Date: October 18, 2018  
To: End Citizens United  
From: Clarity Campaign Labs  
Subject: The race for Ohio’s 12th Congressional district remains close

As the November midterm elections approach, a new survey conducted by Clarity Campaign Labs on behalf of End Citizens United shows that voters in Ohio are still weighing their options. The survey was conducted between October 11th and 13th, using automated calls to landlines and live calls to wireless phones of likely 2018 general election voters in Ohio’s 12th congressional district. The sample included 639 voters and the margin of error is +/- 3.87% at a 95% confidence interval.

In a rematch from the August 2018 Special election, the vote remains close with a 2-point lead, within the margin of error. 48% of likely voters expressed support for Republican Troy Balderson, 46% support Democrat Danny O’Connor, and 6% remain undecided. While the district, which encompasses Columbus suburbs and more rural areas around Zanesville, is generally more right-leaning, it’s also one of the best-educated and wealthiest in Ohio.

Looking across demographic lines, there is a path to victory for the Democrat, who narrowly lost the Special election just a few months ago. Among likely voters with a college education, O’Connor leads 54% to Balderson’s 41%. Additionally, 52% of Independents support O’Connor compared to 40% for Balderson. O’Connor also has a strong lead among young people 18-34 years old with 60% of their support to only 40% for Balderson.

With just a couple weeks remaining before the election, there is room for O’Connor to take the lead. Just 31% of likely voters said that Balderson is doing a good job as Congressman. As voters learn more about Balderson’s record, support for him drops. When voters hear about Balderson’s record voting for tax breaks for corporations and the richest 1% of Americans, 47% are less likely to support him. When they hear about his opposition to expanding Medicaid and taking money from companies profiting off the opioid epidemic, 44% of voters are less likely to support him. Support for President Trump remains high in the district with 48% approving Trump and 45% disapproving.

As the election nears, Danny O’Connor has a potential path to victory, especially among women, young people, and Independent voters.