

# **Illinois Statewide Fair Maps Study**

## **Summary of Key Findings**

## Summary

Cynicism, rejection of the establishment, and a sentiment that the system is unfair and rigged is common and pronounced in today's political environment. Within this context, Illinois' voters express similar sentiments about the process of drawing legislative maps, with a super majority feeling it is unfair.

These underlying sentiments fuel significant support for an independent redistricting commission. Support for the commission is pervasive throughout the State and among voters of all political persuasions.

The voters feel the Governor's support of a commission as a candidate should be honored. Further, his support could garner additional positive sentiment among the electorate by a margin of 3 to 1. Voters expressing that their view of the Governor would be more favorable with his support of the commission extends to all areas of the State and among base Democratic voters and Independents. The only deviation to this earned favorable sentiment is among GOP voters, where entrenched partisanship creates resistance to favorable opinions.

This issue is not a groundbreaking topic that can significantly shift views of the Governor or change trends. However, within the context of the current political environment, it is an issue that can earn the Governor favorable marks among base Democratic voters and Independents throughout the State on a reform agenda that addresses the current anti/unfair sentiments among voters.

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## The Redistricting Process is Unfair

When asked about the fairness of the drawing of legislative districts, eight-out-of-ten (80%) voters in Illinois feel it is unfair while only 10% say it is a fair process.

These opinions are pervasive in all regions of the State, with a high of 84% unfair in the Collar Counties and a comparable 78% unfair in Chicago and Southern Illinois.

- Men and women (both = 80% unfair) and voters under age 50 (78% unfair), and age 50+ (81% unfair) hold similar opinions as all voters.
- The process is viewed as unfair by 79% of Democrats, 79% of Independents and 83% of Republicans, with a spike up to 85% unfair among GOP women.
- The process is viewed unfair by 83% of white voters and a significant three fourths (74%) of minority voters, including 70% of African Americans and 77% of Latinos.

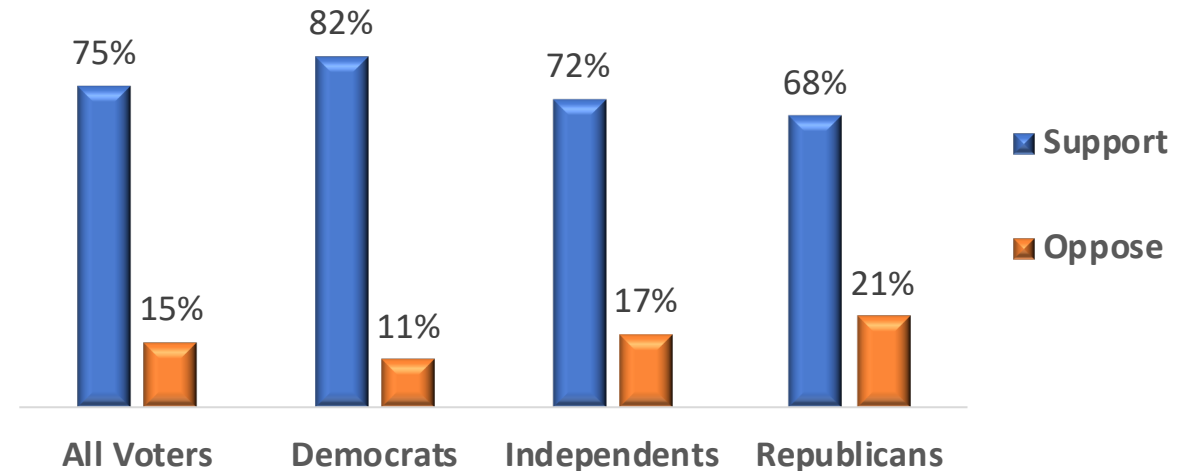
## Support an Independent Commission to Draw Legislative Districts

*Now, state legislators are currently considering a proposal to allow a constitutional amendment to be placed on the November ballot which, if approved by voters, would allow for the creation of an independent commission to handling the drawing of legislative districts. If allowed on the ballot and approved by voters, this non-partisan commission would be in charge of creating the future legislative district maps and would work independent of elected officials.*

*Knowing this information, do you **[Rotate Choices]** **support** or **oppose** the Illinois General Assembly allowing the question of forming an independent commission to handle the drawing of legislative districts be put on the November ballot? (Would that be Strongly or Somewhat Oppose/Support?)*

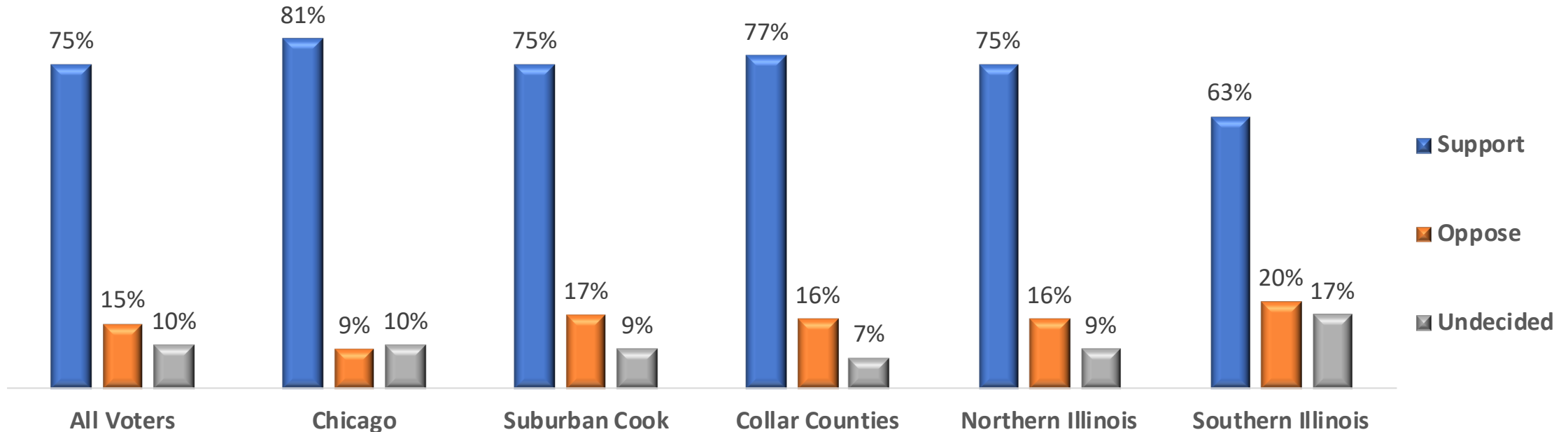
- Support for an independent commission to draw legislative districts is significant with three-fourths (75%) is favor of it, and nearly half (46%) strongly supportive of the proposal.
- Only 15% are opposed to the proposed reform.

### Support of Independent Commission by Self-ID Party



## Support an Independent Commission to Draw Legislative Districts

### Support of Independent Commission by Region



- Support is high in all regions of the State: Chicago (81%), Suburban Cook County (75%), Collar Counties (77%), Northern Illinois (75%) and Southern Illinois (63%; more are undecided = 17%).
- The independent commission is supported by 82% of Democrats, 74% of Independent men, **71% of Independent women**, and 68% of Republicans, including 69% of GOP women.
- Significant support is found among white voters (77%), Latinos (73%), and African Americans (67%).

## Endorse an Independent Redistricting Commission

*During his campaign for governor, JB Pritzker stated his support for a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission to draw legislative maps.*

*To what extent do you **agree** or **disagree** that the Governor has an obligation, now that he's elected, to publicly endorse a constitutional amendment to create an independent redistricting commission and to publicly and privately work with legislative leaders to put such an amendment on the November ballot? (**Would that be Strongly or Somewhat Agree/Disagree?**)*

- There is significant agreement that the Governor should endorse the independent commission, with three fourths (74%) agreeing that a public endorsement is needed, with 43% strongly in agreement.
- High levels of agreement is found among all segments of partisans including all Democrats (82%, 87% Dem. Men), Independents (72%, 76% Ind. Women), and nearly two-thirds of Republicans (64%).

## Makes Voters More Favorable of the Governor

*If Governor JB Pritzker publicly and privately endorsed a constitutional amendment and worked with legislative leaders to put an independent redistricting commission constitutional amendment on the November ballot, would that make you **[Rotate Choices]** more or less favorable toward the Governor, or would his support of the independent redistricting commission make **[Always Last Choice]** no difference in your opinion of Governor Pritzker? (**Would that be Much or Somewhat More/Less favorable?**)*

With a 3:1 ratio, the Governor could earn more favorable opinions via an endorsement of the proposal.

- One-third of all voters would view the Governor more favorably with an endorsement while only 9% would view him less favorably, with much of that coming from detracting GOP voters.
- Slightly more than half (54%) say it would make no difference in their opinion.
- Endorsement earns more favorable sentiment among voters in Chicago (43%), those under age 35 (37%), and Democratic men (58%, Women at 39%).
- The issue appeals to the Governor's Democratic Base – 46% more favorable, as well as among Independents regardless of gender – 32% more favorable to 10% less favorable.
- It has comparable value among voters under age 50 (34% more favorable) and age 50 and older (32% more favorable) with a modest uptick among men under age 50 (37% more favorable).

# Appendix



# Favorability Ratings



## JB Pritzker

Substantive Recognition: 95%  
Rated Positively: 39% (14% Very Positive)  
Rated Neutral: 19%  
Rated Negatively: 36% (25% Very Negative)

The Governor is universally known. His most favorable ratings arrive out of Chicago (58% Total Positive, 22% Very Positive) and Suburban Cook County (46%, 11%). Pritzker is rated more critically in Southern Illinois (54% Total Negative, 43% Very Negative) and Northern Illinois (47%, 34%).

The State's Independent voters are net negative about Pritzker (29% Total Positive to 39% Total Negative), with Independent men being more critical of the Governor than Independent Women.

# Favorability Ratings



## Donald Trump

Substantive Recognition: 99%  
Rated Positively: 38% (29% Very Positive)  
Rated Neutral: 5%  
Rated Negatively: 56% (51% Very Negative)

Donald Trump is universally recognized . His ratings are significantly more positive in Southern (56% Total Positive) and Northern (52%) Illinois. His most negative ratings arrive from Chicago (83% Total Negative) and Suburban Cook County (64%).

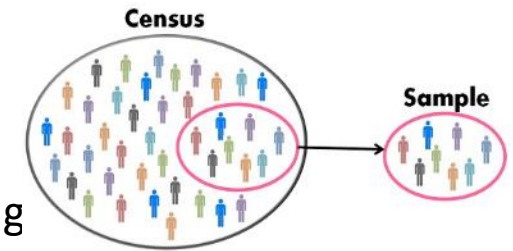
Trump's ratings diverge by gender, with men being more positive about him (46% Total Positive, 37% Very Positive) and women more negative about him (66% Total Negative, 60% Very Negative).

The State's Independent voters are net negative on Trump (31% Total Positive to 57% Total Negative).

# Methodology

Change Illinois commissioned the survey. The survey was conducted in partnership with Fako Research & Strategies, Inc. (FR&S) of Lemont, Illinois and Margin of Era Research of Darien, Illinois. Data was collected by professional interviewers by phone on February 4 – 6, 2020. A random sample of n=603 registered voters that are likely to vote in the 2020 General election within the State of Illinois were interviewed.

The interviews lasted an average of 5 minutes. Scientific sampling techniques using a listing of active registered voters within the State of Illinois was used to give all voters living in a telephone- equipped household, or with a listed cell phone number, an equal chance of being interviewed.



Cellular phones were included within the sample and accounted for 67% (402 Completed Interviews) of all weighted interviews. The interviews were conducted in proportion to gender and regional shares of the population based on known demographics. Weighting was applied to Race, Age, and Gender to bring these groups into closer proportion to known demographics. The survey has an overall margin of error of +/- 3.99% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if the survey were replicated the results would be consistent for 95 out of 100 cases. The margin of error is higher among the various sub-groups.

# Regional Definitions

Regions	Definition	Percent
<b>Region 1</b> “City of Chicago”	City of Chicago	<b>19%</b>
<b>Region 2</b> “Suburban Cook”	Cook County less City of Chicago	<b>19%</b>
<b>Region 3</b> “Collar Counties”	Counties: DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will	<b>25%</b>
<b>Region 4</b> “Northern Illinois”	Counties: Adams, Boone, Brown, Bureau, Carrol, Cass, Champaign, DeKalb, DeWitt, Ford, Fulton, Grundy, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, Mclean, Menard, Mercer, Ogle, Peoria, Piatt, Putnam, Rock Island, Sangamon, Schuyler, Stark, Stephenson, Tazwell, Vermillion, Whiteside, Winnebago, and Woodford.	<b>23%</b>
<b>Region 5</b> “Southern Illinois”	Counties: Alexander, Bond, Calhoun, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, Lawrence, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Perry, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Scott, Shelby, St. Clair, Union, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, and Williamson.	<b>14%</b>