

PAUL SIMON PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

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Former U.S. Ambassador Harriet Elam-Thomas spoke to SIU students and community members on the importance of civility in government as one of our first speakers for our Statesmanship Initiative.

BETTER POLITICS, SMARTER GOVERNMENT

We believe in bringing together public service leaders, our community, and students to carry on Paul Simon's vision of making a difference in the society we live in.

Through three signature programs under *Better Politics, Smarter Government* we are raising the Institute's profile in Illinois and across the country and promoting rigorous analysis, civil discourse, and constructive careers in public service.

[Learn more about](#) how you can be part of *Better Politics, Smarter Government*.

Institute in the News:

- 4/18/19 - [Local political expert weighs in on Mueller Report](#)
- 4/14/19 - [Guest View: Illinois university students support bold actions to renew the Prairie State](#)
- 3/14/19 - [SIUC turns to students to help fix Illinois government](#)
- 3/06/19 - [Led by a legendary historian, SIUC looks back at 150 years with birthday book](#)

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2019 EVENT SCHEDULE

The Fall 2019 event schedule will be released in July 2019.

EVENT SCHEDULE

SPRING 2019 EVENT VIDEOS

Tweets by @PSimonInstitute

Paul Simon Institute Retweeted
SIU Foundation @SIUFoundation
Ryan Gougis credits the @PSimonInstitute with giving him the keys to opening doors of opportunity for his career. Learn more: buff.ly/2ZkrNhx #SIU #ForeverSIU



Jun 10, 2019

Paul Simon Institute Retweeted
SIUC @SIUC

Embed View on Twitter

About U.S. Senator Simon



Learn more about the

The Simon Review



Read our series of 50+

Public Opinion Polling





MISSION STATEMENT

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale acts on significant and controversial issues impacting the region, the state, the nation, and the world.

It is committed to developing and working to implement approaches that could bring concrete, positive results in tackling some of the most difficult challenges in the public policy arena.

The institute focuses its efforts on fostering:

- Ethical conduct in government
- Opportunity and fair treatment for people in America and throughout the world
- Promoting responsible citizenship for all Americans--but particularly for young Americans

INSTITUTE'S ORIGINS

Famous for wearing bowties and horn-rimmed glasses, Paul Simon was a two-term U.S. Senator from Illinois (1985-1997), and a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for the 1988 United States presidential election. After leaving public office, Paul Simon was passionate about creating a place to research and provide ethical public policy resources, encourage others to take part in the conversations on the issues of our time, and support the next generation of public leaders.

In 1997, Simon decided to go back to his roots of Southern Illinois and establish the then-named Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. After his passing in 2003, the Institute was renamed the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute to honor the legacy of Simon's work.

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit organization focused on making a lasting difference in society by addressing pressing issues of society at the time. The Institute does this through a number of research initiatives, bringing in experts and leaders to the Institute to offer free lectures to students and the community, and providing opportunities for students to learn about public policy first hand through internships across the state.

FOCUS INITIATIVES

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INSTITUTE CURRENT INITIATIVES

Paul Simon's lifelong commitment to civility, candor, and courageous-problem solving has never been more relevant. Nor has the work of the Institute ever been more necessary. We are currently advocating for "**Better Politics, Smarter Government.**" This is an approach to public policy that is rigorous, constructive and transparent – and reflects the best of Paul Simon's values.

Three Pillars of "**Better Politics, Smarter Government**" agenda:

1. Best Practices for the Conduct of Town Hall Meetings
2. Renewing Illinois
3. Statesmanship

A part of Paul's vision was to develop and work on implementing approaches that could bring concrete, positive results in tackling some of the most difficult challenges in the public policy arena.

Since the Institute's origins in 1997, we have explored several ideas and policies. Browse our past initiatives (see left menu) and look at the questions we raised in Illinois. Would redistricting work? How would ethics in government improve the political environment? What needs to be fixed in Illinois's child welfare system?

PUBLIC OPINION POLLING

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WHY DO WE POLL?

[Check out the latest Spring 2019 the Simon Poll™ Press Releases](#)

The Simon Poll™ is an annual statewide poll asking Illinois voters' opinions on important current public policy topics, typically with a focus on state budget issues, political and electoral reform, politics, and social issues. The Southern Illinois Poll™ collects voter opinion in the southernmost 18 counties in Illinois.

The Simon Poll™ of registered voters in Illinois has been conducted since 2008 and the Southern Illinois Poll™ has been conducted since 2010. In addition to helping chart public opinion for policy makers, graduate students also use the polling to include questions useful to them in their papers, dissertations and research projects.

A range of public policy issues are present in the collection. Issues include primary and general elections, potential political reforms, political polarization, immigration, elected officials' approval ratings, public disclosure and corruption, Illinois budget and pensions, guns and society, and social issues, such as abortion, marriage rights, and medical marijuana. Standard demographic data are also included.

SIMON POLL™

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