

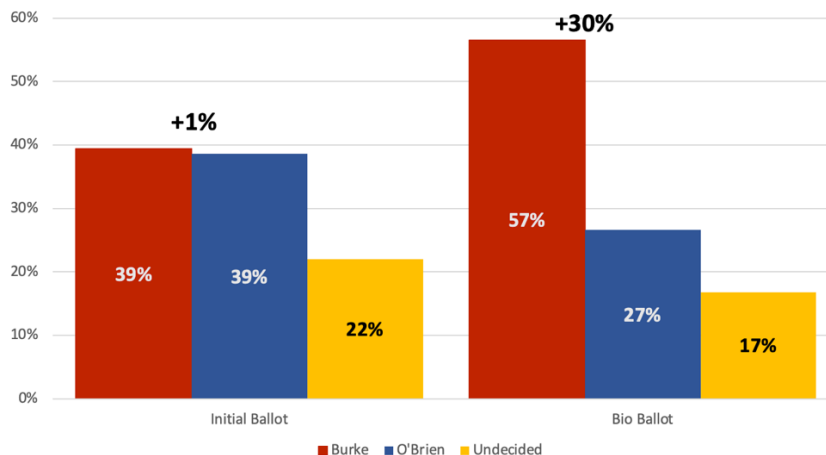
Overview

Both Michael Burke and Mark Curran have clear paths to victory in the two highly competitive Illinois Supreme Court races this fall. Burke leads by one point on the initial ballot, and his opponent's devastating opposition research should give him the upper hand this fall. Curran narrowly trails his opponent by three points on the initial ballot, but he has a clear path to victory. Once voters learn more about each of the candidates in both races, Burke moves to a whopping thirty-point advantage, and Curran gains a one point edge on his opponent. The bottom line is that both races currently stand in statistical ties, and both candidates can win their races to give the Republicans a majority on the Illinois Supreme Court for the first time in generations.

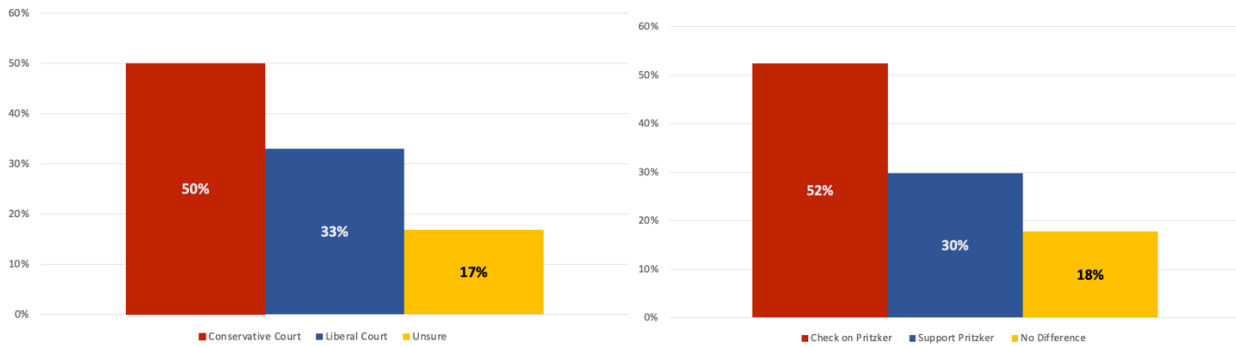
Key Takeaways

District 3

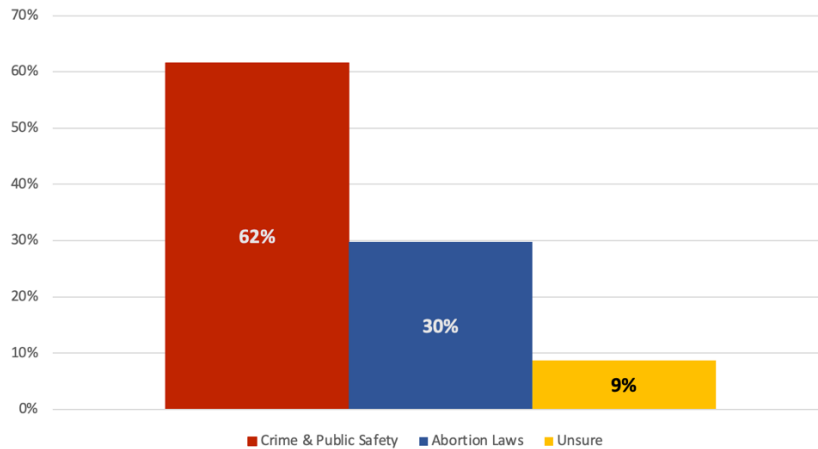
In SC-3, Burke leads narrowly on the initial ballot and jumps to a commanding lead once voters learn about the two candidates. On the initial ballot, Michael Burke leads his opponent, Mary Kay O'Brien, by just one point, 39%-39% (statistical rounding). However, once voters are informed about both candidates' backgrounds, Burke's independence and distinguished record on the courts vault him to a 57% to 27% lead.



A majority of SC-3 voters favor a conservative leaning court and candidates who will act as a check on JB Pritzker. 51% of voters say they'd prefer the Illinois Supreme Court to be conservative in its decision-making, compared to just 36% who say they want the Court to be liberal in its decision-making. Meanwhile, 52% of voters prefer a candidate who will act as a check on the Pritzker Agenda.



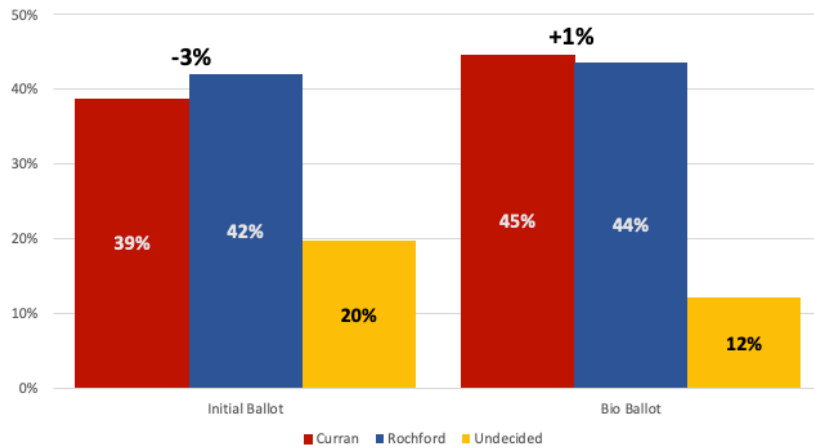
Nearly two-thirds of SC-3 voters say that crime and public safety are more important issues than abortion laws. While Democrats will try and paint Republicans as anti-women this fall over abortion laws, 62% of SC-3 voters say that crime and public safety are more important issues to them than abortion laws.



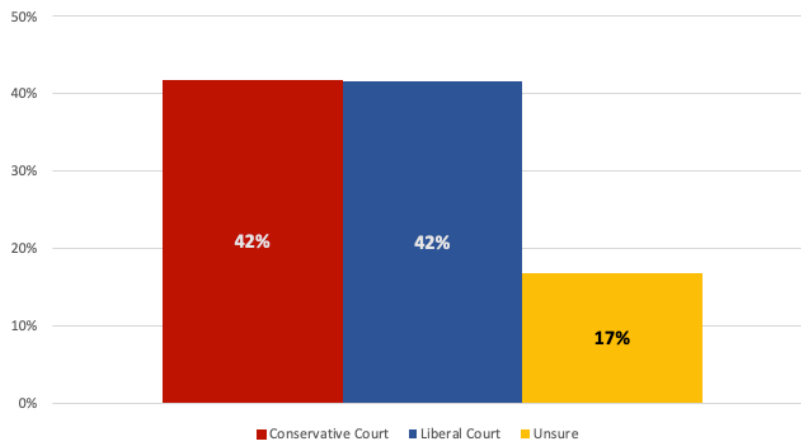
O’Brien’s opposition research is devastatingly effective against her. Mary Kay O’Brien has a long record of siding with heinous and violent criminals while on the bench and has deep ties to former House Speaker Mike Madigan from her time as a State Representative. All of O’Brien hits test exceptionally well, with a majority of voters saying they’re *MUCH* less likely to vote for her on every single negative message.

District 2

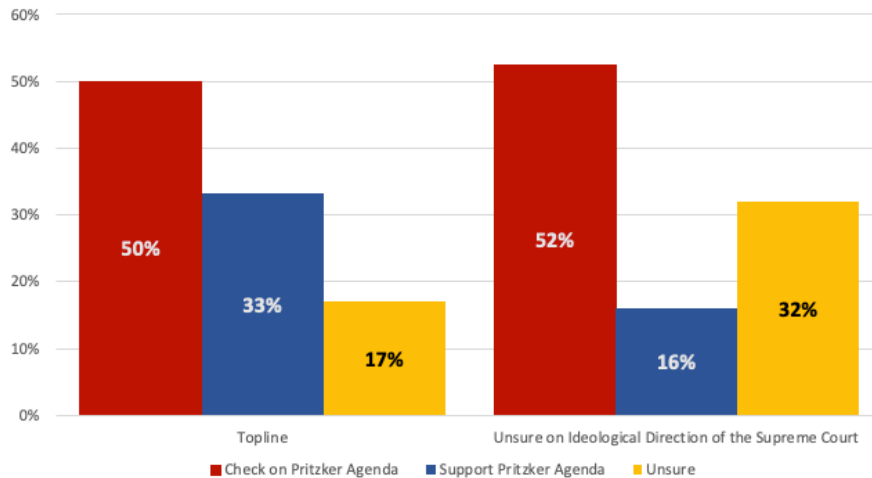
In Supreme Court District 2, Curran trails narrowly on the initial ballot, but when voters hear both candidates’ biographies, they give Curran the edge. On the initial ballot, Mark Curran is narrowly trailing Elizabeth Rochford 39% to 42%, but that margin is within the statistical margin of error. Even still, once voters are given positive biographies of both candidates, Curran’s career as a political outsider and his experience as Lake County Sheriff flips the ballot so that he leads Rochford 45% to 44%.



SC-2 voters are evenly split on wanting a conservative versus liberal leaning court, with a large chunk up for grabs. 42% of voters say they believe the Illinois Supreme Court should be conservative in their decision making, while an equal 42% say they believe the Illinois Supreme Court should be liberal in their decision making. 17% are unsure and represent a key voting bloc for Curran to win over.



A clear majority of SC-2 voters want a Supreme Court Justice who will act as a check on JB Pritzker’s agenda, and that could be a key messaging argument for Curran in a volatile political environment where voters support divided government. Not only do 50% of voters want a Supreme Court Justice who will act a check on JB Pritzker’s agenda (compared to 33% who want a justice who will support his agenda), but 52% of those who say they are unsure whether they want a Conservative or Liberal-leaning court also say they want a justice who will act as a check on Pritzker. Just 16% of those unsure want a justice who will support Pritzker’s agenda.



Elizabeth Rochford is a blank slate who can be easily defined, and her ties to corrupt Chicago Machine bosses Mike Madigan and Ed Burke could be the key to GOP victory in this race. Just a quarter of voters have formed an opinion of Rochford (15% Fav/11% Unfav), while a whopping 53% have never even heard of her. Rochford is a blank slate, and with voters still viewing Mike Madigan horribly (11% Fav/67% Unfav), a whopping 75% of undecided voters say they’re less likely to vote for Rochford after hearing about her ties to Madigan and the hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from Madigan allies. Additionally, the revelation that Rochford contributed to now-indicted Chicago Machine political boss Ed Burke, even after the FBI raided his office for corruption, makes 75% of undecided voters less likely to vote for her. Rochford’s ties to Madigan & Burke are potent hits, and that coupled with swing voters’ desire for a check on Pritzker give Curran a clear path to victory in this race.

Methodology

These telephone surveys were conducted between September 8th – 11th and September 9th – 12th, 2022. In all, 400 interviews were achieved among likely 2022 General Election voters in each of the Illinois’ 2nd and 3rd Supreme Court Districts. 299 (75%) of these responses in SC2 and 318 (80%) of these responses in SC3 came from cell phone interviews. The margins of error for these sample is +/- 4.90% at a confidence interval of 95%.