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SLU/YouGov Poll: Voters increasingly approve of Parson, Hawley, and Blunt

The July SLU/YouGov Poll interviewed 950 likely Missouri voters about issues important to Missourians. The survey found that voters' approval of Gov. Mike Parson and U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley increased. A majority of Missouri voters do not believe schools should teach "Critical Race Theory." A third of voters report they will not get a COVID-19 vaccine or are not sure if they will get a vaccine.

Key Findings on Missouri Issues

- 62% of voters believe that the State of Missouri should fund Medicaid expansion
- 51% of voters do not think schools should be allowed to teach "Critical Race Theory"
- 54% of voters support the new student scholarship program and prohibiting Missouri state and local officials from enforcing federal gun laws
- 42% of voters think Missouri is on the right track, and 26% of voters rate the state economy as "Good" or "Excellent"
- Missourians are growing concerned about Missouri's infrastructure and roads
- 24% of Missouri voters report they do not plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine, and an additional 10% are not sure about getting vaccinated

Key Findings on Political Leaders

- Gov. Parson's overall approval rating grows to 53%, a 5.7% increase in the last year
- 53% of voters approve of Parson's handling of the pandemic, a 4.6% increase in the last year
- 54% of Missouri voters disapprove of President Joe Biden's performance as president
- Sen. Josh Hawley's approval rating grows to 52%, a 3.6% increase in the last ye

Voters increasingly approving of Governor Parson

The latest SLU/YouGov Poll shows that 53% of likely Missouri voters approve of Mike Parson's performance as Missouri governor, which is a 5.8% increase from findings from the June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll. Over 80% of Republicans and 58% of Independents approve of how the Governor is doing his job, but only 16% of Democrats approve.

More Missouri voters disapprove than approve of Roy Blunt's performance as senator, but more voters approve of Blunt than did last year. In June 2020, 38% of voters approved of Blunt's performance, but in July 2021, 40% of voters approved, and 47% disapproved. Sixty-two percent of Republican voters, 43% of Independents, and 15% of Democratic voters approve of Blunt's performance. Both Hawley and Blunt are individually much more popular with voters than the U.S. Congress as a whole. Only 20% of Missouri voters approve of the U.S. Congress, while 69% disapprove.

2022 Election: Voters views of Republican U.S. Senate candidates

In 2022, Missouri voters will vote to replace retiring Sen. Blunt. Republicans' recent success in statewide elections suggests the 2022 Republican U.S. Senate primary winner will likely win the general election.

"Missourians overall have relatively unfavorable views of some of the main Republican candidates, but Republican voters are more favorable," Rogers said,

Missourians' favorability of prominent Republican Senate Candidates:

- Former governor Eric Greitens: 37% Favorable, 43% Unfavorable, 20% Not Sure
- Attorney General Eric Schmitt: 33% Favorable, 25% Unfavorable, 41% Not Sure
- U.S. Rep. Vicky Hartzler: 28% Favorable; 24% Unfavorable, 49% Not Sure
- St. Louis lawyer Mark McCloskey: 28% Favorable; 32% Unfavorable, 40% Not Sure

Republican voters' favorability of these Senate Candidates:

- Former governor Eric Greitens: 56% Favorable, 23% Unfavorable, 20% Not Sure
- Attorney General Eric Schmitt: 50% Favorable, 8% Unfavorable, 42% Not Sure
- U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler: 38% Favorable; 12% Unfavorable, 51% Not Sure
- St. Louis Lawyer Mark McCloskey: 41% Favorable; 13% Unfavorable, 47% Not Sure

"Despite a sex scandal that forced Eric Greitens to resign as Missouri's governor in 2018, his popularity among Missouri Republicans is quite high and more voters are familiar with Greitens than his competition in the upcoming U.S. Senate race," said Warren.

Mark McCloskey and his wife recently made headlines again after receiving a pardon on July 30 from Gov. Parson for misdemeanor fourth-degree assault. The McCloskeys came to the country's attention after pointing guns at social justice demonstrators in St. Louis last year. When asked in October 2020, 55% of Missouri voters said that the McCloskeys "Acted responsibly, within their rights to defend their home," and 40% said the McCloskeys acted irresponsibly (margin of error ± 5.3).

Both Republicans and Democrats are unhappy with the economy and infrastructure
Forty-two percent

Missourians indicated "Infrastructure" should be the top priority of the Missouri state government, which is approximately a 5% increase from the October 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll. In July 2021, only 19% of Missouri voters rated "roads and infrastructure in the State of Missouri" as "Excellent" or "Good," and 77% rated roads and infrastructure as "Fair" or "Poor" (margin of error $\pm 6.0\%$). At least 69% of Republican, Democratic, and Independent Voters each rated the roads and infrastructure in the state as "Fair" or "Poor."

Missourians support funding Medicaid expansion, new school scholarship program, and federal gun law ban

Missouri voters voted to expand Medicaid in 2020 53% to 47%, but the state legislature did not fund the expansion during the 2021 regular session. Voters largely oppose the state legislature's decision.

racism." Many see the "Love America Act" as legislation to prevent teaching "Critical Race Theory" in schools.

The SLU/YouGov Poll asked voters about this

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