook County			Collar Counties	Down-State	Party ID		
		Total	Chicago	Subs.			Dem	Ind.	GOP
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Like to see him run	37	41	47	35	41	31	43	36	29
Not like to see him run	33	36	32	40	33	31	31	33	39
Don’t know	29	23	21	25	26	38	26	31	32
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q 9a. “Roland Burris was appointed U.S. Senator after Barack Obama was elected. Next year, would you LIKE to see Burris run for election to the Senate...or would you NOT LIKE to see him run?”

Quinn scores much higher than Burriss on running for election next year - about half would like to see him run.

However, Quinn does best *outside* of Cook County, a county that in the past has cast about 60% of the statewide Democratic primary vote. Quinn’s support is consistent regardless of party. One would expect more support from Democrats but they are no more supportive than Republicans and Independents.

	<u>Whether Would Like To See Quinn Run For Governor Next Year</u>								
	<u>State</u>	<u>Cook County</u>			<u>Collar Counties</u>	<u>Down-State</u>	<u>Party ID</u>		
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>			<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind.</u>	<u>GOP</u>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Like to see him run	<b>48</b>	40	41	40	<b>63</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>45</b>
Not like to see him run	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	23	24	9	9	15	12	19
Don’t know	37	36	36	36	27	45	36	41	36
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q 9b. “How about Pat Quinn, next year, would you LIKE to see Quinn run for election as Governor...or would you NOT LIKE to see him run?”

Over half say ethics reform would halt political corruption in state government. Most say somewhat likely - not very likely. Democrats are more supportive.

About four in ten say it’s doubtful, 38%.

	<u>How Much Measures Such As Ethics Reform Would Eliminate Corruption</u>								
	<u>State</u>	<u>Cook County</u>			<u>Collar Counties</u>	<u>Down-State</u>	<u>Party ID</u>		
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>			<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind.</u>	<u>GOP</u>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>Very/Somewhat Likely (Net)</u>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>
Very likely	14	14	17	11	14	13	19	10	9
Somewhat likely	43	42	38	47	39	46	46	45	35
<u>Not too/Not at all Likely (Net)</u>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>
Not too likely	22	23	22	24	29	17	19	21	30
Not at all likely	16	16	16	16	15	16	11	20	20
No opinion	5	5	7	3	3	7	5	4	6
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q 10. “How much do you believe tougher measures such as ethics reform will eliminate corruption in Illinois state government.....very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not at all likely?”

In a question asking which of a list of measures would be best for curbing political corruption, more favored greater access to government records, term limits, or limiting campaign donations.

	<u>Which Step Would Be Best For Curbing Corruption In Illinois</u>								
	<u>State</u>	<u>Cook County</u>			<u>Collar Counties</u>	<u>Down-State</u>	<u>Party ID</u>		
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>			<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind.</u>	<u>GOP</u>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Greater access to all government records including internal investigations....	<b>31</b>	30	<b>38</b>	23	<b>26</b>	34	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	22
Term limits for elected officials.....	<b>26</b>	26	24	27	<b>27</b>	25	25	23	<b>29</b>
Limit donations to political campaigns	<b>20</b>	18	17	19	<b>27</b>	17	21	19	21
Allow elections to recall public officials	12	12	8	16	12	11	9	13	16
Taxpayer financed funding of political campaigns.....	2	4	4	4	1	1	2	3	3
Other .....	2	1	1	-	3	2	*	4	2
None.....	2	3	2	5	1	1	2	2	1
Don't know .....	6	6	6	7	2	8	6	3	7
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q11. "Which ONE of these steps would be best for curbing political corruption in Illinois....(Shuffle answers)?"

Illinois voters have a very low opinion of their state on political corruption compared with the rest of the states in the nation.

Some 27% say their state is one of the worst in the nation and another 36% say more corrupt than many states. Only 31% say Illinois is about the same as other states. More Chicago voters and Democrats say Illinois is not that much different than most other states.

	<u>How Illinois Corruption Compares With Other States</u>								
	<u>State</u>	<u>Cook County</u>			<u>Collar Counties</u>	<u>Down-State</u>	<u>Party ID</u>		
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Chicago</u>	<u>Subs.</u>			<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind.</u>	<u>GOP</u>
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<u>One Of The Most/More (Net)</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>70</u>
One of the most corrupt in the nation	<b>27</b>	26	25	27	23	32	23	34	28
More corrupt than many states	<b>36</b>	31	26	37	40	38	34	34	32
<u>Same As/Less Than Most (Net)</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>26</u>
About the same as most states	31	37	<b>43</b>	31	34	23	<b>38</b>	29	22
Less corrupt than most states	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	-	4
Don't know	4	3	4	3	2	5	3	2	4
Base:	(500)	(255)	(180)	(75)	(95)	(150)	(253)	(118)	(103)

Q 12. "Which of these statements best describes the extent of political corruption in Illinois compared with other states, Illinois is....?"