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New Footage: Baldwin and Thompson at odds over big money in politics

****New Mason-Dixon Wisconsin Poll Shows 2 out of 3 voters favor
constitutional amendment - Baldwin supports, Thompson opposes****

****Independents amongst strongest amendment supporters****

In new statements made by Senate hopefuls Tammy Baldwin and Tommy Thompson, the neck-and-neck candidates gave voters another strong point of contrast in the waning days of the campaign. Baldwin announced that she'd support a constitutional amendment process to address the flood of money pouring into US elections while Thompson revealed his opposition to any such plan. The contrary statements come on the heels of a new Mason-Dixon poll of Wisconsin voters finding that 62% of registered voters favor an amendment and that 58% are more likely to support a Senate candidate who shares that view.

The poll, conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research on behalf of Avaaz.org's [Elections not Auctions](#) campaign, also reveals that the outsized spending of super PACs and other groups in the 2012 election cycle is contributing to broad, bipartisan perceptions of corruption in our elections. In addition to Wisconsin, the poll also surveyed voters in Montana and Connecticut, sites of two other tight Senate races. Full poll results can be found [here \(pdf\)](#).

Ms. Baldwin told Avaaz's Elections not Auctions campaign that "Corporations shouldn't be able to choose who their U.S. Senators are, people should," and that while "we can take some legislative steps to help ameliorate [the problem] ... we absolutely have to look at a constitutional amendment." The full video of Baldwin's comments can be seen here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/bwbduk9qwwqscv4/20121028_110812.mp4

Mr. Thompson, on the other hand, told Avaaz's Elections not Auctions campaign that "I don't believe in constitutional amendments like that." When asked how then he proposed to deal with the effects of big money in politics, he answered cryptically "by winning." The full video of Thompson's comments can be seen here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/mnw3mjsm7dhqr5p/20121005_131515.mp4

“For those 2 out of 3 Wisconsin voters who believe we need an amendment to get big money out of our political system the choice couldn’t be clearer: Tammy Baldwin is on our side,” said Ian Bassin, Campaign Director at Avaaz.org. “This isn’t about partisan politics, it’s about America’s democratic future. Wisconsin voters know that, Tammy Baldwin knows that, it’s only Tommy Thompson who seems to miss the point completely.”

The Wisconsin Senate race is the most expensive in the State’s history and has seen the second highest amount of outside spending of any Senate race in the country, according to a recent report from the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

According to a new Mason-Dixon poll of Wisconsin voters:

- **65% of registered voters in Wisconsin say the amount of money being spent to influence the outcome of this year’s elections is “corrupting our democracy,” including 73% of Democrats, 57% of Republicans, and 65% of Independents.**
- **62% of registered voters in Wisconsin support lawmakers proposing a constitutional amendment designed to reduce the influence of money in the American political system, including 72% of Democrats, 55% of Republicans, 57% of Independents.**
- **58% of registered voters in Wisconsin are more likely to vote for a candidate running for office this year who supports proposing a constitutional amendment designed to reduce the influence of money in our political system.**

A detailed Appendix, including the poll’s script, methodology, and responses broken down by demographics, is available [here](#).

For a comprehensive list of where a number of national candidates stand on the issue of amending big money out of politics, and the polling data set in it’s entirety, see here:

<http://www.electionsnotauctions.org/>

ABOUT

Elections not Auctions is a project of Avaaz.org, a people powered campaigning organization with nearly a million members in the United States. Avaaz members in Connecticut, Montana and Wisconsin are pressing candidates running for national office to state their position on the current influx of money into our political system, and to tell voters what they’re prepared to

do about it if elected. On the eve of the first presidential debate on October 2, to illustrate the current state of affairs, Elections not Auctions staged a “mock auction” in downtown Denver during which an auctioneer “sold” political offices around the country to bidders that included Super PACs, corporate lobbies and billionaire donors. Hi res images of that event can be found [here](#).

Each survey was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Washington, D.C. from October 15 through October 17, 2012. A total of 625 registered voters in each state were interviewed statewide by telephone. All said that they were likely to vote in the November general election.

Those interviewed were randomly selected from a phone-matched state voter registration list that included both landline and cell phone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter turnout by county in each state. The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 4 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if the entire population were sampled. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a region or gender grouping.

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[Avaaz](#) is a 16-million-person global campaigning organisation that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people shape global decision-making. ("Avaaz" means "voice" or "song" in many languages). Avaaz members live in every nation of the world; our team is spread across 13 countries on 4 continents and operates in 14 languages. Learn about some of Avaaz's latest campaigns [here](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
