

Stroger For President  
Campaign Office  
2411 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60616  
Office: 312.842.5434  
Fax: 312.842.6982



For All Media Questions:  
Carla Oglesby  
CGC Communications  
Office: 312.733.0644  
Fax: 312.733.0645

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**Release**

**COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT RACE STILL TOO CLOSE TO CALL**

New Poll by Victory Research Contradicts Chicago Tribune Poll

With one week to go, the Democratic Primary for Cook County Board President is still too close to call, according to an independent tracking poll released by Victory Research on Monday, January 25.

Sharply contrasting an earlier poll released recently by the *Chicago Tribune*, the top three candidates in the Cook County Board President race are within the margin of error, the new poll said.

Victory Research's The Illinois Poll, a monthly independent poll about Illinois Politics, surveyed 600 likely Cook County Democratic Primary voters between January 22 and January 24. The margin of error for the poll was 4.2%.

Chicago 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Toni Preckwinkle leads in the new poll with 23.2%. Closely following is Metropolitan Water Reclamation Board President Terry O'Brien with 21.2% and current Cook County Board President Todd Stroger at 19.7%. Circuit Clerk Dorothy Brown brings up the rear with 14.0%. Twenty-two percent of voters are still undecided in the poll.

These new numbers differ only slightly from a tracking poll released by Victory Research last Friday but differ markedly from a recent Chicago Tribune Poll that showed a "surge" and twenty point lead for Alderman Preckwinkle.

"This race is too close to call at this point in time," said Pollster Rod McCulloch of Victory Research, "Our poll doesn't track phony 'surges' or tailor to the editorial endorsements of any newspaper."

McCulloch, a twenty-five year veteran pollster said that polling is not predictive. "There is still a week to go in this primary, which is a lifetime in politics," he said.

According to the poll, Alderman Preckwinkle has built a solid base by appealing to lakefront voters, Hispanics, some South Side African-Americans and voters who are seeking a 'reform' candidate. President O'Brien's support comes largely from Chicago's Northwest and Southwest Sides and the Northwestern and Western Suburbs. President Stroger's base consists of a core of African-American support on both the South and West Sides and a smattering of Democratic Party organizations. Clerk Brown has strong residual support on the West Side of the City, but little elsewhere.

The Illinois Poll is a private, independent poll. It has been conducted on a monthly basis since 1999. Victory Research has no client in the 2010 Cook County Board President Democratic Primary.

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Victory Research and its principals, have polled and consulted for some of the biggest names in Illinois politics from both political parties. These include Governor Pat Quinn before he was Lt. Governor, Alderman Toni Preckwinkle, Alderman Pat O'Connor, Alderman Freddrena Lyle, Alderman Ike Carothers, former 47th Ward Democratic Committeeman Ed Kelly on the Democratic side. Republican clients have included former Speaker of the U.S. House Dennis Hastert, Congressmen Tim Johnson and Peter Roskam, State Senator Kirk Dillard, former State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka and former State Rep. Al Salvi.

**For more information about the poll:**

**Contact Rod McCullough at Victory Research 312-388-1782**