

April 19, 2017

To: Illinois Economic Policy Institute
From: Brian Stryker / Pia Nargundkar
Re: IL Route 53 Expansion Polling Results

Lake County registered voters heavily support the IL Route 53 expansion (66% favor / 18% oppose), and by a 2:1 margin voters say they would be more likely to vote for their Board member if they voted for the proposal (40% more likely / 18% less likely). Most people believe it will help reduce traffic (76%), and most voters say they'd use it at least monthly (60%).

Key Findings

- **Most Lake County voters have heard about the expansion.** Almost 1 in 5 voters (18%) say they have heard “a lot” about the proposed project, with a total of 51% who say they've heard “a lot” or “some.” Voters who live in the townships in the proposed route are more likely to have heard about it (63% have heard at least some).
- **Voters favor the route expansion.** Voters were posed the following question:

“As you may know, the Illinois Tollway is considering a 25-mile extension of Route 53 further north. Do you favor or oppose extending Route 53 in Lake County?” (66% favor / 18% oppose)
- The extension gets majority support from Republicans (73%), Independents (71%), and Democrats (59%). Importantly, it also has strong support (69%) from people who live in the townships the expansion will run through. There's especially strong support for the proposal among:
 - Voters who have heard a lot or some about it (74% favor / 20% oppose)
 - The 39% of voters who think they'd use the road at least weekly (87% favor)
- **2014 midterm voters support the plan (67% favor / 27% oppose).** They are twice as likely to vote for a Board member who expands Route 53 (41% more likely / 20% less).
- **Voters believe that the expansion will reduce traffic—a big driver of support.** Fully 76% of voters agree that “extending Route 53 will alleviate traffic congestion in Lake County”, and those voters overwhelmingly support the road (78% favor / 9% oppose).

ALG conducted a survey on cellphone and landline telephones among N=400 registered voters in Lake County, Illinois. The poll was conducted February 15-21, 2017 and has an expected margin of sampling error of +4.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.