



Missouri Voters' Opinions on Race and Immigration

The following document summarizes the opinions of likely voters in Missouri on issues related to race and immigration, including affirmative action, critical race theory, the Black Lives Matter protests, funding for non-English speaking students, and the U.S.-Mexican border. 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 Findings

- 47% of Missouri voters approve of how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is handling its job. 50% disapprove (Feb. 2026 Poll, MoE ± 5.09)
- 75% of Missouri voters believe the U.S.-Mexican border situation is a crisis that needs to be resolved immediately (Feb. 2024 Poll).
- 22% of Missouri voters support colleges being allowed to consider an applicant's race among other factors when making decisions on admissions (Aug. 2023 Poll).
- Using the term "Critical Race Theory" matters for assessing public opinion. When asking a random subsample whether "schools should be allowed to teach Critical Race Theory", 37% agreed. When asking a different random subsample on the same survey whether "schools should be allowed to teach about how racism can exist in society and its institutions," 48% agreed. (June 2020 Poll).

Media Inquiries

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How would you rate the condition of the following...Race Relations in your Community

Poll	Combined Totals		Individual Response Options						
	Excellent & Good	Fair & Poor	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure	MoE	Sample Size
Feb. 2026	50%	45%	9%	41%	30%	15%	5%	±5.09%	450
Feb. 2025	52%	42%	10%	42%	29%	13%	5%	±5.28%	450
Feb. 2024	49%	46%	10%	39%	29%	17%	5%	±5.25%	450
Aug. 2023	52%	43%	10%	42%	29%	14%	4%	±5.82%	450
Feb. 2023	43%	50%	9%	34%	31%	19%	7%	±3.72%	900
Aug. 2022	45%	50%	9%	36%	31%	19%	6%	±3.75%	900
July 2021	47%	47%	12%	35%	26%	21%	6%	±4.18%	950
Oct. 2020	45%	50%	10%	35%	28%	22%	4%	±3.90%	931
June 2020	45%	50%	12%	33%	31%	19%	5%	±3.95%	900

Commented [SR1]: The February 2025 numbers have not been checked by YouGov. My apologies.

Affirmative Action

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...colleges being allowed to consider an applicant's race among other factors when making decisions on admissions	22%	47%	6%	18%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.02%

Critical Race Theory and School Curriculum

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...schools should be allowed to teach about how racism can exist in society and its institutions	48%	85%	16%	54%
...schools should be allowed to teach Critical Race Theory	37%	74%	8%	29%

Reporting percent agree. Source: July 2021 SLU/YouGov Poll, 477 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±6.02%

Reporting percent agree. Source: July 2021 SLU/YouGov Poll, 473 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.81%

Respondents were randomly assigned to see only one of the two above questions.

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...expanding public schools' curricula related to racial and ethnic groups	41%	77%	15%	35%
...limiting public schools' curricula related to racial and ethnic groups	35%	10%	60%	34%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 457 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.04%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 443 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.50%

Respondents were randomly assigned to see only one of the two above questions.

Black Lives Matter

Do you believe President Trump's response to recent violence related to Black Lives Matter protests within some American cities has...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...reduced the violence	35%	4%	59%	38%
...contributed to its escalation	46%	92%	9%	47%

Reporting percent selected. Source: Oct. 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 931 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.90%

Mark and Patricia McCloskey attracted national attention when they waves their guns at protesters from the front of their St. Louis home. While the St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney charged the McCloskey's with unlawful use of a weapon, others felt that the McCloskey's acted responsibly within their rights to defend their home. Do you believe the McCloskey's...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...acted responsibly within their rights to defend their home	54%	10%	88%	57%
...acted irresponsibly and unlawfully in waving their guns at protesters	40%	85%	6%	37%

Reporting percent selected. Source: Oct. 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 470 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.28%

Immigration & Non-English-Speaking Students

Do you approve or disapprove of...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...how Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is handling its job	46%	2%	81%	41%

Reporting percent Strongly Approve/Approve. Source: Source: February 2026 Poll. 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.09%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the U.S.-Mexican border situation is a crisis that needs to be resolved immediately	75%	47%	97%	72%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.25%

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allowing undocumented immigrants to be eligible for the in-state college tuition rate if they graduated from high school in your state	43%	78%	13%	41%

Reporting percent strongly/somewhat support. Source: June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.95%

Local school districts receive local, state, and federal funding. State funding in Missouri is primarily determined by a funding formula. Do you agree or disagree that this funding formula should do the following...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...provide more funds for each student who is learning English as a non-native language	44%	74%	23%	42%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.74%



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

The majority of funding for the SLU/YouGov Poll has been through the PRiME Center in SLU's School of Education and SLU's College of Arts and Sciences. For fuller details about funding for the SLU/YouGov Poll, visit slu.edu/poll.