

To: Interested Parties

From: Lake Research Partners

Re: New Poll Results on Chicago Voters' Views on CPS-CTU Contract Negotiations

Date: October 7, 2016

A recent survey of likely 2019 voters in Chicago reveals broad—and deep—public support for Chicago Public School teachers, even in the face of strongly worded arguments on behalf of the Emanuel administration's position.¹

- **By an 18-point margin, voters support teachers going out on strike if Mayor Emanuel and the CPS cannot reach an agreement with the CTU.** A 55% majority of voters favor a strike in this scenario, including 49% who feel that way strongly, compared to 28% who oppose a strike (22% strongly). Another 17% are undecided. Pluralities—and in many cases majorities—of voters across every demographic and regional subgroup support a strike if Mayor Emanuel and the CPS cannot reach an agreement with the CTU.
- **Voters side with teachers over the mayor and CPS by more than a 50-point margin in two different versions of an engaged debate (74% to 17%, respectively).** The text of the arguments is included in the table on the next page.
- **Teachers and the CTU remain highly popular among Chicago voters, especially in comparison to the Governor and the Mayor.** More than eight-in-ten voters of voters have a favorable impressions of Chicago's teachers (86% favorable; 9% unfavorable), including a 60% majority who have a 'very favorable' impression of teachers. Similarly, two-thirds of voters have a favorable impression of the CTU (66% favorable; 26% unfavorable), including 36% who have a 'very favorable' impression of the CTU. In fact, majorities of voters across every demographic and geographic subgroup in the data have favorable impressions of both teachers and the CTU.
- **Conversely, voters' opinions of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Governor Bruce Rauner are overwhelmingly negative.** Fully 62% of voters have an unfavorable impression of Governor Rauner, compared to only 25% who have a favorable impression. Rahm fares only slightly better with 36% of voters having a favorable impression of their mayor compared to a 58% majority who has an unfavorable impression of him. And just as majorities across demographic and geographic subgroups hold favorable impressions of teachers and the CTU, similar majorities across those same lines hold unfavorable impressions of Emanuel and Rauner.
 - Rahm and Rauner's job performance ratings, particularly with regards to education, are also abysmal. Approximately three-quarters of voters believe the Mayor is doing

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¹ Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey of 600 likely 2019 municipal election voters in Chicago, IL. The survey was conducted by telephone, using professional interviewers, September 24th – 27th, 2016. The overall margin of error for this survey is +/-4.0%.

a bad job as mayor (73%) generally and handling education (75%) specifically. Neatly 4-in-5 five voters (79%) negatively assess Rauner’s job performance as Governor.

- **Voters overwhelmingly reject the notion that the money does not exist to properly fund the schools.** Voters are almost fifty points more likely to believe the money for education exists if those in power were to decide it is enough of a priority (71%) than to believe the state is truly short of money (23%). A solid majority (59%) *strongly* believes the money exists at the state level to properly fund Chicago’s schools.

Engaged Debate over Contract Negotiations (Arguments Rotated)	
<p>Teachers Get Blamed: After the largest public school closure in U.S. history, Rahm is going after teachers with a new vengeance. Since 2011 public school teachers have absorbed \$2 billion in cuts, including layoffs, reduced benefits, threats to pensions, and increased class sizes. Chicago’s school teachers not only educate our children, but also look out for their safety, come in early and stay late, and use their own money to buy classroom supplies. It’s time for Rahm and Rauner to stop their anti-teacher, anti-public schools agenda and do what’s right.</p>	<p>74% side with teachers (67% strongly)</p>
<p>The Money Does Not Exist: Declining state revenues mean all government budgets are facing cuts, from education to healthcare to infrastructure. This is the reality unless the state decides to raise taxes, which most residents—including public school teachers—oppose. Going on strike last time put us in a worse position. Striking again will just create more enemies, hurt students, and leave teachers out in the cold. CTU should take a different approach this time around and work with CPS to get the best contract out of a tough situation. We can’t continue to fight for money that just doesn’t exist.</p>	<p>17% side with CPS/ Mayor</p>

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