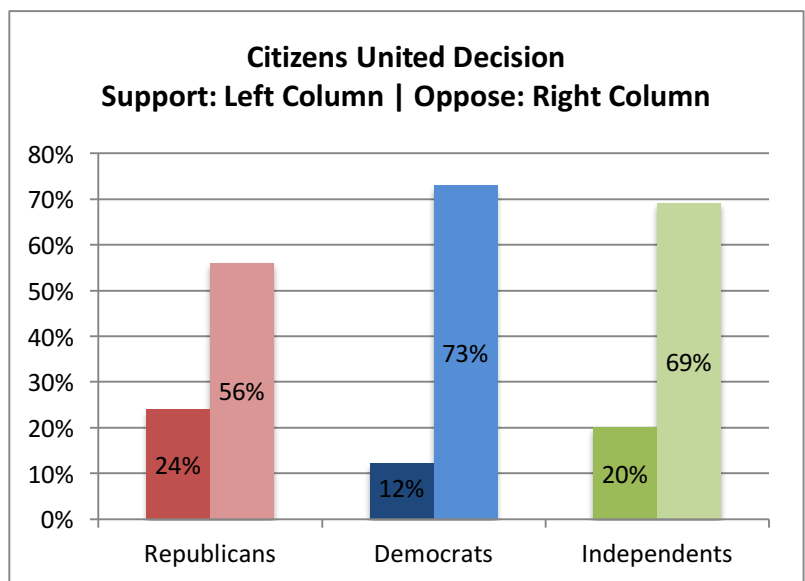


**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** John Hagner, Clarity Campaign Labs  
**Date:** September 15, 2015  
**Subject:** Illinois Voters Show Strong Opposition to Citizens United Decision

A new poll conducted September 10-14, 2015 by Clarity Campaign Labs on behalf of **End Citizens United PAC** shows strong opposition among Illinoisans to the Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision. The same survey shows the incumbent, Senator Mark Kirk, trailing Democratic Representative Tammy Duckworth. Duckworth, a strong opponent of *Citizens United*, leads Senator Kirk 45% to 41%.

The 2010 decision, which allowed for unlimited political spending by corporations, has been widely criticized. In its aftermath, President Obama described it as “devastating to the public interest.”

We explained the decision neutrally, stating that “in 2010 the Supreme Court decided a case known as *Citizens United*, that overturned some campaign finance laws, allowing corporations and individuals to spend unlimited amounts of money to help political candidates win elections.” After hearing this summary, **67% of respondents opposed** the decision, and **15% were undecided**. Just **18% supported** the decision. Opposition was wide-ranging, with 73% of Democrats, 69% of Independents, and 56% of Republicans opposing the decision. Opposition to the *Citizens United* decision also cuts across age and gender. For every age range tested, the majority of respondents oppose the decision once they are read a neutral summary of it. Voters under 35 oppose it 66% to just 26%, but voters over 80 also oppose it, 49% to 22%. Women oppose it 65% to 15% and men 68% to 22%.



The Democrat, Tammy Duckworth, currently leads the Senate race in Illinois. She’s fairly well known for a Member of Congress, and is seen favorably by voters in the state. 35% have a favorable view of her, while 24% have an unfavorable view. Senator Kirk is viewed favorably by 33% and unfavorably by 35%. 20% of Illinoisans have never heard of Duckworth, indicating that she has room to grow her support.

Importantly, Senator Kirk’s silence on the *Citizens United* decision could have significant implications for his re-election. Among voters currently supporting Kirk, 34% indicated that they would be likely to oppose a candidate in favor of the decision, and 41% of voters who are undecided say they’d be more likely to oppose a candidate who supports the *Citizens United* decision. Just 10% of undecided voters said that they would be more likely to support someone who favors it.

*Methodology:* A poll of registered voters in Illinois. We surveyed 948 voters with an IVR survey to landlines and live calls to cell phones. We matched the sample to the voter file and weighted it to reflect the electorate in Illinois. The margin of error is +/- 3.23% at a 95% confidence interval.