

March 4, 2010

***Citizens United* poll shows broad support for free political speech**

Victory Enterprises surveyed 600 likely voters—respondents identified as likely voters in the Nov. 2010 general election for federal, state and local candidates—from March 1-2. The poll, commissioned by the Center for Competitive Politics, has a +/-4.0 percent margin of error with a 95 percent confidence interval.

SCRIPT and TOPLINE RESULTS

The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that incorporated entities—businesses, unions, and nonprofit advocacy groups—have a First Amendment right to spend money from their general treasuries to fund independent advertisements urging people to vote for or against candidates for public office. The case involved a nonprofit group called Citizens United that wanted to promote and distribute a movie it had produced that was critical of a presidential candidate.

Q1. Are you aware of or have you followed the recent *Citizens United* case, related to corporate and union spending in elections, decided by the Supreme Court last month?

Yes.....	133	22.2%
No.....	358	59.7%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	77	12.8%
Refused.....	32	5.3%

Q2. Do you believe that the government should have been able to prevent Citizens United, an incorporated nonprofit advocacy group, from airing ads promoting its movie?

Yes.....	105	17.5%
No.....	307	51.2%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	162	27.0%
Refused.....	26	4.3%

Q3. Do you believe that the government should have been able to prevent Citizens United, an incorporated nonprofit advocacy group, from making its movie available through video-on-demand technology?

Yes.....	114	19.0%
No.....	307	51.2%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	145	24.2%
Refused.....	34	5.7%

Q4. Do you think that the government should have the power to limit how much some people speak about politics in order to enhance the voices of others?

Yes.....	99	16.5%
No.....	378	63.0%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	86	14.3%
Refused.....	37	6.2%

Q5. Do you believe that newspapers, television, and other media have substantial influence on political campaigns?

Yes.....	352	58.7%
No.....	139	23.2%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	68	11.3%
Refused.....	41	6.8%

Q6. Do you support or oppose government-imposed restrictions on newspapers, television, and other media in order to equalize political influence?

Strongly Support.....	70	11.7%
Somewhat Support.....	111	18.5%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	181	30.2%
Strongly Oppose.....	206	34.3%
Somewhat Oppose.....	101	16.8%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	307	51.1%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	88	14.7%
Refused.....	24	4.0%

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Q7. Do you support or oppose giving the federal government the ability to censor the production and distribution of political books and movies that are produced and distributed by corporations, including publishers like HarperCollins and movie studios like Warner Brothers?

Strongly Support.....	61	10.2%
Somewhat Support.....	86	14.3%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	147	24.5%
Strongly Oppose.....	234	39.0%
Somewhat Oppose.....	99	16.5%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	333	55.5%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	92	15.3%
Refused.....	28	4.7%

Q8. And do you support or oppose allowing the federal government to impose criminal or civil penalties against individual citizens or corporations for spending money to engage in political speech?

Strongly Support.....	74	12.3%
Somewhat Support.....	96	16.0%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	170	28.3%
Strongly Oppose.....	220	36.7%
Somewhat Oppose.....	78	13.0%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	298	49.7%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	106	17.7%
Refused.....	26	4.3%

Q9. In 2002 Congress passed the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, also known as “McCain-Feingold.” The law placed new restrictions on corporate and union political spending and contributions to political parties, with the goal of reducing special interest influence.

Do you believe that McCain-Feingold has been successful in reducing special interest influence?

Yes.....	85	14.2%
No.....	265	44.2%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	194	32.3%
Refused.....	56	9.3%

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Now I'd like to ask you a few hypothetical questions that relate to the Supreme Court's ruling.

Q10. Suppose the state legislature in your state proposed a budget that cuts millions of dollars from education and requires terminating several thousand teachers. Do you support or oppose permitting the state teachers union to pay for and run radio and television ads that support state legislative candidates who oppose the cuts?

Strongly Support.....	158	26.3%
Somewhat Support.....	110	18.3%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	268	44.6%
Strongly Oppose.....	154	25.7%
Somewhat Oppose.....	55	9.2%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	209	34.9%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	88	14.7%
Refused.....	35	5.8%

Q11. Now suppose Congress introduced legislation to increase the payroll tax, and a trade association of small business owners predict it will increase business costs and lead to employee layoffs. Do you support or oppose allowing the trade association to pay for and run radio and television ads to criticize candidates who support the tax?

Strongly Support.....	126	21.0%
Somewhat Support.....	109	18.2%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	235	39.2%
Strongly Oppose.....	169	28.2%
Somewhat Oppose.....	60	10.0%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	229	38.2%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	94	15.7%
Refused.....	42	7.0%

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Q12. Now suppose the President proposed an energy bill that most environmental groups support. Do you support or oppose allowing the Sierra Club and other national environmental groups to pay for and run radio and television ads urging citizens to vote for members of Congress who support the President's energy bill?

Strongly Support.....	152	25.3%
Somewhat Support.....	119	19.8%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	271	45.1%
Strongly Oppose.....	128	21.3%
Somewhat Oppose.....	58	9.7%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	186	31.0%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	97	16.2%
Refused.....	46	7.7%

Q13. Now suppose your state legislature is considering a bill raising taxes on restaurants. Do you support or oppose allowing these businesses to pay for and run radio and television ads urging state residents to oppose candidates who support higher taxes on restaurants?

Strongly Support.....	145	24.2%
Somewhat Support.....	111	18.5%
TOTAL SUPPORT.....	256	42.7%
Strongly Oppose.....	140	23.3%
Somewhat Oppose.....	61	10.2%
TOTAL OPPOSE.....	201	33.5%
Not Sure/Undecided.....	97	16.2%
Refused.....	46	7.7%

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