

Jan. 2008 Illinois Opinion Monitor

Every 20 years, the citizens of Illinois decide if the state should hold a new constitutional convention, for the purpose of preparing a new state constitution. Our current constitution dates from 1970. In 1988, voters chose not to hold a new convention. The next vote on will take place in the November 2008 general election. How do you feel about holding a constitutional convention?

- 1 Strongly Support
- 2 Support
- 3 Don't know
- 4 Oppose
- 5 Strongly Oppose

concon support	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
strongly support	159.34697	15.97	15.97
support	225.682407	22.61	38.58
don't know	433.197295	43.41	81.99
oppose	102.602669	10.28	92.27
strongly oppose	77.1706591	7.73	100.00
Total	998	100.00	

concon support	str Dem	Dem	Ind Dem	Ind	Ind Rep	Rep	str Rep	Total
strongly support	24.34	9.68	20.31	15.42	20.78	5.58	10.45	16.30
support	18.87	34.74	26.71	15.72	17.52	23.36	21.10	22.37
don't know	43.09	42.71	34.81	54.38	37.19	52.28	38.26	43.12
oppose	7.92	10.96	15.49	7.96	8.33	11.30	13.40	10.60
strongly oppose	5.78	1.90	2.68	6.52	16.19	7.47	16.78	7.60
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

concon support	education						Total
	no hs	high schl	some coll	2-year	4-year	post-grad	
strongly support	25.29	10.41	18.50	16.66	22.07	18.73	15.97
support	14.57	21.85	28.01	28.83	20.34	14.92	22.61
don't know	36.00	49.08	38.52	42.57	37.79	44.19	43.41
oppose	10.19	8.59	11.67	7.04	11.32	15.24	10.28
strongly oppose	13.94	10.08	3.30	4.91	8.48	6.92	7.73
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

concon support	agegrp				Total
	18-39	40-49	50-59	60 plus	
strongly support	16.17	15.24	17.79	14.39	15.97
support	25.59	23.09	23.02	17.70	22.61
don't know	48.02	47.52	39.38	37.71	43.41
oppose	5.19	8.87	13.36	15.18	10.28
strongly oppose	5.04	5.27	6.44	15.02	7.73
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

How persuasive do you find the following arguments AGAINST holding a constitutional convention?

Incumbent politicians would control the convention.

incumbent control	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	337.516091	34.76	34.76
somewhat persuasive	270.4870001	27.86	62.62
not persuasive	116.948855	12.04	74.66
not at all persuasive	57.1225666	5.88	80.54
don't know	188.925487	19.46	100.00
Total	971	100.00	

Special interests would control the convention.

special int. control	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	410.6000755	42.46	42.46
somewhat persuasive	266.223517	27.53	69.99
not persuasive	72.119758	7.46	77.45
not at all persuasive	51.3842172	5.31	82.76
don't know	166.672433	17.24	100.00
Total	967	100.00	

Delegates to the convention would not be able to agree on provisions, so there would be a stalemate.

delegates stalemate	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	184.968555	19.23	19.23
somewhat persuasive	246.357387	25.61	44.84
not persuasive	228.63503	23.77	68.60
not at all persuasive	97.3059434	10.11	78.72
don't know	204.733085	21.28	100.00
Total	962	100.00	

The current constitution works sufficiently well.

current const works	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	163.54117	16.93	16.93
somewhat persuasive	216.8318312	22.45	39.38
not persuasive	200.836776	20.79	60.17
not at all persuasive	147.518612	15.27	75.44
don't know	237.2716109	24.56	100.00
Total	966	100.00	

Delegates to the convention would not represent interests of people like me.

delegates don't represent me	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	345.7625141	35.72	35.72
somewhat persuasive	227.298395	23.48	59.20
not persuasive	132.587348	13.70	72.90
not at all persuasive	67.5689884	6.98	79.88
don't know	194.782755	20.12	100.00
Total	968	100.00	

How persuasive do you find the following arguments FOR holding a constitutional convention?

Conventions are the only way to give ordinary people a say in how Illinois state government is run.

conventions give people say	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	222.326959	22.90	22.90
somewhat persuasive	321.799793	33.14	56.04
not persuasive	162.642185	16.75	72.79
not at all persuasive	99.9532699	10.29	83.08
don't know	164.277793	16.92	100.00
Total	971	100.00	

State government is not working well at present, and only fundamental constitutional change can fix it.

fundamental const change	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	276.544991	28.63	28.63
somewhat persuasive	294.966568	30.53	59.16
not persuasive	134.583056	13.93	73.09
not at all persuasive	66.8758181	6.92	80.02
don't know	193.029566	19.98	100.00
Total	966	100.00	

There are a few major reforms that would improve government in the state but that cannot be passed except by having a convention.

conventions needed to pass major reforms	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	221.683431	23.04	23.04
somewhat persuasive	310.5528205	32.28	55.33
not persuasive	144.997171	15.07	70.40
not at all persuasive	62.9429248	6.54	76.94
don't know	221.8236526	23.06	100.00
Total	962	100.00	

1970 is a long time ago and our constitution is undoubtedly out of date in some ways.

out of date	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	236.4136663	24.50	24.50
somewhat persuasive	239.606264	24.83	49.33
not persuasive	164.157394	17.01	66.34
not at all persuasive	159.359731	16.51	82.85
don't know	165.462945	17.15	100.00
Total	965	100.00	

There is no risk; if the convention produces a bad constitution, the public can simply vote not to enact it.

no risk	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
very persuasive	222.295456	22.99	22.99
somewhat persuasive	228.167463	23.60	46.58
not persuasive	163.013731	16.86	63.44
not at all persuasive	160.656779	16.61	80.06
don't know	192.8665716	19.94	100.00
Total	967	100.00	

Suppose that voters do decide to hold a constitutional convention. For each of the proposals below, how would you feel about it being included in the next constitution?

Provisions for recall of elected officials

provisions - recall provisions	str Dem	Dem	Ind Dem	pid7 Ind	Ind Rep	Rep	str Rep	Total
strongly support	41.72	28.04	52.02	51.00	73.37	44.99	57.91	48.44
support somewhat	26.58	29.09	30.34	23.70	12.54	25.54	16.06	24.16
don't know	19.43	35.84	13.28	21.39	13.65	28.34	14.11	20.71
oppose somewhat	7.01	4.86	3.35	3.48	0.43	1.13	9.69	4.67
strongly oppose	5.27	2.17	1.01	0.42	0.00	0.00	2.22	2.02
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Term limits for members of the General Assembly

general assembly term limits Total	str Dem	Dem	Ind Dem	pid7 Ind	Ind Rep	Rep	str Rep	Total
strongly support	46.04	34.27	45.63	53.01	63.91	43.24	57.25	48.38
support somewhat	29.04	36.73	25.86	15.39	17.87	29.91	20.19	25.58
don't know	14.69	17.26	11.48	26.21	13.98	22.76	8.26	16.08
oppose somewhat	8.49	9.59	11.82	2.21	4.24	3.21	7.75	7.14
strongly oppose	1.74	2.14	5.21	3.17	0.00	0.87	6.54	2.83
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00