



Missouri Voters' Opinions on Aiding the Poor

The following document summarizes the opinions of likely voters in Missouri on issues related to aiding the poor. These results are from SLU/YouGov Polls conducted from June 2020 to February 2026.

Full demographic crosstabs and raw data for independent analyses of SLU/YouGov Polls are available at slu.edu/poll.

Key Missouri Findings

- 56% of Missouri voters think the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor (February 2026)
- 81% of Missouri voters support eliminating the state sales tax on groceries (February 2024)
- 81% of Missouri voters support setting caps on insulin costs (February 2026)
- 57% of Missouri voters favor the Missouri state government funding pre-kindergarten education (August 2022)
- 62% of Missouri voters favor the policy that public schools must provide free meals to students, regardless of income (February 2025)

Media Inquiries

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Missouri Voters' Public Opinion on Aiding the Poor

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor	56%	92%	32%	56%
<i>Reporting percent agree. Source: February 2026 SLU/YouGov Poll. 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.19.</i>				
...the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor	54%	84%	32%	52%
<i>Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.33%</i>				
...the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor	53%	83%	30%	55%
<i>Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±6.02%</i>				
...the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor	52%	87%	24%	58%
<i>Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll, 477 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.93%</i>				
...the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor	52%	86%	26%	51%
<i>Reporting percent agree. Source: July 2021 SLU/YouGov Poll, 477 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±6.02%</i>				
...the Missouri state government should spend more to aid the poor	45%	78%	20%	36%
<i>Reporting percent agree. Source: June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 457 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.36%</i>				

Minimum Wage

In an upcoming election, Missouri voters may be asked to raise the state's minimum wage [Respondents saw Ballot Proposition Language Proposition A]. Would you support the above ballot proposition...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...yes	57%	87%	37%	54%
<i>Reporting percent "yes." Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.79%</i>				

To the best of your knowledge, what is the current hourly wage salary in the state of Missouri?

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
Median Response	\$12	\$12	\$12	13%
<i>Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll. 450 Likely Missouri Voters</i>				

What do you think the hourly minimum wage salary in the state of Missouri should be?

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
Median Response	\$14	\$6	\$12	14%
<i>Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll. 450 Likely Missouri Voters</i>				

Grocery Taxes

The Missouri legislature is considering legislation that would reduce taxes on groceries for all Missourians. Taxes would only be eliminated for products and food eligible for SNAP (formerly known as food stamps). Do you support the following policies...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...eliminate existing state sales taxes on groceries	81%	80%	83%	83%
...eliminate existing local sales taxes on groceries	72%	64%	79%	76%
...eliminate existing local sales taxes on groceries if the state replaces lost revenue for local governments	61%	69%	54%	64%

Reporting percent strongly support/support. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.33%

SNAP Benefits

In your view, should the following individuals be eligible for SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) if they are no longer incarcerated...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...individuals convicted of a felony	49%	66%	35%	50%
...individuals convicted of a marijuana-related felony	64%	86%	49%	65%
...individuals convicted of a drug-related felony	47%	68%	31%	48%
...individuals convicted of a marijuana-related felony who have completed a rehabilitation program	75%	87%	64%	80%
...individuals convicted of a drug-related felony who have completed a rehabilitation program	67%	84%	52%	74%

Reporting percent "should be eligible." Source: February 2026 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.63.

Meals in Schools

Do you favor or oppose the following proposed or enacted policies concerning Missouri schools...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...public schools must provide free meals to students, regardless of income	62%	83%	49%	61%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2025 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.64%

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have been provided federal funding to provide free meals to all public school students. Previously, free meals were provided only to low-income students. Which approach do you support...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...free meals for all students, regardless of income	53%	73%	39%	53%
...free meals only for low-income students	39%	26%	49%	41%
...no free meals for any students	5%	0%	7%	4%

Reporting percent selected. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.75%

Pre-Kindergarten Education

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the state government should fund pre-kindergarten education	57%	84%	41%	55%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.75%

College Tuition and Loans

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the federal government should forgive up to \$10,000 in student loan debt for those with federal debt	45%	83%	19%	40%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.75%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the U.S. Supreme Court was correct in striking down President Biden's student loan debt forgiveness program	52%	11%	86%	48%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll. 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.82%

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...making all public two or four-year colleges in Missouri free to attend	52%	85%	24%	52%

Reporting percent strongly support/somewhat support. Source: June. 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll. 443 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.91%

Providing Aid for Healthcare

Do you favor or oppose ...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...setting a \$35 monthly cap on out-of-pocket insulin costs, after insurance, for all individuals	81%	86%	79%	78%

Reporting percent favor. Source: February 2026 SLU/YouGov Poll. 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.63.

Which of the following statements do you agree with...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...Missouri should expand its Medicaid program in accordance with the Affordable Care Act	49%	86%	21%	41%

Reporting percent selected. Source: June. 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll. 457 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.36%

About the SLU/YouGov Poll

The SLU/YouGov Poll is a biannual survey of likely Missouri voters aiming to inform policymakers, citizens, and researchers of Missourians' opinions on important issues facing the state. No other academic institution regularly conducts a non-partisan, scientific survey of Missouri voters and makes results and raw data publicly available. For questions or suggestions concerning the SLU/YouGov Poll, contact poll director Steven Rogers, Ph.D., at steven.rogers@slu.edu.

About Saint Louis University

Founded in 1818, Saint Louis University is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious Catholic research institutions. Rooted in Jesuit values and its pioneering history as the first university west of the Mississippi River, SLU offers more than 15,300 students a rigorous, transformative education that challenges and prepares them to make the world a better place. As a nationally recognized leader in research and innovation, SLU is an R1 research university, advancing groundbreaking, life-changing discoveries that promote the greater good.

About YouGov

Saint Louis University has partnered with YouGov to conduct its annual survey of Missouri voters. YouGov conducts surveys for multiple academic institutions and is the primary, trusted survey firm for media organizations, including CBS News and The Economist. [FiveThirtyEight \(538\)](#) ranked YouGov as one of the top pollsters in the country, with respect to its strong commitment to accuracy and transparency in polling and in September 2024, The [New York Times](#) reported "Only YouGov, long at the cutting edge of [online] polling, is still producing reasonably accurate results with [online] panels."

Funding

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