



**Paul Simon
Public Policy Institute**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

www.paulsimoninstitute.org

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

Until 7:00am Tuesday, October 12, 2010
CARBONDALE, ILL. –

Contact: Charles Leonard
618-303-9099
cleonard@siu.edu

BRADY LEADS GOVERNOR RACE, SENATE CONTEST TIED

Republican Bill Brady has opened up almost a nine-point lead over Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn in the statewide race for Illinois governor, according to a new poll of likely voters conducted by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The U.S. Senate race between Republican Mark Kirk and Democrat Alexi Giannoulias is a dead heat.

“Few states have the two top races as close as those in Illinois,” said Institute Director David Yepsen. “These races could turn on the smallest thing – a gaffe, the turnout efforts, or unforeseen events. Every vote will be important.”

Charles Leonard, the Simon Institute visiting professor who supervised the poll, said, “Our results appear to be in line with other recent surveys, in that Bill Brady holds a single-digit lead over Pat Quinn. Similarly, the Simon Poll shows the U.S. Senate race remains a virtual tie between Alexi Giannoulias and Mark Kirk.

“Taken as a whole, these recent Illinois polls demonstrate that the governor’s race is more volatile and that opinions in the Senate race are more hardened and are more difficult to move. That there are still one in five voters saying they are undecided adds to the air of uncertainty about both these races,” Leonard said.

Yepsen said the poll is good news for Republican Brady. “Brady leads Quinn, who had been closing in on him in other recent polls. Also, the survey shows Republicans are more excited about this election.”

In the race for governor, Brady is capturing 38.4 percent of the vote to Quinn’s 29.8 percent. Independent candidate Scott Lee Cohen captures 5.9 percent, and Green Party candidate Rich Whitney garners 2.2 percent. Libertarian candidate Lex Green is at 1.5 percent. There are 22.1 percent who are undecided or who favor another candidate.

In the Senate contest, Kirk has 37.3 percent and Giannoulias has 36.8 percent. Green Party candidate LeAlan Jones has 3.3 percent and Libertarian Mike Labno has 1.8 percent. There are 20.7 percent who are undecided or who favor another candidate.

The survey of 1,000 registered voters was taken Sept. 30 to Oct. 10 and has a margin of error of 3 percentage points. It found 758 who were classified as likely voters. Few polls of the Illinois contests have sample sizes as large as this one. The margin for error among likely voters is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. The numbers in this release are those for likely voters.

Results from the entire sample have a statistical margin for error of 3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that if we were to conduct the survey 100 times, in 95 of those instances the results would vary by no more than plus or minus 3 points from the results obtained here. The margin for error will be larger for demographic, geographic and response subgroups.

Likely voters are respondents who passed a two-question "screen": first, that they were absolutely certain to vote, and second, that they knew exactly where their polling place was.

(When viewing the results for the two races among all 1,000 respondents in the registered voter sample, the results change very little. In the gubernatorial race, Brady's lead shrinks from 8.6 percentage points to six points -34.4 percent vs. 28.4. In the Senate race, including all 1,000 respondents gives Giannoulas a statistically insignificant 1.7 percentage point lead over Kirk - 35.1 percent vs. 33.4.)

In other findings, the survey found:

- Green, Libertarian and independent candidates may be taking similar numbers of votes away from the Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates. If there were no "third party" candidates in the governor's race, the survey indicates Quinn would have gained 3.8 percentage points to Brady's 3 points. In the Senate race, the third party candidates appear to draw equally from both parties.
- Republicans and Democrats are essentially tied in the generic race for Congress, 40.8 percent to 40 percent, respectively. However, Republicans (55.4%) are more likely to say they are "more enthusiastic" about this election than are Democrats (34.7%).
- President Obama's job approval rating in his home state of Illinois remains slightly higher than it is nationally. Half (50.3%) of likely voters approve of the job he is doing, compared with 46 percent nationally in a recent Gallup poll. "That may be one reason the president and others in his administration are spending so much time here," Yepsen said. "They're not as welcome in other places and their work could prove pivotal in turning out Democratic base voters, particularly in his hometown of Chicago."
- Some 62.4 percent of likely voters thought the country was headed in the wrong direction but an overwhelming 81.3 percent said the state was headed that way. They were evenly divided on the question of whether their city or home area was headed in the right or wrong direction.
- While voters were ambivalent about the Tea Party movement, affiliation with it would turn off more voters than it excites in Illinois. A third (33.1 percent) said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate affiliated with the Tea Party, compared with 45.5 percent who said they would be less likely to do so.

**Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale**

**Poll Results of Likely Voters in Illinois
Conducted September 30-October 10, 2010**

Released October 11, 2010

1. First, the election for Governor of Illinois...if the election were held today, would you vote for the Democrat, Pat Quinn; the Republican, Bill Brady; the Green Party candidate, Rich Whitney; the Libertarian, Lex Green; or the independent, Scott Lee Cohen?

Quinn	29.8%
Bill Brady	38.4%
Whitney	2.2%
Green	1.5%
Cohen	5.9%
Someone else	2.6%
Don't know	19.5%

2. Next, the election for the U.S. Senator from Illinois...If the election were held today, would you vote for the Democrat, Alexi Giannoulias; the Republican, Mark Kirk; the Libertarian, Mike Labno; or the Green Party candidate, LeAlan Jones?

Giannoulias	36.8%
Kirk	37.3%
Labno	1.8%
Jones	3.3%
Someone else	2.4%
Other/Don't know	18.3%

3. If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate OR the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

Republican	40.8%
Democrat	40.0%
Other/Don't know	19.3%

4. Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

More enthusiastic	42.0%
Less enthusiastic	29.2%
About the same	26.3%
Other/Don't know	2.6%

5. I would like you to tell me how President Barack Obama is doing his job. Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job President Obama is doing?

Strongly approve	20.1%
Approve	30.2%
Disapprove	16.1%
Strongly disapprove	31.9%
Other/Don't know	1.7%

6. We would like to know what you think about the direction of the United States of America. Generally speaking, do you think things in our country are going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction?

Right direction	29.4%
Wrong direction	62.4%
Other/Don't know	8.2%

7. And what about the direction of the State of Illinois? Generally speaking, are things in Illinois going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction?

Right direction	11.1%
Wrong direction	81.3%
Other/Don't know	7.7%

8. And how are things going in your city or area of the state? In general, are things in your city or area going in the right direction, or are they off track and heading in the wrong direction?

Right direction	45.5%
Wrong direction	42.9%
Other/Don't know	11.6%

9. Taking everything into account, would you say the overall quality of life in your area is...

Excellent	7.7%
Good	39.3%
Average	36.9%
Not so good	10.9%
Poor	5.1%

11. How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year?

A lot	52.3%
A little	42.0%
Nothing at all	5.5%
Other/Don't know	1.2%

12. From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

Strongly agree	17.0%
Agree	24.2%
Disagree	16.3%
Strongly disagree	20.1%
No opinion	19.4%
Other/Don't know	3.1%

13. Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate that was affiliated with the Tea Party movement?

More likely	33.1%
Less likely	45.5%
Neither	10.3%
Other/Don't know	11.2%

14. (*Of those indicating a vote for "third party" candidates. [N=73]*) If there were no third parties on the ballot for Governor, would you probably vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate?

Democrat	39.7%
Republican	31.5%
Would not vote at all	20.5%
Other/Don't know	8.2%

15. (*Of those indicating a vote for "third party" candidates. [N=39]*) If there were no third parties on the ballot for Senate, would you probably vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate?

Democrat	35.9%
Republican	30.8%
Would not vote at all	23.1%
Other/Don't know	10.3%

16. If the election for Governor of Illinois were held today, would you vote for...

	City of Chicago	Suburban Chicago	Northern/ Central	Southern	Total
Quinn	53.6%	29.1%	23.1%	24.1%	29.8%
Brady	16.1%	35.2%	45.8%	50.0%	38.4%
Whitney	0.0%	2.7%	3.3%	0.9%	2.2%
Green	2.7%	0.0%	2.6%	0.9%	1.5%
Cohen	4.5%	8.0%	4.4%	6.3%	5.9%
Someone else	2.7%	2.7%	1.8%	4.5%	2.6%
Don't Know	20.5%	22.2%	19.0%	13.4%	19.5%

17. If the election for US Senator from Illinois were held today, would you vote for...

	City of Chicago	Suburban Chicago	Northern/ Central	Southern	Total
Giannoulis	62.5%	37.9%	30.0%	25.0%	36.8%
Kirk	17.9%	38.3%	40.7%	46.4%	37.3%
Labno	1.8%	0.8%	2.2%	3.6%	1.8%
Jones	0.9%	2.7%	4.8%	3.6%	3.3%
Someone else	3.6%	1.1%	2.2%	4.5%	2.4%
Don't know	13.4%	19.2%	20.1%	17.0%	18.3%

18. Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job President Obama is doing?

	City of Chicago	Suburban Chicago	Northern/ Central	Southern	Total
Strongly Approve	42.0%	18.4%	16.5%	10.7%	20.1%
Somewhat Approve	36.6%	32.6%	27.8%	24.1%	30.2%
Somewhat Disapprove	8.0%	18.8%	14.7%	21.4%	16.1%
Strongly Disapprove	11.6%	28.0%	39.2%	43.8%	31.9%
Don't know	1.8%	2.3%	1.8%	0.0%	1.7%

**Some columns do not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.*

The mission of the non-partisan Paul Simon Public Policy Institute polling is to provide citizens, policy-makers and academic researchers with objective information about trends and issues facing society.

Telephone interviews were conducted by Issues & Answers Global Media Research of Virginia Beach, VA. It reports no Illinois political clients and was paid with non-tax dollars from the Institute's endowment fund.

Political scientist Dr. Charles Leonard directs the poll for the Institute. He is assisted by Drs. John Jackson and J. Tobin Grant, also political scientists.

Note: The "Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Poll," the "Simon Poll" and the "Southern Illinois Poll" are the copyrighted trademarks of the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University. Use and publication of these polls is encouraged – but only with credit to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIUC.

For more information, contact:

Charles Leonard, Visiting Professor and Polling Director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Cell phone 618-303-9099

John Jackson, Visiting Professor, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Office phone 618-453-3106

J. Tobin Grant, Associate Professor of Political Science
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Cell phone 618-559-2215

David Yepsen, Director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Cell phone 618-559-5854