



***Polling Memo: 7/29/05***

***To: USAction Education Fund***

***From: SCG Research***

***Re: Poll of Congressman Weller's District Shows Deep Opposition to Bush Privatization Plan***

A new poll conducted by SCG Research for the USAction Education Fund has found deep opposition in Illinois' 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. Over seventy percent of 11th District voters oppose the President's plan for Social Security.

The poll also found that seven out of ten 11th District voters said they were less likely to vote for candidates who support the President's plan for Social Security.

The 11th District poll was part of a larger survey conducted in the Districts of nine members of the House Ways and Means Committee who have not yet indicated their position on the President's Social Security privatization proposals.

The automated poll, sampled the opinions of 578 11th District registered voters between July 14 and 20. It has a margin of error of +/- 4.2.

The larger national poll sampled a total of 3,018 voters and had a margin of error of +/- 1.8%.

Key 11th District findings include:

- By a margin of 70.09% to 29.91%, voters in this district said they disapproved of President Bush's handling of Social Security.
- Seventy One percent of 11th District voters think the Bush Social Security plan will cut their Social Security benefits.
- Seventy percent of 11th District voters think the Bush plan will make Social Security weaker.
- Over seventy percent of 11th District voters oppose the President's plan for Social Security.
- Sixty Eight percent of 11th District voters said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the Bush Social Security plan.

The 11th District results closely mirror results in other Districts represented by undecided Ways and Means Committee Members.

*Auto Poll Survey Results:*

**Question 1. First are you currently registered to vote?**

State	District	Question 1	
		% Registered	% Not Registered
IL	11	97.17%	2.83%

		Question 1	
		% Registered	% Not Registered
National		95.24%	4.76%

**(Only Registered Voters used in the responses that follow)**

**Question 2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of Social Security?**

State	District	Question 2	
		% Approve of Bush's handling of Social Security	% Disapprove of Bush's handling of Social Security
IL	11	29.91%	70.09%

		Question 2	
		% Approve of Bush's handling of Social Security	% Disapprove of Bush's handling of Social Security
National		30.42%	69.58%

**Question 3. Next, in your opinion will the Bush plan cut or protect your benefits?**

State	District	Question 3	
		% Think Bush plan will cut benefits	% Think Bush plan will protect benefits
IL	11	71.50%	28.50%

		Question 3	
		% Think Bush plan will cut benefits	% Think Bush plan will protect benefits
National		71.69%	28.31%

**Question 4. Now would you tell us if you think the Bush plan will make Social Security stronger or weaker?**

State	District	Question 4	
		% Think Bush plan will make Social Security Stronger	% Think Bush Plan will make Social Security Weaker
IL	11	29.44%	70.56%

		Question 4	
		% Think Bush plan will make Social Security Stronger	% Think Bush Plan will make Social Security Weaker
National		30.61%	69.39%

**Question 5. Overall, how do you feel about George Bush's proposals on Social Security?**

State	District	Question 5	
		% Support Bush's Social Security Proposals	% Oppose Bush's Social Security Proposals
IL	11	29.42%	70.58%

		Question 5	
		% Support Bush's Social Security Proposals	% Oppose Bush's Social Security Proposals
National		30.37%	69.63%

**Question 6. Now, how about if your U.S. Congressman voted in favor of George Bush's Social Security proposals? How would that affect your vote in the next election?**

**Are you more likely to vote for the Congressman if he supports the President's plan, or are you less likely to vote for the Congressman if he supports the President's plan?**

State	District	Question 6	
		% More likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush's Plan	% Less likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush's Plan
IL	11	31.57%	68.43%

		Question 6	
		% More likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush's Plan	% Less likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush's Plan
National		31.54%	68.46%

*Demographics:*

State	District	Age			
		% 18-34	% 35-49	% 50-64	% 65 and older
IL	11	7.80%	30.35%	29.49%	32.36%

		Age			
		% 18-34	% 35-49	% 50-64	% 65 and older
National		11.65%	28.67%	26.77%	32.91%

State	District	Gender	
		% Men	% Women
IL	11	48.60%	51.40%

		Gender	
		% Men	% Women
National		50.73%	49.27%

State	District	Party Affiliation			
		% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Other
IL	11	38.09%	36.45%	18.20%	7.26%

		Party Affiliation			
		% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Other
National		37.19%	38.15%	20.22%	4.44%

*Note: Survey was made of registered voters in each district. The results of the survey were weighted to assure that above demographic groups reflected the registered voters in the districts surveyed.*