

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Majority PAC**  
**FROM: Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group**  
**DATE: August 15, 2012**  
**RE: Recent Indiana Statewide Survey**

From August 9 to 12, 2012, Garin-Hart-Yang surveyed a representative statewide sample of 601 likely voters (margin of error is  $\pm 4$  percentage points). Despite a seven-point GOP advantage in party ID, our survey is the second in recent weeks to show Joe Donnelly holding a lead over Richard Mourdock in the U.S. Senate election:

### U.S. Senate Trial Heat

	<u>%</u>
Joe Donnelly	45
Richard Mourdock	43
<u>Undecided</u>	<u>12</u>

Congressman Donnelly's lead is more impressive given that he still lags behind Mourdock in statewide name recognition (58% recognize Donnelly, 74% recognize Mourdock), and in fact, Donnelly leads 49% to 44% among Hoosiers who know BOTH candidates.

Despite the GOP lean of the state, Congressman Donnelly leads in the Senate race due to his opponent's excessively polarizing image and his own credibility as a bipartisan, common-sense leader. Consider the following:

- ✓ Mourdock has a NET-negative image (25% positive, 27% negative), while Donnelly's image is positive by 21% to 14%.
- ✓ Donnelly is viewed as being more down-to-earth and likable over Mourdock by an 18-point margin (43% to 25%) and also leads by double digits on being bipartisan and able to work with both political parties (39% Donnelly, 26% Mourdock).

In summary, while the GOP will stop at nothing (and spend millions doing so) to defeat Joe Donnelly, the congressman holds onto the lead because he has managed to carve out an image as a bipartisan problem-solver along the tradition of Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar. For that reason, Donnelly has the advantage over Richard Mourdock whose extreme ideas are far outside the Hoosier mainstream.