

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Kirk Still Leads But Only By Two**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Three weeks ago, PPP found Republican Mark Kirk taking a lead over Democrat Alexi Giannoulias in the Illinois Senate race after the Democrat had led in previous polls between March and September. But now Kirk's lead has been halved from 40-36 to 42-40. Libertarian Mike Labno holds steady at 3%. Green Party candidate LeAlan Jones is down from 8% to 4%, but his continued presence in the race is no doubt a slight harm to Giannoulias, as a two-way contest would be led by Kirk, but only 46-45.

In contrast to other states polled in the last week where Democrats are becoming more engaged, Illinois Democrats are remaining complacent. This poll reflects an electorate that voted for favorite son President Obama by only 9 points. He actually won the state by 25, showing a remarkable 16-point enthusiasm gap, second among the 32 states PPP has polled this year only to Obama's native land, Hawaii. Yet Giannoulias is still gaining. If Democrats turned out at 2008 levels, he would have a 47-37 lead.

The biggest reason for Giannoulias' small surge against the prevailing electoral winds is that while Kirk has also further consolidated his base, Giannoulias has brought undecided Democrats home, and Democrats still make up 10 points more of the voter pool than do Republicans. Giannoulias has also made marginal improvement with independents, who now comprise more of the electorate than before.

“This race is the quintessential toss up of the 2010 cycle,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Virtually every poll all year has shown it within 4 points in one direction or the other. This is ultimately going to be decided by the level of Democratic turnout. If Giannoulias can push that upward over the final two weeks he's going to pull this one out. Otherwise Kirk has the potential for a narrow victory.”

PPP will release numbers on the Illinois Governor's race tomorrow and will have one final round of Illinois polling the weekend before the election.

PPP surveyed 557 likely Illinois voters from October 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. 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** The candidates for Senate are Democrat Alexi Giannoulias, Republican Mark Kirk, Green Party candidate LeAlan Jones, and Libertarian Mike Labno. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

*Alexi Giannoulias* ..... 40%  
*Mark Kirk*..... 42%  
*LeAlan Jones* ..... 4%  
*Mike Labno* ..... 3%  
*Undecided*..... 10%

**Q2** If the only choices for US Senate were Democrat Alexi Giannoulias and Republican Mark Kirk, who would you vote for?

*Alexi Giannoulias* ..... 45%  
*Mark Kirk*..... 46%  
*Undecided*..... 9%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Alexi Giannoulias?

*Favorable* ..... 35% *Not sure* ..... 18%  
*Unfavorable*..... 47%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mark Kirk?

*Favorable*..... 35% *Not sure* ..... 19%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 46%

**Q5** Would you rather Democrats or Republicans held the majority in the next US Senate?

*Democrats* ..... 45% *Not sure* ..... 9%  
*Republicans* ..... 46%

**Q6** Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance?

*Approve*..... 45% *Not sure* ..... 4%  
*Disapprove*..... 51%

**Q7** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Roland Burris' job performance?

*Approve* ..... 19%  
*Disapprove*..... 58%  
*Not sure* ..... 22%

**Q8** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Dick Durbin's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 47%  
*Disapprove*..... 45%  
*Not sure* ..... 8%

**Q9** Since Barack Obama became President do you think things in America have gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same?

*Better* ..... 33% *Stayed about the same* ..... 18%  
*Worse* ..... 49%

**Q10** Are you more or less likely to vote for a candidate endorsed by President Obama, or does it not make a difference either way?

*More likely*..... 25% *Doesn't make a difference*..... 34%  
*Less likely* ..... 41%

**Q11** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 42%  
*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 7%

**Q12** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

*Liberal*..... 22%  
*Moderate*..... 44%  
*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 a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 40%  
*Republican*..... 30%  
*Independent/Other*..... 30%

**Q15** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

*Hispanic*..... 8%  
*White* ..... 78%  
*African-American* ..... 11%  
*Other*..... 3%

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

*18 to 29*..... 9%  
*30 to 45*..... 31%  
*46 to 65*..... 36%  
*Older than 65*..... 24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk/Jones/Labno</b>				
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	40%	8%	71%	17%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	42%	77%	13%	38%
<b>LeAlan Jones</b>	4%	1%	5%	15%
<b>Mike Labno</b>	3%	3%	3%	6%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	10%	8%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk Only</b>				
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	45%	8%	77%	30%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	46%	84%	15%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	8%	8%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Giannoulis Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	7%	61%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	76%	21%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	17%	18%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	63%	13%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	20%	67%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	17%	19%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Dem or GOP Sen Control</b>				
<b>Democrats</b>	45%	7%	79%	26%
<b>Republicans</b>	46%	86%	11%	58%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	7%	10%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	45%	6%	82%	22%
<b>Disapprove</b>	51%	92%	14%	71%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	4%	7%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Burris Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	19%	8%	30%	13%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	79%	40%	60%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	13%	30%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Durbin Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	47%	17%	75%	28%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	76%	15%	68%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	7%	10%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Better or Worse w/ Obama</b>				
<b>Better</b>	33%	5%	59%	14%
<b>Worse</b>	49%	88%	14%	66%
<b>Stayed about the same</b>	18%	8%	27%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama Endorsement Impact</b>				
<b>More likely</b>	25%	7%	42%	4%
<b>Less likely</b>	41%	74%	14%	48%
<b>Doesn't make a difference</b>	34%	20%	44%	47%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk/Jones/Labno</b>				
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	40%	78%	45%	11%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	42%	6%	39%	69%
<b>LeAlan Jones</b>	4%	8%	4%	3%
<b>Mike Labno</b>	3%	1%	3%	6%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	8%	11%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk Only</b>				
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	45%	85%	48%	15%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	46%	8%	43%	75%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	6%	9%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Giannoulis Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	70%	37%	10%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	11%	46%	71%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	18%	17%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	10%	32%	55%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	74%	48%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	16%	20%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Dem or GOP Sen Control</b>				
<b>Democrats</b>	45%	89%	49%	11%
<b>Republicans</b>	46%	6%	39%	80%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	4%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	45%	85%	53%	11%
<b>Disapprove</b>	51%	11%	43%	86%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	4%	4%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Burris Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	19%	30%	22%	8%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	34%	55%	78%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	36%	23%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Durbin Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	47%	80%	56%	15%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	11%	37%	77%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	9%	7%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Better or Worse w/ Obama</b>				
<b>Better</b>	33%	69%	33%	9%
<b>Worse</b>	49%	10%	42%	83%
<b>Stayed about the     same</b>	18%	21%	25%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Endorsement Impact</b>				
<b>More likely</b>	25%	54%	22%	9%
<b>Less likely</b>	41%	15%	32%	71%
<b>Doesn't make a     difference</b>	34%	32%	46%	20%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk/Jones/Labno</b>			
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	<b>40%</b>	43%	38%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	<b>42%</b>	37%	46%
<b>LeAlan Jones</b>	<b>4%</b>	4%	5%
<b>Mike Labno</b>	<b>3%</b>	3%	4%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	13%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk Only</b>			
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	<b>45%</b>	47%	43%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	<b>47%</b>	43%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	10%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Giannoulis Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	37%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>47%</b>	41%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	21%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	32%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	47%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	22%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dem or GOP Sen Control</b>			
<b>Democrats</b>	45%	47%	43%
<b>Republicans</b>	46%	44%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	8%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	46%	46%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	51%	50%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	4%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Burris Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	19%	22%	17%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	52%	64%
<b>Not sure</b>	23%	26%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Durbin Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	47%	49%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	41%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	9%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Better or Worse w/ Obama</b>			
<b>Better</b>	33%	32%	34%
<b>Worse</b>	49%	48%	49%
<b>Stayed about the     same</b>	18%	20%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Endorsement Impact</b>			
<b>More likely</b>	25%	27%	23%
<b>Less likely</b>	41%	39%	43%
<b>Doesn't make a     difference</b>	34%	34%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk/Jo- nes/Labno</b>				
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	40%	76%	3%	31%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	42%	10%	86%	40%
<b>LeAlan Jones</b>	4%	5%	1%	6%
<b>Mike Labno</b>	3%	0%	2%	9%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	9%	9%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk Only</b>				
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	45%	80%	3%	39%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	46%	13%	90%	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	7%	7%	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Giannoulias Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	67%	2%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	17%	80%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	17%	18%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	13%	69%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	68%	17%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	19%	14%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dem or GOP Sen Control</b>				
<b>Democrats</b>	45%	88%	1%	32%
<b>Republicans</b>	46%	6%	94%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	6%	5%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	45%	83%	2%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	51%	12%	96%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	5%	2%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Burris Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	19%	35%	5%	14%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	36%	80%	64%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	29%	15%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Durbin Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	47%	78%	11%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	14%	79%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Better or Worse w/ Obama</b>				
<b>Better</b>	33%	60%	1%	29%
<b>Worse</b>	49%	10%	93%	55%
<b>Stayed about the     same</b>	18%	30%	6%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Endorsement Impact</b>				
<b>More likely</b>	25%	49%	4%	13%
<b>Less likely</b>	41%	12%	78%	43%
<b>Doesn't make a     difference</b>	34%	39%	17%	44%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Giannoulas/Kirk/Jones/Labno</b>					
<b>Alexi Giannoulas</b>	<b>40%</b>	64%	34%	69%	47%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	<b>42%</b>	18%	49%	10%	27%
<b>LeAlan Jones</b>	<b>4%</b>	4%	4%	3%	10%
<b>Mike Labno</b>	<b>3%</b>	7%	4%	-	3%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	7%	9%	17%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Giannoulas/Kirk Only</b>					
<b>Alexi Giannoulas</b>	<b>45%</b>	64%	38%	76%	53%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	<b>46%</b>	32%	53%	14%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	4%	9%	10%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Giannoulas Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	64%	29%	59%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>47%</b>	29%	53%	17%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	7%	19%	24%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	21%	39%	17%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	54%	43%	55%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	25%	17%	28%	13%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Dem or GOP Sen Control</b>					
<b>Democrats</b>	<b>45%</b>	64%	38%	83%	48%
<b>Republicans</b>	<b>46%</b>	21%	53%	17%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	14%	10%	-	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>45%</b>	57%	39%	79%	55%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>51%</b>	36%	57%	21%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	7%	4%	-	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Burris Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>19%</b>	21%	16%	46%	19%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>58%</b>	50%	63%	32%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	29%	21%	21%	35%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Durbin Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>47%</b>	54%	43%	66%	68%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>45%</b>	39%	49%	21%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8%</b>	7%	8%	14%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Better or Worse w/ Obama</b>					
<b>Better</b>	<b>33%</b>	43%	28%	59%	32%
<b>Worse</b>	<b>49%</b>	39%	54%	21%	39%
<b>Stayed about the same</b>	<b>18%</b>	18%	18%	21%	29%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Endorsement Impact</b>					
<b>More likely</b>	<b>25%</b>	43%	20%	45%	19%
<b>Less likely</b>	<b>41%</b>	21%	46%	24%	35%
<b>Doesn't make a difference</b>	<b>34%</b>	36%	34%	31%	45%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk/Jones/Labno</b>					
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	<b>40%</b>	46%	44%	38%	38%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	<b>42%</b>	34%	41%	46%	40%
<b>LeAlan Jones</b>	<b>4%</b>	8%	5%	3%	4%
<b>Mike Labno</b>	<b>3%</b>	-	4%	3%	5%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	12%	6%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Giannoulis/Kirk Only</b>					
<b>Alexi Giannoulis</b>	<b>45%</b>	53%	48%	39%	45%
<b>Mark Kirk</b>	<b>46%</b>	40%	45%	50%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	7%	6%	11%	10%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Giannoulis Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	46%	37%	30%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>47%</b>	40%	49%	52%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	14%	14%	19%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	41%	31%	39%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	39%	48%	45%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	19%	21%	16%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dem or GOP Sen Control</b>					
<b>Democrats</b>	<b>45%</b>	55%	47%	41%	46%
<b>Republicans</b>	<b>46%</b>	33%	44%	50%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	11%	8%	10%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>45%</b>	48%	51%	41%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>51%</b>	49%	47%	56%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	3%	2%	3%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Burris Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	19%	16%	19%	17%	25%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	71%	57%	59%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	13%	24%	24%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Durbin Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	47%	44%	46%	46%	51%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	47%	47%	47%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	9%	8%	7%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Better or Worse w/ Obama</b>					
<b>Better</b>	33%	40%	38%	30%	29%
<b>Worse</b>	49%	45%	43%	52%	53%
<b>Stayed about the same</b>	18%	15%	19%	19%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Endorsement Impact</b>					
<b>More likely</b>	25%	29%	28%	20%	24%
<b>Less likely</b>	41%	44%	35%	45%	43%
<b>Doesn't make a difference</b>	34%	27%	37%	34%	32%

