

Chicago 2016 Assessment

August 8-11, 2016

N=600 Past Mayoral Voters

Q5. Which of the following issues should the Mayor and City Council make their top priority?	Crime and police issues	34%	
	Schools and education	35%	
	Reducing taxes	15%	
	Reducing budget deficit	10%	
	Infrastructure like roads	4%	
	[VOL] Don't Know	3%	
Q6. When it comes to managing budget priorities for Chicagoans, who do you trust more-- Rahm Emanuel or Bruce Rauner?	Rahm Emanuel	51%	
	Bruce Rauner	23%	
	[VOL] Both	1%	
	[VOL] Neither	23%	
	[VOL] Don't Know	3%	
Q7. Which of the following statements do you agree with more?	I'd rather pay more in taxes and get more services from the city of Chicago	29%	
	I'd rather pay the same in taxes and get the same services from the city of Chicago	44%	
	I'd rather pay less taxes and get less services from the city of Chicago	20%	
	[VOL] Don't know/Refused	6%	
	Q8. As you may know, Chicago has faced a budget deficit for years and continues to face one today. Which approach would you prefer most when it comes to shrinking the budget deficit?	Raising taxes like property taxes and other fees	53%
Cutting services like schools and police officers		24%	
[VOL] Don't know/Refused		23%	
Q9. Which of the following do you think is most responsible for Chicago's budget problems?		Past mayors and city councils for making promises we couldn't afford	37%
	Springfield and Bruce Rauner for the state's budget mess that is hurting Chicago	21%	
	Washington, DC and Republicans in Congress for cutting programs and funds for large cities like Chicago	10%	
	Pensions and benefits for city workers that are far too high	12%	
	The current mayor and city council for not fixing the problem	12%	
	[VOL] Don't know/Refused	8%	
	Q10. If the city is going to pay the pensions it has promised to city workers, which of the following would you rather the city do to pay for that?	Raise taxes like property taxes and other fees	53%
		Cut services like schools and police officers	25%
[VOL] Don't know/Refused		22%	

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Q11. And let me read you a list of services the city may provide. Please tell me whether you'd be willing or unwilling to pay more in taxes for that service.

Q11A. More police officers on foot and vehicle patrols	Very willing	35%
	Somewhat willing	31%
	Total willing	66%
	Somewhat unwilling	17%
	Very unwilling	14%
	Total unwilling	32%
[VOL] Don't Know/Refused		3%
Q11B. More funding for school construction, teachers, and science and technology improvements at schools	Very willing	33%
	Somewhat willing	31%
	Total willing	64%
	Somewhat unwilling	16%
	Very unwilling	18%
	Total unwilling	33%
[VOL] Don't Know/Refused		2%
Q11C. Creating free universal full-day Pre-K classes for all four year olds in the city	Very willing	29%
	Somewhat willing	28%
	Total willing	57%
	Somewhat unwilling	16%
	Very unwilling	25%
	Total unwilling	41%
[VOL] Don't Know/Refused		3%
Q11D. More neighborhood services like rat abatement, tree trimming, and road paving	Very willing	21%
	Somewhat willing	35%
	Total willing	56%
	Somewhat unwilling	22%
	Very unwilling	19%
	Total unwilling	41%
[VOL] Don't Know/Refused		3%

As you may know, the Illinois Supreme Court recently struck down an agreement between the city of Chicago and its employees. The court ruling will mean hundreds of millions in additional pension costs for Chicago. Mayor Emanuel and city workers have agreed to a plan to protect the last of the four city pension funds for the long-term. It asks newly-hired workers to pay three percent more each year toward their pensions. Households will pay about fifteen dollars more per month on their city water bills, except for seniors whose increase will be half as much. If this agreement does not happen, the city's debt will increase and future payments could be larger.

Q12. Do you favor or oppose this proposal between Mayor Emanuel and city workers?	Strongly favor	20%
	Somewhat favor	42%
	Total favor	61%
	Somewhat oppose	15%
	Strongly oppose	17%
	Total oppose	32%
[VOL] Don't know/Refused		6%

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Q13. Which of these are the best reason to support this agreement, whether you favor the agreement or not?	This is the fourth of four pension funds that Chicago has now put on a stable funding path, and this will finally put Chicago on a path towards fixing its budget mess	18%
	We made promises to people who keep us safe, teach our kids, and keep Chicago running. We can't go back on our promises to those people who worked hard their whole lives	31%
	If we don't make this agreement, the pension fund and the city risk going bankrupt. That means even bigger tax hikes and cuts to critical services later	14%
	If we don't fix the budget and pensions, Chicago's budget problems will force businesses to leave costing us thousands of jobs in neighborhoods and millions in tax revenue	16%
	[VOL] Don't know/Refused	21%

QUESTIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES

Q14. Sex	Male	43%
	Female	57%
Q15. Age	18-34	15%
	35-49	24%
	50-64	31%
	65+	25%
	[VOL] Refused	5%
Q16. Are you a current or retired member of a labor union?	Yes - current	14%
	Yes - retired	14%
	Yes - household	8%
	Total Yes	35%
	No	60%
	[VOL] Don't Know/Refused	5%
Q17. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?	High school or less	12%
	Some college	25%
	Four-year college graduate	29%
	Post-graduate school	29%
	[VOL] Don't know/Refused	5%
Q18/19. Race	White	43%
	African American	35%
	Hispanic	14%
	Asian	2%
	Other	1%
	[VOL] Don't Know/Refused	5%
Q20. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent?	Democrat	56%
	Indep/ lean Democrat	9%
	Republican	9%
	Indep/ lean Republican	5%
	Independent	12%
	[VOL] Other/Don't Know	9%

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Q21. Who did you vote for in the Mayoral Runoff election last April - Rahm Emanuel or Chuy Garcia?	Rahm Emanuel	44%
	Chuy Garcia	36%
	[VOL] Don't Know/Refused	20%
Congressional District	1	19%
	2	9%
	3	10%
	4	11%
	5	21%
	7	19%
	9	11%

****Due to rounding, "totals" of the individual components may differ by +/-1.**