



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Senate Contest Laced with Controversy is Close

The upcoming Illinois Senatorial election could be close. Alexi Giannoulias has inched passed Republican opponent Mark Kirk. Voters prefer Giannoulias 31 to 30, in comparison to April when Giannoulias was down 37-33. Still 24% of voters remain undecided.

The controversy surrounding Kirk's military record has taken a toll on him. 45% of voters believe he hasn't been truthful about his military service. The scandal has pushed Kirk into the headlines and has gained him unsightly name recognition. Kirk's favorability ratings have taken a hit—31% of voters have an unfavorable opinion of him today in comparison with 23% on the previous poll.

Moderates are more likely to vote for Giannoulias 33 to 27. However while Giannoulias is strong amongst moderates, Independents favor Kirk, 26 to 20. This trend has persisted across the country recently, breaking the traditional mold. Independents tend to lean to the right of Republicans, while moderates lean left of center.

While Giannoulias is doing well amongst Democrats and liberals, LeAlan Jones of the Green Party could take votes away from the Democratic nominee. Currently 16% of those who voted for President Obama support Jones. Jones is also doing well amongst Independents and could also take away from Kirk's base.

Obama's approval ratings have risen slightly over the past month in his home state from 50 to 53. Senator Dick Durbin's approval ratings have also slightly increased over the past month. Voters still generally disapprove of Senator Roland Burris's job performance; 19:54.

“Voters in Illinois are tuning into a soap opera not an election,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The Senate election is about scandals not issues. The candidate who can turn the focus of the race from their personal issues to the real issues will have the best chance of winning over undecideds.”

PPP surveyed 552 Illinois voters from June 12th- 13th. The survey's margin of error is +/- 4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Illinois Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance?
Approve..... 53% *Not Sure*..... 6%
Disapprove..... 41%

Q2 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?
Support..... 45%
Oppose..... 43%
No Opinion..... 12%

Q3 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Roland Burris' job performance?
Approve 19%
Disapprove..... 54%
Not Sure..... 27%

Q4 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Dick Durbin's job performance?
Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 36%
Not Sure..... 15%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Alexi Giannoulias?
Favorable 23% *Not Sure*..... 45%
Unfavorable..... 31%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mark Kirk?
Favorable..... 23% *Not Sure*..... 46%
Unfavorable 31%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of LeAlan Jones?
Favorable..... 2% *Not Sure*..... 84%
Unfavorable 13%

Q8 The candidates for Senate are Democrat Alexi Giannoulias, Republican Mark Kirk, and Green Party candidate LeAlan Jones. If the election was today, who would you vote for?
Alexi Giannoulias 31%
Mark Kirk..... 30%
LeAlan Jones..... 14%
Undecided..... 24%

Q9 Do you think Mark Kirk has been truthful about his military record?
Yes 10%
No..... 45%
Not sure..... 45%

Q10 How closely have you been following the recent news about Mark Kirk's military record?
Very closely 22%
Somewhat closely..... 35%
Not very closely 43%

Q11 Who did you vote for President last year?
John McCain..... 36%
Barack Obama..... 55%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 9%

Q12 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.
Liberal..... 23%
Moderate..... 43%
Conservative..... 34%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.
Woman 51%
Man..... 49%





Q14 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 42%
Republican..... 29%
Independent/Other..... 29%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 73%
African American 15%
Other..... 12%

Q16 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 6%
30 to 45..... 25%
46 to 65..... 45%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	10%	86%	23%
Disapprove	41%	84%	9%	63%
Not Sure	6%	6%	5%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Health Care				
Support	45%	7%	75%	18%
Oppose	43%	86%	11%	56%
No Opinion	12%	7%	14%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Burris Approval				
Approve	19%	3%	31%	8%
Disapprove	54%	77%	35%	70%
Not Sure	27%	20%	33%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Durbin Approval				
Approve	49%	16%	72%	49%
Disapprove	36%	72%	12%	35%
Not Sure	15%	13%	16%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Giannoulias Favorability				
Favorable	23%	7%	35%	16%
Unfavorable	31%	50%	18%	34%
Not Sure	45%	43%	46%	50%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Kirk Favorability				
Favorable	23%	40%	13%	13%
Unfavorable	31%	19%	40%	31%
Not Sure	46%	41%	47%	55%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Jones Favorability				
Favorable	2%	0%	4%	2%
Unfavorable	13%	14%	14%	10%
Not Sure	84%	86%	83%	88%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Giannoulias/Kirk/Jones				
Alexi Giannoulias	31%	6%	50%	10%
Mark Kirk	30%	61%	11%	23%
Le Alan Jones	14%	9%	16%	31%
Undecided	24%	24%	23%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Kirk Truthful on Military Record				
Yes	10%	16%	6%	8%
No	45%	34%	54%	37%
Not sure	45%	50%	40%	55%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Kirk Controversy Knowledge				
Very closely	22%	19%	24%	16%
Somewhat closely	35%	41%	34%	17%
Not very closely	43%	39%	42%	66%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	90%	58%	22%
Disapprove	41%	9%	33%	71%
Not Sure	6%	1%	9%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Health Care				
Support	45%	80%	51%	13%
Oppose	43%	12%	33%	75%
No Opinion	12%	8%	16%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Burris Approval				
Approve	19%	37%	19%	8%
Disapprove	54%	35%	54%	65%
Not Sure	27%	28%	27%	27%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Durbin Approval				
Approve	49%	83%	54%	21%
Disapprove	36%	9%	30%	61%
Not Sure	15%	9%	15%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Giannoulias Favorability				
Favorable	23%	41%	25%	9%
Unfavorable	31%	19%	32%	39%
Not Sure	45%	39%	43%	52%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kirk Favorability				
Favorable	23%	14%	21%	31%
Unfavorable	31%	46%	34%	19%
Not Sure	46%	40%	45%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Jones Favorability				
Favorable	2%	4%	1%	3%
Unfavorable	13%	14%	14%	13%
Not Sure	84%	82%	85%	85%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Giannoulias/Kirk/Jones				
Alexi Giannoulias	31%	56%	33%	11%
Mark Kirk	30%	6%	27%	51%
LeAlan Jones	14%	12%	14%	17%
Undecided	24%	26%	26%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kirk Truthful on Military Record				
Yes	10%	7%	8%	15%
No	45%	58%	48%	32%
Not sure	45%	35%	44%	53%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kirk Controversy Knowledge				
Very closely	22%	25%	22%	19%
Somewhat closely	35%	32%	40%	30%
Not very closely	43%	43%	37%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	53%	55%	51%
Disapprove	41%	37%	45%
Not Sure	6%	8%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Health Care			
Support	45%	48%	42%
Oppose	43%	40%	45%
No Opinion	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Burris Approval			
Approve	19%	18%	20%
Disapprove	54%	52%	55%
Not Sure	27%	30%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Durbin Approval			
Approve	49%	49%	50%
Disapprove	36%	34%	38%
Not Sure	15%	17%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Giannoulis Favorability			
Favorable	23%	25%	22%
Unfavorable	31%	28%	35%
Not Sure	45%	48%	43%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kirk Favorability			
Favorable	23%	21%	25%
Unfavorable	31%	30%	33%
Not Sure	46%	49%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Jones Favorability			
Favorable	2%	2%	2%
Unfavorable	13%	10%	17%
Not Sure	84%	87%	81%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Giannoulis/Kirk/Jones			
Alexi Giannoulis	31%	32%	30%
Mark Kirk	30%	26%	34%
LeAlan Jones	14%	11%	18%
Undecided	24%	31%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kirk Truthful on Military Record			
Yes	10%	10%	10%
No	45%	43%	47%
Not sure	45%	47%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kirk Controversy Knowledge			
Very closely	22%	17%	26%
Somewhat closely	35%	37%	33%
Not very closely	43%	45%	41%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	84%	8%	53%
Disapprove	41%	11%	85%	40%
Not Sure	6%	5%	7%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Health Care				
Support	45%	71%	5%	48%
Oppose	43%	14%	88%	38%
No Opinion	12%	15%	7%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Burris Approval				
Approve	19%	32%	4%	15%
Disapprove	54%	38%	74%	56%
Not Sure	27%	30%	22%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Durbin Approval				
Approve	49%	73%	17%	47%
Disapprove	36%	12%	69%	38%
Not Sure	15%	15%	15%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Giannoulis Favorability				
Favorable	23%	41%	5%	15%
Unfavorable	31%	16%	50%	35%
Not Sure	45%	43%	44%	50%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kirk Favorability				
Favorable	23%	14%	37%	22%
Unfavorable	31%	40%	19%	32%
Not Sure	46%	46%	44%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Jones Favorability				
Favorable	2%	4%	1%	1%
Unfavorable	13%	15%	12%	12%
Not Sure	84%	81%	87%	87%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Giannoulis/Kirk/Jones				
Alexi Giannoulis	31%	56%	5%	20%
Mark Kirk	30%	10%	63%	26%
LeAlan Jones	14%	15%	7%	21%
Undecided	24%	19%	25%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kirk Truthful on Military Record				
Yes	10%	7%	17%	8%
No	45%	55%	30%	45%
Not sure	45%	38%	52%	47%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kirk Controversy Knowledge				
Very closely	22%	23%	18%	23%
Somewhat closely	35%	34%	39%	32%
Not very closely	43%	43%	43%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	53%	45%	90%	57%
Disapprove	41%	49%	5%	32%
Not Sure	6%	6%	5%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Health Care				
Support	45%	37%	76%	55%
Oppose	43%	51%	8%	36%
No Opinion	12%	12%	16%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Burris Approval				
Approve	19%	12%	54%	20%
Disapprove	54%	63%	13%	45%
Not Sure	27%	25%	33%	34%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Durbin Approval				
Approve	49%	45%	67%	55%
Disapprove	36%	42%	13%	30%
Not Sure	15%	13%	21%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Giannoulas Favorability				
Favorable	23%	20%	39%	23%
Unfavorable	31%	35%	13%	30%
Not Sure	45%	45%	47%	48%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Kirk Favorability				
Favorable	23%	24%	18%	23%
Unfavorable	31%	31%	38%	23%
Not Sure	46%	45%	44%	55%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Jones Favorability				
Favorable	2%	1%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	13%	13%	15%	14%
Not Sure	84%	86%	79%	82%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Giannoulas/Kirk/Jones				
Alexi Giannoulas	31%	27%	50%	27%
Mark Kirk	30%	37%	8%	18%
LeAlan Jones	14%	10%	26%	25%
Undecided	24%	25%	16%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Kirk Truthful on Military Record				
Yes	10%	10%	11%	9%
No	45%	45%	47%	41%
Not sure	45%	45%	42%	50%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Kirk Controversy Knowledge				
Very closely	22%	19%	33%	25%
Somewhat closely	35%	39%	23%	25%
Not very closely	43%	42%	44%	50%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	53%	58%	50%	56%	50%
Disapprove	41%	34%	42%	40%	41%
Not Sure	6%	8%	8%	4%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Health Care					
Support	45%	45%	47%	48%	39%
Oppose	43%	42%	41%	43%	44%
No Opinion	12%	13%	13%	9%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Burris Approval					
Approve	19%	24%	18%	21%	15%
Disapprove	54%	42%	50%	57%	54%
Not Sure	27%	34%	32%	22%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Durbin Approval					
Approve	49%	54%	44%	52%	49%
Disapprove	36%	38%	31%	37%	39%
Not Sure	15%	8%	24%	11%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Giannoulis Favorability					
Favorable	23%	19%	26%	24%	21%
Unfavorable	31%	34%	30%	36%	24%
Not Sure	45%	47%	45%	40%	55%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kirk Favorability					
Favorable	23%	5%	24%	27%	18%
Unfavorable	31%	48%	29%	31%	32%
Not Sure	46%	47%	47%	42%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Jones Favorability					
Favorable	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Unfavorable	13%	27%	13%	12%	14%
Not Sure	84%	71%	85%	87%	83%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Giannoulas/Kirk/Jones					
Alexi Giannoulas	31%	26%	33%	30%	30%
Mark Kirk	30%	46%	31%	28%	30%
LeAlan Jones	14%	17%	10%	17%	13%
Undecided	24%	11%	25%	24%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kirk Truthful on Military Record					
Yes	10%	19%	12%	9%	9%
No	45%	45%	40%	48%	45%
Not sure	45%	36%	49%	43%	46%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kirk Controversy Knowledge					
Very closely	22%	23%	15%	26%	20%
Somewhat closely	35%	26%	33%	38%	34%
Not very closely	43%	51%	52%	36%	46%

