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MASON-DIXON® MISSOURI POLL



APRIL 2018

PART II: US SENATE RACE

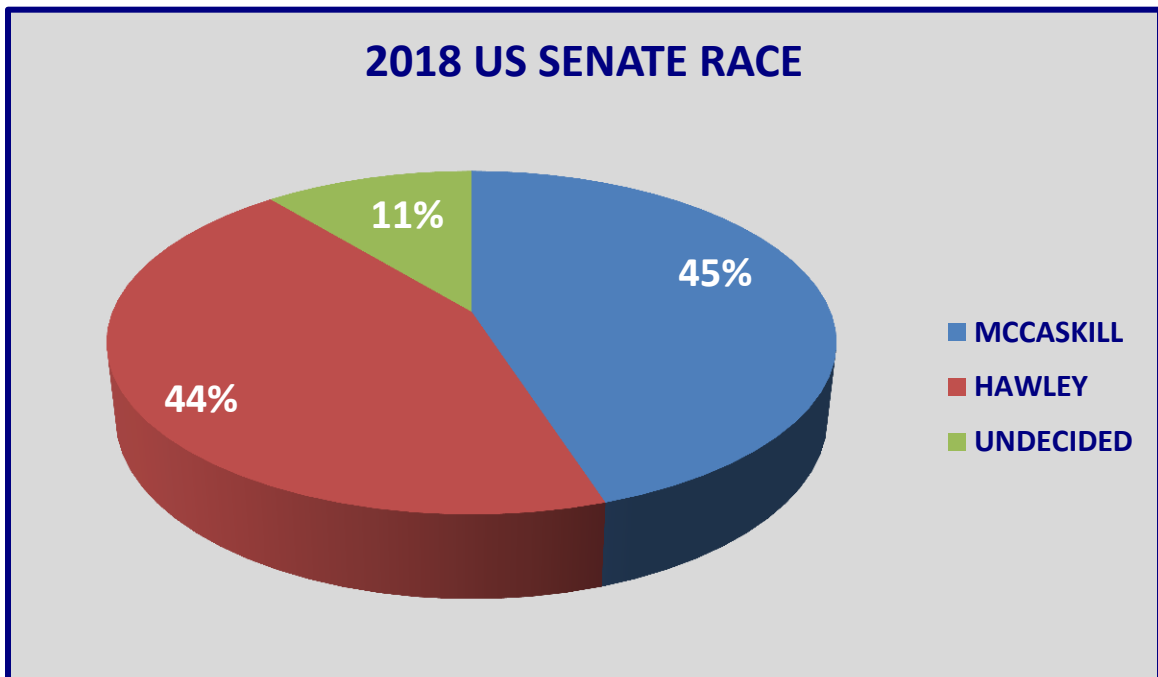
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Tracking public opinion in Missouri since 1987

**MCCASKILL-HAWLEY IN TIGHT SENATE RACE
TRUMP MAY NOT PROVIDE A HUGE BOOST FOR GOP CHALLENGER**

Missouri's U.S. Senate race will be one of the most watched elections during the 2018 cycle and the hype appears to be justified. Incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill holds a relatively insignificant 1-point lead over Republican challenger Todd Hawley. Statewide, 45% currently support McCaskill, while 44% back Hawley and 11% are undecided.

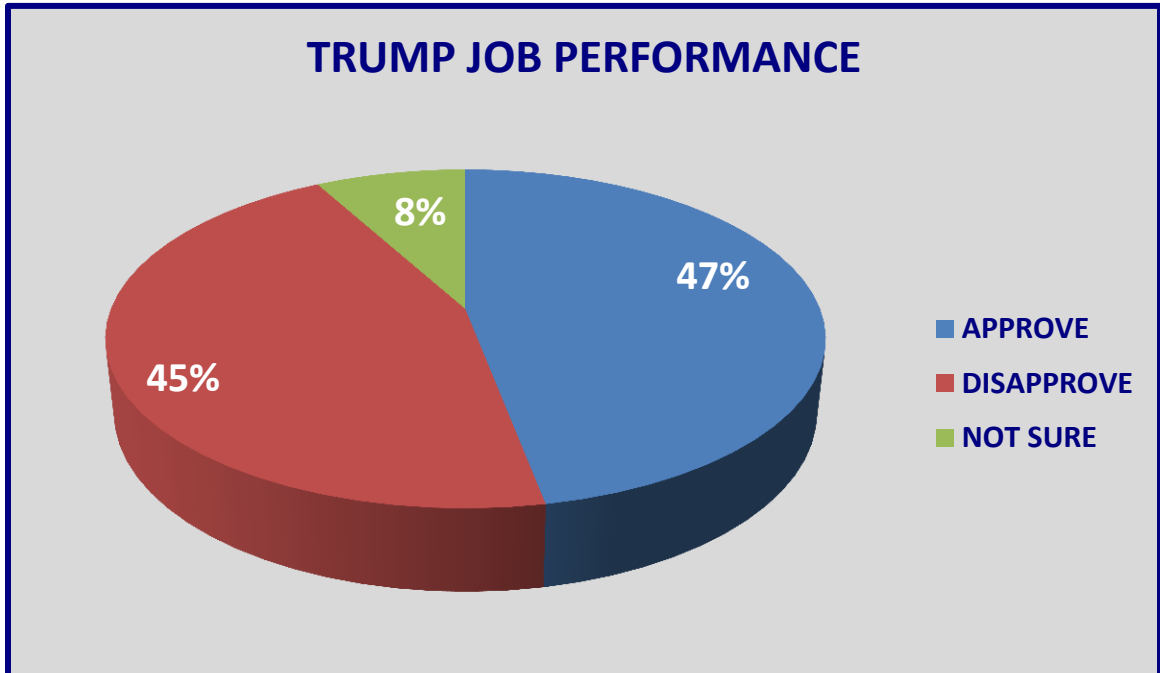


As in all recent close statewide races in Missouri, the traditional voter support patterns hold true. Hawley is strong in rural Missouri, as well as with men, whites, those over the age of 50 and Republicans. On the flip side, McCaskill leads in the two major metropolitan areas, along with women, blacks, those under the age of 50 and Democrats. Independent voters are equally divided between the two candidates.

There are good and bad signs for each candidate, which combined introduce a “wild card” factor regarding voter turnout. For example, McCaskill has 16-point statewide name recognition advantage over Hawley, but that only translates into a one-point edge in voter preference. Her favorable/unfavorable name recognition ratio is only 41%/38%. This is typically not a good position for an incumbent whose support base is five-points below 50%.

Hawley is not recognized by almost one-in-five state voters. This is a double-edged sword. In most cases it indicates there is room for growth and creates great opportunity to build his base support into a lead. But it also creates a possible problem if McCaskill goes on the offensive early and is able to “define” Hawley and drive up his negatives before he can get out of the batter’s box.

How President Donald Trump holds up over the next seven months will play a major role too. Missouri voter’s personal views of Trump are slightly more favorable than unfavorable (44%/38%). Currently, 47% of state voters approve of Trump’s job performance and 45% disapprove.



One on hand, these Trump numbers are about 7-8 points above his national average, so he may not be a drag on Hawley as he will likely be for GOP candidates in other parts of the country.

However, Trump carried Missouri by 19-points in 2016. There has clearly been an erosion of his support in the state since his resounding win there. He may not be a drag, but he may not provide as big a boost for Hawley as was expected a year ago.

And, if the Democratic “enthusiasm gap” that has been demonstrated in recent special elections across the country can sustain itself and drive up party turnout, Trump may be a net zero factor. The playing field would be level as it was in many of the close Missouri Senate races over the past 20 years.

All of this currently suggests that Missouri may again produce a very close U.S. Senate race and play a major role in deciding the balance of power in Washington.

STATEWIDE NAME RECOGNITION

Do you recognize the name _____?

(IF YES) Do you have a favorable, unfavorable or neutral opinion of _____?

	<u>RECOGNIZE FAVORABLE</u>	<u>RECOGNIZE UNFAVORABLE</u>	<u>RECOGNIZE NEUTRAL</u>	<u>DON'T RECOGNIZE</u>
Donald Trump	44%	38%	18%	-
Claire McCaskill	41%	38%	20%	1%
Josh Hawley	33%	23%	27%	17%

QUESTION: If the 2018 general election for Missouri’s U.S. Senate seat were held today, for whom would you vote if the candidates were Claire McCaskill, the Democrat, and Josh Hawley, the Republican?

	<u>MCCASKILL</u>	<u>HAWLEY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
STATE	45%	44%	11%

<u>REGION</u>	<u>MCCASKILL</u>	<u>HAWLEY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
St. Louis Metro	51%	39%	10%
Kansas City Metro	51%	37%	12%
Northern Missouri	38%	55%	7%
Central Missouri	40%	47%	13%
Southeast Missouri	38%	51%	11%
Southwest Missouri	34%	52%	14%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>MCCASKILL</u>	<u>HAWLEY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Men	39%	48%	13%
Women	49%	41%	10%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MCCASKILL</u>	<u>HAWLEY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	54%	36%	10%
50+	37%	51%	12%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>MCCASKILL</u>	<u>HAWLEY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	38%	51%	11%
Black	86%	2%	12%

<u>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>MCCASKILL</u>	<u>HAWLEY</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	90%	3%	7%
Republican	6%	84%	10%
Independent	42%	43%	15%

QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of Donald Trump as president?

	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
STATE	47%	45%	8%

<u>REGION</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
St. Louis Metro	36%	57%	7%
Kansas City Metro	36%	56%	8%
Northern Missouri	62%	31%	7%
Central Missouri	58%	30%	12%
Southeast Missouri	60%	32%	8%
Southwest Missouri	64%	28%	8%

<u>SEX</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Men	53%	40%	7%
Women	41%	50%	9%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<50	43%	49%	8%
50+	51%	41%	8%

<u>RACE</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
White	53%	38%	9%
Black	11%	84%	5%

<u>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Democrat	7%	88%	5%
Republican	84%	8%	8%
Independent	48%	41%	11%

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

This poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida from April 4 through April 6, 2018. A total of 625 registered Missouri voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. All stated that they vote regularly in state elections.

Those interviewed were selected randomly from a telephone-matched Missouri voter registration list that included both land line and cell phone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter registration by county.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than ± 4 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if all voters were surveyed. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a gender or age grouping.

DEMOGRAPHICS

PARTY ID:	Democrat	202 (32%)
	Republican	213 (34%)
	Independent	210 (34%)
AGE:	18-34	103 (16%)
	35-49	199 (32%)
	50-64	181 (29%)
	65+	138 (22%)
	Refused	4 (1%)
RACE:	White/Caucasian	515 (82%)
	Black/African American	85 (14%)
	Other	21 (3%)
	Refused	4 (1%)
SEX:	Male	297 (48%)
	Female	328 (52%)
REGION:	St. Louis Metro	230 (37%)
	Kansas City Metro	125 (20%)
	Northern Missouri	55 (9%)
	Central Missouri	60 (10%)
	Southeast Missouri	65 (10%)
	Southwest Missouri	90 (14%)

REGIONAL GROUPINGS

ST. LOUIS METRO: Voters interviewed in St. Louis, Lincoln, St. Charles, Warren, Franklin, and Jefferson counties.

KANSAS CITY METRO: Voters interviewed in Platte, Clay, Lafayette, Jackson, Johnson, Cass, Bates, and Henry counties.

NORTHERN MISSOURI: Voters interviewed in Atchison, Holt, Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton, DeKalb, Gentry, Nodaway, Worth, Harrison, Daviess, Caldwell, Ray, Carroll, Livingston, Grundy, Putnam, Mercer, Sullivan, Linn, Chariton, Randolph, Macon, Adair, Schuyler, Scotland, Knox, Shelby, Monroe, Clark, Lewis, Marion, Ralls, and Pike counties.

CENTRAL MISSOURI: Voters interviewed in Saline, Pettis, Benton, Howard, Cooper, Moniteau, Morgan, Camden, Miller, Cole, Boone, Audrian, Callaway, Montgomery, Osage, Gasconade, and Maries counties.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI: Voters interviewed in Pulaski, Texas, Howell, Oregon, Shannon, Dent, Phelps, Crawford, Washington, Reynolds, Carter, Ripley, Butler, Wayne, Iron, Madison, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Perry, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Stoddard, Scott, New Madrid, Mississippi, Pemiscot, and Dunklin counties.

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI: Voters interviewed in Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Barry, Lawrence, Dade, Cedar, St. Clair, Hickory, Polk, Greene, Christian, Stone, Taney, Ozark, Douglas, Wright, Webster, Laclede, and Dallas counties.