



**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 12<sup>th</sup>- 13<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** 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
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	53%	10%	86%	23%
<b>Disapprove</b>	41%	84%	9%	63%
<b>Not Sure</b>	6%	6%	5%	14%

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Giannoulas Favorability</b>				
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
<b>Kirk Favorability</b>				
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
<b>Jones Favorability</b>				
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
<b>Giannoulas/Kirk/Jones</b>				
Alexi Giannoulas	31%	6%	50%	10%
Mark Kirk	30%	61%	11%	23%
LeAlan Jones	14%	9%	16%	31%
Undecided	24%	24%	23%	36%





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Giannoulis Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	23%	41%	25%	9%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	31%	19%	32%	39%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	39%	43%	52%

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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







**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
<b>Giannoulis Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	23%	20%	39%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	31%	35%	13%	30%
<b>Not Sure</b>	45%	45%	47%	48%

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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







**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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

