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Interviews: 807 Illinois voters
Dates: April 15-18, 2011

FINAL

Study #10238
AFL-CIO IL Pensions Survey
April 2011

47 Male
53 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

(ASK TO SPEAK WITH PERSON ON QUOTA SHEET. ONLY THIS PERSON IS ELIGIBLE TO BE INTERVIEWED.)
I'm calling from Hart Research, a national public opinion polling firm. We are conducting a survey here in Illinois, and we would really appreciate the chance to get your opinions on a few questions. This survey is being conducted for research purposes only. You will not be sold anything, and your individual opinions will be kept completely confidential

1. First, does anyone in this household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, an advertising agency, or a market research firm?

No	100	CONTINUE	[138]
Yes	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

2. Are you currently registered to vote at this address?

Yes, registered	100	CONTINUE	[139]
No, not registered	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

3. I'm going to name several public figures and groups. Please rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you are not familiar with a name, just say so.

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
Pat Quinn	7	19	29	17	20	8	[144]
Democrats in the Illinois State legislature....	10	25	21	19	21	4	[145/152]
Republicans in the Illinois State legislature .	7	21	27	23	18	4	[146/153]
Unions that represent public employees.....	24	23	18	18	14	3	[147/154]
Politicians	3	10	32	33	20	2	[148/155]
Public employees *	23	30	29	10	3	5	[149]
Wall Street financial firms *.....	3	8	28	29	22	10	[150]
Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker *.....	14	10	16	8	29	23	[151]
Illinois public employees **	16	29	34	12	5	4	[156]
Corporate CEOs **	4	13	33	24	21	5	[157]
The Koch Brothers **	2	3	12	2	9	72	[158]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

4. Which do you think should be a higher priority for state government right now –(A) holding down taxes or (B) maintaining public services?

	4/11	3/09	
(A) Holding down taxes	51	47	[159]
(B) Maintaining public services.....	43	39	
Both/neither (VOL).....	NA	12	
Not sure	6	2	

Next I'm going to ask some questions about pensions for public employees, meaning teachers, firefighters, police officers, and other people who work in jobs in state, county, or city government.

5. Thinking about (READ ITEM) when it comes to the pensions that they receive, would you say that the pensions they receive are too generous, about the right amount, or not generous enough? (IF "TOO GENEROUS," ASK:) And would you say the pensions that they receive are much too generous or somewhat too generous?

	Much Too Generous	Somewhat Too Generous	About The Right Amount	Not Generous Enough	Not Sure	
Public employees in Illinois	20	19	36	13	12	[160]
Public school teachers in Illinois.....	15	13	36	25	11	[161]

6. From what you know, do public employees in Illinois make contributions to their pension fund, or do state and local governments make all of the contributions?

Public employees make contributions	48	[162]
State and local governments make all the contributions	16	
Not sure	36	

- 7a/b. As you may know, there have been several budget shortfalls in Illinois over the past few years. From what you know, have public employees had their pension benefits reduced to help deal with state and local budget deficits? (IF "YES," ASK:) Is that reduced a lot or a little?

Yes, Public Employees Have Had Their Pension Benefits Reduced	29	[163-164]
A lot	10	
A little	13	
Not sure.....	6	
No, public employees have NOT had their pension benefits reduced	45	
Not sure.....	26	

- 8a/b. As you may know, Illinois currently has a pension debt of seventy billion dollars in unfunded pension liabilities for public employees. Which statement comes closer to your point of view –(A) public employees should receive the pensions they were promised, despite these deficits, or (B) given the state's budget problems, we just cannot afford to pay the full pensions of public employees? (IF "STATEMENT A" OR "STATEMENT B," ASK:) And do you strongly or somewhat agree with that statement?

Statement A/Public Employees Should Receive Their Pensions	60	
Strongly agree	43	[165-166]
Somewhat agree	17	
Statement B/We Cannot Afford To Pay The Full Pensions	34	
Somewhat agree	13	
Strongly agree	21	
Not sure.....	6	

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1a. Are you a member of a labor union?

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT UNION MEMBERS IN Q.F1a.)

F1b. Is anyone else in this household a member of a labor union?

Labor union member.....	18	[277-278]
Labor union household	9	
Nonunion household.....	69	
Not sure	4	

F2. Can you tell me whether you, or anyone else in this household, is a public employee--that is, are employed by federal, state, or local government, a public school system, or some other governmental agency?

Yes, public employee household	24	[279]
No, not public employee household.....	72	
Not sure	4	

F3a. How would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say that you are mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

Mostly Democratic.....	32	[280]
Leaning Democratic.....	10	
Completely independent	21	
Leaning Republican.....	12	
Mostly Republican	19	
Not sure.....	6	
Total Democratic	42	
Total Republican.....	31	

F3b. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal.....	23	[308]
Moderate	35	
Conservative.....	34	
Not sure.....	8	

F4a/b. Are you currently employed for pay? Are you currently employed? **(IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** What type of work do you do? **(IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

Yes, currently employed.....	57	[309-310]
No, not currently employed	43	
Student.....	4	
Stay at home.....	5	
Retired	25	
Unemployed, looking for work.....	5	
Not sure	4	

F5. Which of the following categories contains your total HOUSEHOLD income before taxes last year?

Less than twelve thousand dollars	6	[311-312]
Twelve thousand dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars	8	
Twenty-five thousand dollars to thirty-five thousand dollars	8	
Thirty-five thousand dollars to fifty thousand dollars	11	
Fifty thousand dollars to sixty-five thousand dollars	10	
Sixty-five thousand dollars to seventy-five thousand dollars	8	
Seventy-five thousand dollars to one hundred thousand dollars	13	
One hundred thousand dollars to one hundred fifty thousand dollars	10	
More than one hundred fifty thousand dollars	6	
Not sure.....	20	

F6. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school	-	[313-314]
Some high school	2	
High school graduate	20	
Some college, no degree	20	
Vocational training/2-year college	9	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	26	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	3	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree	14	
Doctoral/law degree	2	
Not sure	4	

F7. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24.....	6	[140-141]
25-29.....	8	
30-34.....	7	
35-39.....	8	
40-44.....	8	
45-49.....	9	
50-54.....	11	
55-59.....	11	
60-64.....	9	
65-69.....	8	
70-74.....	6	
75 and over.....	8	
Refused	1	

F8a/b. Again, for statistical purposes only, are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background? (IF "NOT HISPANIC," ASK:) And to ensure that we have a representative sample, what is your race--white, black, Asian, or something else?

Hispanic.....	4	
White	80	[142-143]
Black.....	13	
Asian	1	
Other	1	
Not sure/refused	1	