

INDEPENDENT CENTER VOICE

Survey Toplines — Illinois — 4th Congressional District

District Benchmark Survey · 2026 Election Cycle

Methodology

Survey of 653 registered voters in IL-04; median margin of error ± 3.8 percentage points; field period: July 2026.

All percentages are unweighted and reflect the composition of the sample as collected. Each figure is the Total % of the stated base, rounded to whole numbers, so responses may not sum to 100%. Multiple-response questions (e.g., top-three issue selection and racial identification) and per-candidate blocks may sum to more than 100. Aggregate rows (e.g., TOTAL DEMOCRAT) are sums of the categories that follow and are shaded for reference. Question codes in brackets match the analysis report and banner books. This study utilizes a multi-frame sampling design combining live telephone calls and Short Message Service (SMS) outreach. No post-stratification weighting was applied; figures correspond directly to the field vendor's benchmark tables.

Q1. How likely are you to vote in the November 2026 midterm elections? [Screener 3]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Very likely	91%
Somewhat likely	9%

Q2. Thinking about the upcoming election this November, which of the following best describes the MAIN reason you are motivated to turn out and vote? [Screener 4]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
There is a specific candidate running who I really like and want to support.	2%
I am primarily voting to oppose a specific candidate and make sure they do not win.	8%
I always vote because I see it as my civic duty, regardless of who is on the ballot.	66%
I am motivated to vote because of a specific issue or policy that is deeply important to me.	19%
I never usually vote, but I am thinking that I will this year	1%
Unsure	4%

Q3. In politics today, and regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a...

[Party ID]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	52%
Strong Democrat	36%
Not so strong Democrat	16%
TOTAL INDEPENDENT	26%
Independent leaning Democrat	10%
Independent	9%
Independent leaning Republican	7%
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	15%
Not so strong Republican	4%
Strong Republican	11%

Response	%
Other	5%
Unsure	2%

Q4. Your gender identification? [Gender]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Female	50%
Male	49%
Other	1%

Q5. In which county do you currently reside? [County]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Cook	91%
Du Page	9%

Q6. What is your race or ethnicity? [Race]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
White or Caucasian	53%
Black or African American	8%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	45%
Asian or Pacific Islander	4%
Native American or American Indian	3%
Other	5%

Q7. Which of the following categories best describes your age? [AgeRange]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
18 to 24	3%
25 to 34	9%
35 to 44	21%
45 to 54	22%
55 to 64	20%
65 or older	25%

Q8. What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed? [Education]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
High School or Less	25%
Some college, Associate degree, or technical school	32%
4-year college graduate (Bachelor's degree) or higher	42%

Q9. We want to classify households into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total annual household income to be...? [Income]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Less than \$30,000	8%
\$30,000 to \$54,999	11%
\$55,000 to \$100,000	25%
More than \$100,000	40%
Prefer not to answer	16%

Q10. If the election were held today, for whom would you vote? [Congressional ballot]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Chris Getty, the Independent	9%
Patty Garcia, the Democrat	34%
Lupe Castillo, the Republican	15%
Ed Hershey, Working Class Party	4%
I would not vote	1%
Unsure	37%

Q11. And would you say you are definitely supporting them, or just somewhat? [Strength of support (by candidate)]

Base: Among each candidate's current supporters

Response	%
Chris Getty — Definitely supporting	39%
Chris Getty — Somewhat supporting	40%
Chris Getty — Unsure / could still change my mind	21%
Patty Garcia — Definitely supporting	45%
Patty Garcia — Somewhat supporting	38%
Patty Garcia — Unsure / could still change my mind	17%
Lupe Castillo — Definitely supporting	53%
Lupe Castillo — Somewhat supporting	36%
Lupe Castillo — Unsure / could still change my mind	11%
Ed Hershey — Definitely supporting	26%
Ed Hershey — Somewhat supporting	41%
Ed Hershey — Unsure / could still change my mind	33%

Q12. At this time next year, do you think that you will personally be better or worse off than you are today? [GSPS]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL BETTER OFF	38%
Much better off	11%

Response	%
Somewhat better off	26%
TOTAL WORSE OFF	29%
Somewhat worse off	21%
Much worse off	8%
Unsure	33%

Q13. At this time next year, do you think America will be better or worse off than it is today? [GSAS]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL BETTER OFF	25%
Much better off	9%
Somewhat better off	16%
TOTAL WORSE OFF	52%
Somewhat worse off	25%
Much worse off	26%
Unsure	23%

Q14. Please select and rank the top three most pressing issues in America today from the list below, where 1 is the most pressing, 2 is the second most pressing, and 3 is the third most pressing. [Most pressing issue]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Economy	34%
Government	19%
Health Care	15%
Immigration	13%
Social Issues	7%
International concerns	5%
Environment	5%
Education	4%

Q15. Regarding the economy, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTEC]

Base: Most Pressing On Economy Issue

Response	%
Jobs	14%
Unemployment	5%
Taxes	21%
Food prices/inflation	59%
Other	2%

Q16. Regarding social issues, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTSI]*Base: Most Pressing On Social Issue*

Response	%
Crime	34%
Equality	11%
Civil liberties	32%
Abortion	17%
Other	6%

Q17. Regarding education, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTED]*Base: Most Pressing On Education Issue*

Response	%
School choice	27%
Student loans	27%
Testing standards	19%
Other	27%

Q18. Regarding the environment, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTEV]*Base: Most Pressing On Environment Issue*

Response	%
Climate change	87%
EPA	6%
Energy regulations	6%
Other	0%

Q19. Regarding international issues, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTIN]*Base: Most Pressing On International Issue*

Response	%
Trade	12%
Foreign policy	25%
Global affairs/conflicts	56%
Other	6%

Q20. Regarding health care, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTHC]*Base: Most Pressing On Health Care Issue*

Response	%
Medicare	20%
Medicaid	2%
Affordable Care Act	12%

Response	%
Cost of health care	64%
Other	2%

Q21. Regarding the government, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTGA]

Base: Most Pressing On Government Issue

Response	%
Political extremism	64%
Polarization	12%
The role of elected officials	21%
Other	4%

Q22. Regarding immigration, which of the following do you see as the most important aspect of that issue? [GSTIM]

Base: Most Pressing On Immigration Issue

Response	%
Legalization & citizenship	54%
Border security	43%
Refugee resettlement	1%
Other	2%

Q23. Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Donald Trump is doing? [STA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL APPROVE	23%
Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	10%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	74%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	67%
Unsure	3%

Q24. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing? [GSCA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL APPROVE	13%
Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	12%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	81%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	58%
Unsure	6%

Q25. When it comes to your political philosophy, where would you place yourself on the following scale? [PSY]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
0 - Very liberal / Progressive	17%
1	4%
2	10%
3	9%
4	8%
5 - Moderate / Centrist	26%
6	6%
7	6%
8	4%
9	3%
10 - Staunch / Strong conservative	7%

Q26. In the perfect world, where on the following scale, would you like to see America's elected officials stand politically? [PSEO]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
0 - Strongly along Democratic lines	21%
1	4%
2	7%
3	8%
4	9%
5 - Centrist / Independent	26%
6	5%
7	5%
8	3%
9	2%
10 - Strongly along Republican lines	9%

Q27. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — Donald Trump]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	22%
Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable	9%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	74%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%
Very unfavorable	68%

Response	%
Never heard of	1%
Unsure	3%

Q28. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — The Republican party]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	24%
Very favorable	11%
Somewhat favorable	13%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	69%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	54%
Never heard of	1%
Unsure	7%

Q29. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — The Democratic party]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	51%
Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	32%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	43%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	26%
Never heard of	1%
Unsure	6%

Q30. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A politician willing to work with both sides of the aisle]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	74%
Very favorable	40%
Somewhat favorable	34%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	15%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	7%
Never heard of	4%

Response	%
Unsure	7%

Q31. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A bipartisan candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	47%
Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable	34%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	18%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	8%
Never heard of	14%
Unsure	21%

Q32. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A non-partisan candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	39%
Very favorable	8%
Somewhat favorable	30%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	18%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	8%
Never heard of	14%
Unsure	28%

Q33. You will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. [Favorability — A politically Independent candidate]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	50%
Very favorable	9%
Somewhat favorable	42%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	16%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	6%
Never heard of	10%
Unsure	23%

Q34. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability]

— Chris Getty (Independent)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	22%
Very favorable	3%
Somewhat favorable	18%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	15%
Somewhat unfavorable	7%
Very unfavorable	8%
Never heard of	40%
Unsure	23%

Q35. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability]

— Patty Garcia (Democrat)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	34%
Very favorable	11%
Somewhat favorable	23%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	25%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	16%
Never heard of	22%
Unsure	19%

Q36. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability]

— Lupe Castillo (Republican)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	18%
Very favorable	5%
Somewhat favorable	13%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	28%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	20%
Never heard of	37%
Unsure	17%

Q37. Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person. [Favorability]

— Ed Hershey (Working Class Party)]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL FAVORABLE	18%

Response	%
Very favorable	4%
Somewhat favorable	15%
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	11%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%
Very unfavorable	6%
Never heard of	49%
Unsure	22%

Q38. Overall, how would you rate the current health of American democracy? [MSOH]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL HEALTHY	15%
Very healthy	4%
Somewhat healthy	12%
TOTAL UNHEALTHY	82%
Somewhat unhealthy	27%
Very unhealthy	56%
Unsure	2%

Q39. How do you think federally elected officials in Washington, DC are doing at their job? [MSEO]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
They're doing fine	3%
We can do better	94%
Unsure	3%

Q40. Thinking about your role as a voter in the upcoming 2026 elections, which of the following best describes how you intend to use your vote to ensure the continued health of our democracy? [MSRV]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
I will vote for candidates who will go to Washington to work and vote with Republicans to advance a conservative agenda and ensure that Democratic policies do not pass.	16%
I will vote for candidates who will go to Washington to work and vote with Democrats to advance a progressive agenda and ensure that Republican policies do not pass.	34%
I will look past party labels to vote for candidates who prioritize bipartisan cooperation and seek to modernize the system to make it more accountable and stable for the people.	32%
I do not believe that my choice of candidate has a significant impact on the long-term health of our democracy.	9%
Unsure / Other	8%

Q41. Regardless of your past voting history or political affiliation, which of the following do you find to be the most compelling reason to support an independent candidate? [GST]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
The "Problem Solver" Argument: Independent-minded leaders are free to look at problems from many angles and find the best solution, rather than being forced to view every issue through a single partisan lens.	19%
The "Competition" Argument: In every other aspect of American life, choice and competition yield better results, ending the two-party duopoly would force politicians to work harder to earn our support.	7%
The "Gridlock" Argument: Because they don't answer to party leadership, Independents are uniquely positioned to bridge the divide, de-escalate anger, and force the two sides to work together.	6%
The "People over Party" Argument: Political parties have become too focused on special interests and self-preservation, an Independent is beholden only to their constituents, not a national party agenda.	25%
The "Revolution" Argument: The two-party establishment is fundamentally corrupt and beyond repair, electing Independents is a revolution that will strip power from party elites and completely overhaul the system.	12%
None of these / Other	16%
Unsure	15%

Q42. Which of the following statements or priorities would you most need to hear from an independent candidate running for office to seriously consider supporting their candidacy? [GSTL]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
A clear commitment to work across the aisle with both parties to bring the best ideas to the forefront and get things done.	15%
A promise to listen to regular people and be beholden strictly to local voters and constituents, not national political parties or special interests.	18%
A focus on lowering the toxic political rhetoric, reducing partisan division, and restoring common sense and sanity to government.	19%
A concrete plan to immediately lower the daily cost of living, combat inflation, and rein in wasteful government spending.	21%
A common-sense commitment to strictly enforce border security and fix the immigration system without playing political games.	7%
None of these / Other	11%
Unsure	8%

Q43. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion about independent candidates running for elected office, even if neither is exactly right? [GSSA]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Independent candidates offer a new, fresh perspective to move the country forward, free from partisan gridlock and beholden only to the voters	41%
Independent candidates just pull votes away from a major-party candidate, ultimately helping the side that the voter least wanted to win.	37%
Unsure	23%

Q44. Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view about the role independent candidates could play in our political system, even if neither is exactly right? [GSSI]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Electing a few independent candidates could provide a necessary, stabilizing voice, acting as the adult in the room to lower the temperature and bring both sides together to get things done.	67%
The current system is not broken, and the two major parties remain the most effective and stable way to pass laws and represent the country.	11%
Unsure	22%

Q45. Which of the following candidates would you prefer to represent your district in the U.S. House of Representatives, even if neither is exactly perfect? [GSSZ]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
A candidate who goes to Washington to caucus, vote, and work on legislative committees exclusively within one political party, giving them more institutional power to pass legislation.	31%
A candidate who does not caucus with either major political party, so that they can independently evaluate every single bill that crosses their desk based entirely on what is best for the people of their district.	51%
Unsure	19%

Q46. Thinking for a moment about your social, economic, and political views...Do you consider yourself to be... [Ideology]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
TOTAL LIBERAL	43%
Very Liberal	22%
Somewhat Liberal	21%
Moderate	24%
TOTAL CONSERVATIVE	23%
Somewhat Conservative	15%
Very Conservative	8%
Libertarian	2%
Unsure	8%

Q47. Do you consider yourself to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning?

[LGBTQ+]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	7%
No	84%
Unsure	1%
Prefer not to answer	8%

Q48. What would best describe your marital status? [Marital Status]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Single or never married	22%
Married	55%
Separated	2%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	7%
Other	4%

Q49. Do you have children currently living in your household? [Children]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	42%
No	53%
Refused	5%

Q50. Would you best describe the neighborhood or area you live in as... [Neighborhood]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Urban	29%
Suburban	66%
Rural	2%
Unsure	4%

Q51. Do you invest into an IRA or 401k? [401K]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Yes	74%
No	26%

Q52. Please describe your current occupational status. [Occupation]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Employed (Government)	13%
Employed (Private Sector)	43%
Small Business Owner	7%
Student	2%
Homemaker	2%
Retired	23%
Unemployed	4%
Other	5%
Unsure	2%

Q53. Do you currently own (outright/pay mortgage) your residence? [Homeowner]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Own (outright/pay mortgage)	72%
I do not own my residence (rent/other)	28%

Q54. Method [InterviewMethod]

Base: Total sample

Response	%
Phone	9%
Text	91%