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Illinois Voters Want a Breath of Fresh Air Strong Support for a Statewide Smoking Ban in Public Places

To: Interested Parties

From: Mike Bocian and Molly Murphy

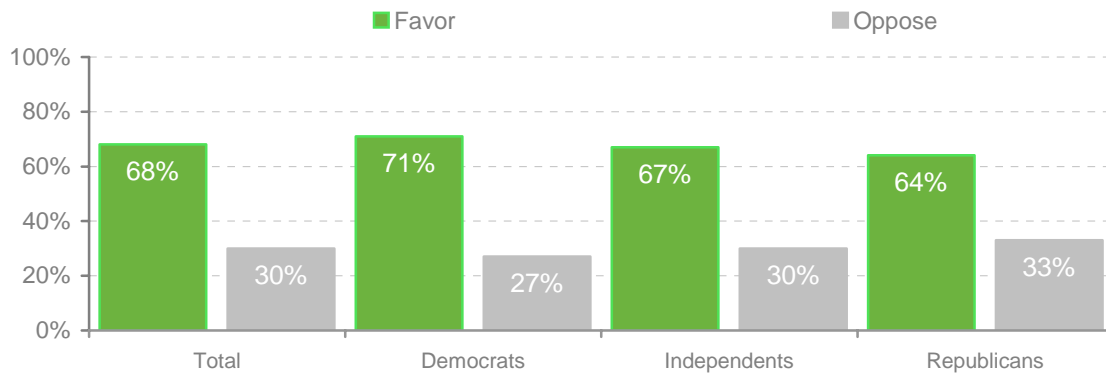
Voters across Illinois strongly support the smoking ban in public places that the legislature recently passed. Support for the ban is not only broad (68 percent favor), but intense (56 percent strongly favor). Moreover, voters offer little support for exempting casinos from the smoking ban (only 29 percent of registered voters favor such an exemption).

The following are the key findings from a survey of 601 registered voters in Illinois conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research from May 29 – 31, 2007. The survey is subject to a 4.0 percentage point margin of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

Key Findings

1. **The smoking ban enjoys broad and deep support among Illinois voters.** Sixty-eight percent of Illinois voters favor the legislature's bill that would ban smoking indoors in public places, while only 30 percent oppose the bill. There is a tremendous amount of intensity in support of the bill, with 56 percent saying they strongly support the bill. The breadth of support is clear from the fact that 71 percent of Democrats, 67 percent of Independents and 64 percent of Republicans favor the ban. Additionally, 55 percent of voters would view the Governor more positively if he signed the bill, while 24 percent would view him less positively.

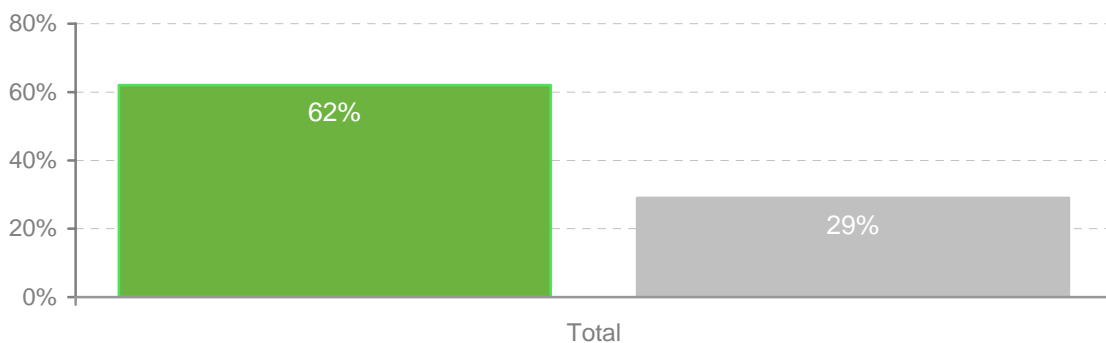
Figure 1: Strong Support for Smoking Ban



“As you may know, the Illinois state legislature passed a bill banning smoking in nearly all indoor public places including workplaces, bars, restaurants, and casinos. Do you favor or oppose this bill?”

2. **Voters OPPOSE an exemption for casinos.** In addition to believing that smoking should be banned from bars, restaurants, and workplaces, Illinois voters do not want an exception made for casinos. Sixty-two percent want casinos to be included in the ban, and only 29 percent want it exempted.

Figure 2: Voters Oppose Exempting Casinos



■ Casinos should be included in the smoking ban ■ Casinos should be exempt from the smoking ban

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