

Missouri Voters' Opinions on Guns and Public Safety Issues

The following document summarizes the opinions of likely voters in Missouri on issues related to guns and safety, including school safety. These results are from SLU/YouGov Polls conducted from June 2020 to February 2025. This document also includes national polling on guns and safety conducted by YouGov independent of Saint Louis University. 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.

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

Key Missouri Findings

- 39% of voters support state control over the St. Louis Police Department. 48% support local control ([Feb. 2025 Poll](#))
- At least 57 percent of Democratic, Republican, and Independent voters support background checks for buying guns/firearms ([June 2020](#), [Aug. 2022](#), [Feb. 2023](#), [Aug. 2024 Poll](#))
- 85% of voters support banning minors from carrying guns on public property without adult supervision ([Aug. 2024 Poll](#))
- 10 percent or fewer voters support banning all guns, handguns, or hunting rifles ([Feb. 2023 Poll](#))
- 56 percent of voters are worried about a shooting happening at public schools in Missouri ([Feb. 2023 Poll](#))

Media Inquiries

Maggie Rotermund

Senior Media Relations Specialist

maggie.rotermund@slu.edu

314-977-8018

Missouri Voters' Views on Gun and Safety Issues

Gun Control

Do you favor or oppose the following gun policies becoming law in Missouri...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...requiring criminal background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	79%	95%	69%	76%
...allowing Missouri counties, St. Louis City, and Kansas City to pass their own local gun regulations	34%	48%	23%	35%
...allowing Missourians with a concealed carry permit to possess a firearm on public transit and in places of worship	48%	17%	71%	48%
...banning minors from carrying guns on public property without adult supervision	85%	91%	83%	84%
Reporting percent favor. Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.79%				

Do you favor or oppose the following gun policies becoming law in Missouri...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...requiring criminal background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	79%	93%	73%	76%
...requiring mental health background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	69%	88%	60%	62%
...requiring people to be 21 years old before purchasing a gun	69%	88%	59%	68%
...requiring people who purchase handguns to wait 72 hours before they receive that gun	60%	84%	46%	53%
...red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others	60%	89%	46%	49%
Reporting percent favor. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.72%				

Which of the following statements do you agree with...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...Missouri should require a background check for all firearm sales	76%	88%	68%	76%
Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll, 447 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.93%				
...Missouri should require a background check for all firearm sales	66%	83%	57%	61%
Reporting percent agree. Source: June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 457 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.36%				

Do you support banning the following gun-related sales, except those that are issued to law enforcement officers...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the sale of all guns	7%	17%	3%	5%
...the sale of all handguns	10%	24%	3%	6%
...the sale of all hunting rifles	6%	11%	3%	4%
...the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons	39%	71%	18%	35%
...the sale of semi-automatic weapons	39%	72%	20%	31%
Reporting percent support. Source: Feb. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.72%				

Recently, Governor Mike Parson signed into a law that invalidates federal gun control laws. The new law also prohibits Missouri's state and local officials from enforcing federal gun control laws, imposing \$50,000 fines for state and local officials who knowingly enforce federal gun control laws instead of this new state law. How do you feel about this Missouri state law...				
	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...I [strongly] support this Missouri state law	52%	16%	79%	60%
Reporting percent strongly support/support. Source: July 2021 SLU/YouGov Poll, 473 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.81%				

State Control of Police Departments

Missouri state legislators have proposed police departments in some Missouri cities be controlled by the state (for example, a board that includes the mayor and members approved by the governor) instead of locally (for example, a board appointed by mayor). Who do you prefer to control the following police departments in the state of Missouri...

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...Kansas City police department	35%	13%	51%	33%
...St. Louis City police department	39%	13%	58%	35%
...Springfield police department	25%	10%	37%	22%
...Your local police department	22%	12%	27%	23%

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

Fentanyl

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...charging someone with first-degree murder if they knowingly distributed fentanyl to a person that caused that person's death	78%	59%	91%	77%
...imprisoning someone for 5 to 10 years if their manufacturing or possession of fentanyl endangers a child	87%	78%	95%	86%

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

Immigration

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...requiring law enforcement agencies to report criminal offenders' citizenship status to the Missouri Department of Public Safety	68%	39%	91%	66%

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

School Safety

How worried are you about the possibility of a shooting ever happening...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...in your local public school	38%	55%	26%	40%
...in public schools across Missouri	56%	74%	45%	52%
...at your grocery store	37%	56%	27%	35%
...at your place of worship	26%	36%	23%	24%

Reporting percent somewhat/very worried. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.72%

Do you favor or oppose the following policies in schools...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allowing teachers and school administrators to carry guns in schools	48%	18%	69%	48%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.72%

How would you rate the condition of the following...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...safety at your local public school	56%	49%	62%	58%
...safety in public schools across Missouri	35%	26%	44%	36%

Reporting percent good/excellent. Source: Feb. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.72%

Do you favor or oppose the following proposed or enacted policies concerning Missouri schools...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allowing public school teachers to carry concealed weapons with a valid concealed carry permit and school's permission	49%	18%	73%	43%

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

To the best of your knowledge, are these policies currently enacted in Missouri...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allowing public school teachers to carry concealed weapons with a valid concealed carry permit and school's permission	11%	10%	12%	9%

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

Other Gun and Safety Questions

Mark and Patricia McCloskey attracted national attention when they waved 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%

Reporting percent believe. Source: [October 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll](#), 470 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE $\pm 5.28\%$

National Polling on Gun and Safety Issues

The below polls were conducted by YouGov independent of Saint Louis University

Gun Control

Would you support or oppose...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...requiring a waiting period before a person is able to purchase a gun	74%	88%	66%	69%
...raising the age limit at which people are allowed to purchase guns	69%	83%	55%	66%
...banning high-capacity ammunition clips	62%	87%	39%	57%
...banning assault-style weapons	60%	85%	37%	58%
...allowing teachers and officials to carry guns in K-12 schools	43%	23%	70%	39%
...banning private possession of all guns	28%	48%	13%	24%
Reporting percent strongly/somewhat support. Source: April 2024 YouGov Poll , 1139 U.S. adult citizens. MoE ±3.5%				

Do you favor or oppose any of the following...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...banning semi-automatic weapons	57%	82%	35%	49%
...banning the sale of magazine clips for semi-automatic weapons that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition	59%	83%	40%	52%
...requiring criminal and mental background checks for all those buying guns, including at gun shows and private sales	76%	86%	71%	69%
...creating red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others	68%	87%	56%	58%
Reporting percent strongly/somewhat favor. Source: Jan. 2023 The Economist/YouGov Poll , 1500 U.S. adult citizens. MoE ±3%				

Which comes closest to your position on guns – do you think owning a gun in the United States should be...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...legal in all/most cases	64%	45%	88%	61%
Reporting percent support. Source: April 2024 YouGov Poll , 1139 U.S. adult citizens, MoE ±3.5%				

In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...make gun laws more strict	58%	84%	33%	56%
Reporting percent support. Source: Jan. 2023 The Economist/YouGov Poll , 1500 U.S. adult citizens, MoE ±3%				

School and Public Safety

Do you think that stricter gun laws would...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...decrease the numbers of mass shootings in the U.S.	44%	74%	16%	41%
Reporting percent support. Source: April 2024 YouGov Poll , 1139 U.S. adult citizens, MoE ±3.5%				

How effective do you think the following are at preventing mass school shootings...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...armed security guards	73%	65%	90%	65%
...police officers	71%	67%	88%	60%
...metal detectors	78%	79%	82%	72%
...armed teachers	49%	32%	76%	43%
...unarmed teachers	21%	34%	12%	17%
...mental health counselors	66%	77%	63%	59%
Reporting percent very/somewhat effective. Source: April 2024 YouGov Poll , 1139 U.S. adult citizens, MoE ±3.5%				

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 institutions. Rooted in Jesuit values and its pioneering history as the first university west of the Mississippi River, SLU offers more than 15,200 students a rigorous, transformative education of the whole person. At the core of the University's diverse community of scholars is SLU's service-focused mission, which challenges and prepares students to make the world a better, more just place.

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. An independent Pew Research Center study of online survey firms in 2016 further concluded that YouGov "consistently outperforms competitors."

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