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Giannoulias Leads in Race for U.S. Senate in IL

To: Interested Parties

From: Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

Despite an influx of national money from right wing political groups and corporate special interests, Democrat Alexi Giannoulias is leading Republican Mark Kirk as we head into the homestretch in the race for U.S. Senate in Illinois. Giannoulias leads Kirk 44 – 41 percent in a survey conducted following the candidates' first debate Sunday on *Meet the Press*.

George Bush's political svengali Karl Rove is directing millions of dollars in corporate and conservative money into Illinois to defeat Alexi Giannoulias. Last week, the newspaper *Politico* reported on a memo where Mark Kirk explicitly sought out conservative support for the purpose of the "humiliation of the White House".

Rove and the Chamber of Commerce are answering Kirk's calls. Yet, despite their efforts, Illinois voters are rejecting Rove and Kirk's smears and the race is moving in Giannoulias' favor.

This contest is still neck-and-neck and there are many voters up for grabs. The Republicans are placing their bets that they can spend their way to victory, but Giannoulias is fighting back. In order to turn out his base and keep this seat blue, Giannoulias will need to rely on his network of activists, and grassroots supporters to have the resources to communicate and win over the next 20 days.



Table 1: "If the general election for US Senate were held today and the candidates were: Democrat Alexi Giannoulias, Republican Mark Kirk, Green Party candidate LeAlan Jones, and Libertarian Mike Labno--for whom would you vote?"
(Percent responding)

	Vote share
Democrat Alexi Giannoulias	44
Republican Mark Kirk	41
Green LeAlan Jones	4
Libertarian Mike Labno	3
Undecided	8

These findings are based on a sample of 600 likely general election voters conducted October 10-12, 2010 for Alexi for Illinois. The sample size of this survey is subject to a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

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