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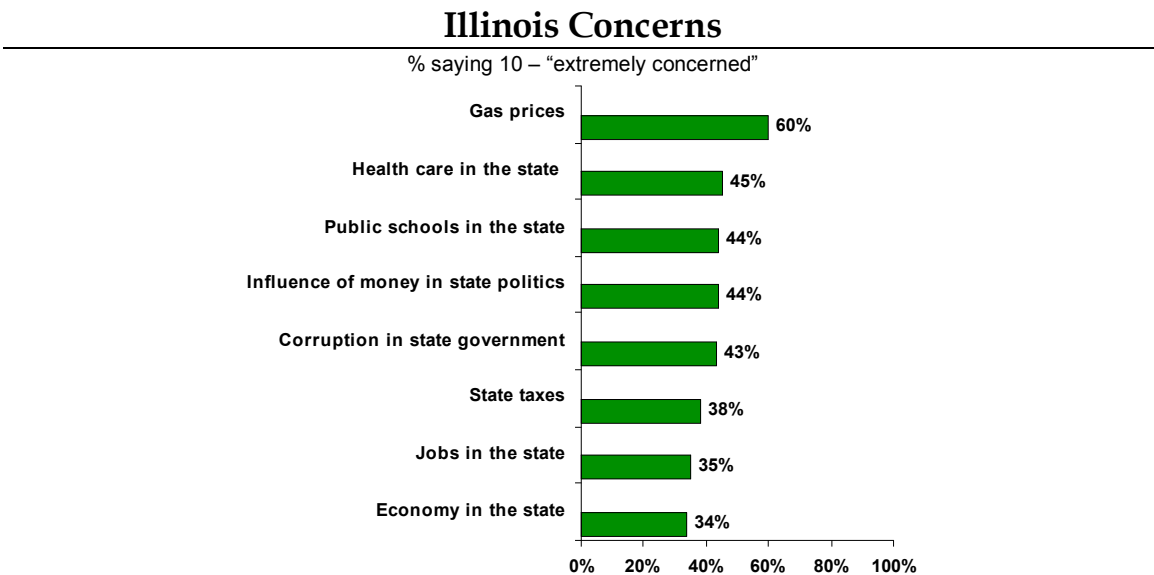
**Illinois at a glance.....**

Concerns about money and corruption in politics have become top-tier issues on par with healthcare, education and taxes in Illinois, according to state specific results in the Joyce Foundation survey on political reform. The opinion poll also points out that a solid majority of Illinois residents believe that the influence of money in politics stands in the way of elected officials honoring their campaign promises on key policy issues.

Given their level of concern, however, Illinoisans believe that an honest and accountable state government is attainable. In fact, Illinoisans strongly support of a political reform agenda that focuses on specific judicial, special interest, and campaign finance initiatives.

**Below is a summary and comparison of key Illinois findings:**

**Illinoisans are concerned about making state government work better...**



Q. On a scale of one to ten where ten means extremely concerned and one means not concerned at all, how concerned are you personally about each of the following issues in your state: [RANDOMIZE Q6-Q13]

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 12. Gas prices                | 11. The influence of money in state politics |
| 7. Health care in [STATE]     | 6. The economy in [STATE]                    |
| 13. Jobs in [STATE]           | 8. Corruption in state government            |
| 10. Public schools in [STATE] | 9. State taxes                               |

*Joyce Foundation Survey conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, n=2040 residents of 5 Midwestern states (Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin), June 14-July 6, 2006*

Honesty is the most important value Illinoisans want in state government. 75 percent of residents stated that honesty was “extremely important,” rating it a “10” on a 1-10 scale.

65 percent of Illinois residents believe a state government that is “responsive to the needs of all people” is “extremely important.”

### **Connecting the dots...**

73 percent of Illinois residents believe that “unless we limit the influence of money in government, elected officials will not be able to keep their promises on issues that are important to people like me.” 45 percent of Illinois citizens “strongly agreed.”

### **Citizens are engaged and are not giving up...**

60 percent of Illinois residents disagree with the statement that “corruption in government will always be a problem, so trying to fix it will not make much difference.”

### **Reforms widely supported....**

61 percent of Illinois residents feel that prohibiting judges from taking money from interests that may have cases in their courts would make a big difference in making government work better.

61 percent of Illinois residents feel that requiring lobbyists to fully report their activities would make a big difference in making government work better.

60 percent of Illinois residents believe public financing of campaigns would make a big difference in making government work better.

### **Statement from Cindi Canary of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform**

Over the past several years, the citizens of Illinois have been worn down by what seems to be a never-ending cycle of political and government scandal, so it is not surprising to see that the electorate is feeling less than satisfied with the status quo.

What may be surprising to some in Springfield, however, is that Illinoisans fully understand the adverse effect money and corruption have on their lives. For too long, political and government reform have been passed off as the concern of a small minority. In reality, a majority of Illinois residents want action on very tangible reforms that would help restore trust in government.

All of us at the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform are eager to reverse the current course. Today's poll gives us new momentum in our quest to make political and government reform a reality. The people of Illinois demand it.

(Additional information about the five-state survey as well as reform recommendations for Illinois can be found on the Illinois Campaign for Political Reforms' web site at [www.ilcampaign.org](http://www.ilcampaign.org).)

*The Joyce Foundation Survey was conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart. A random survey of 2,040 residents of five Midwestern states was conducted from June 14-July 6, 2006. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points for the entire study. The margin of sampling error for individual state results is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.*

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