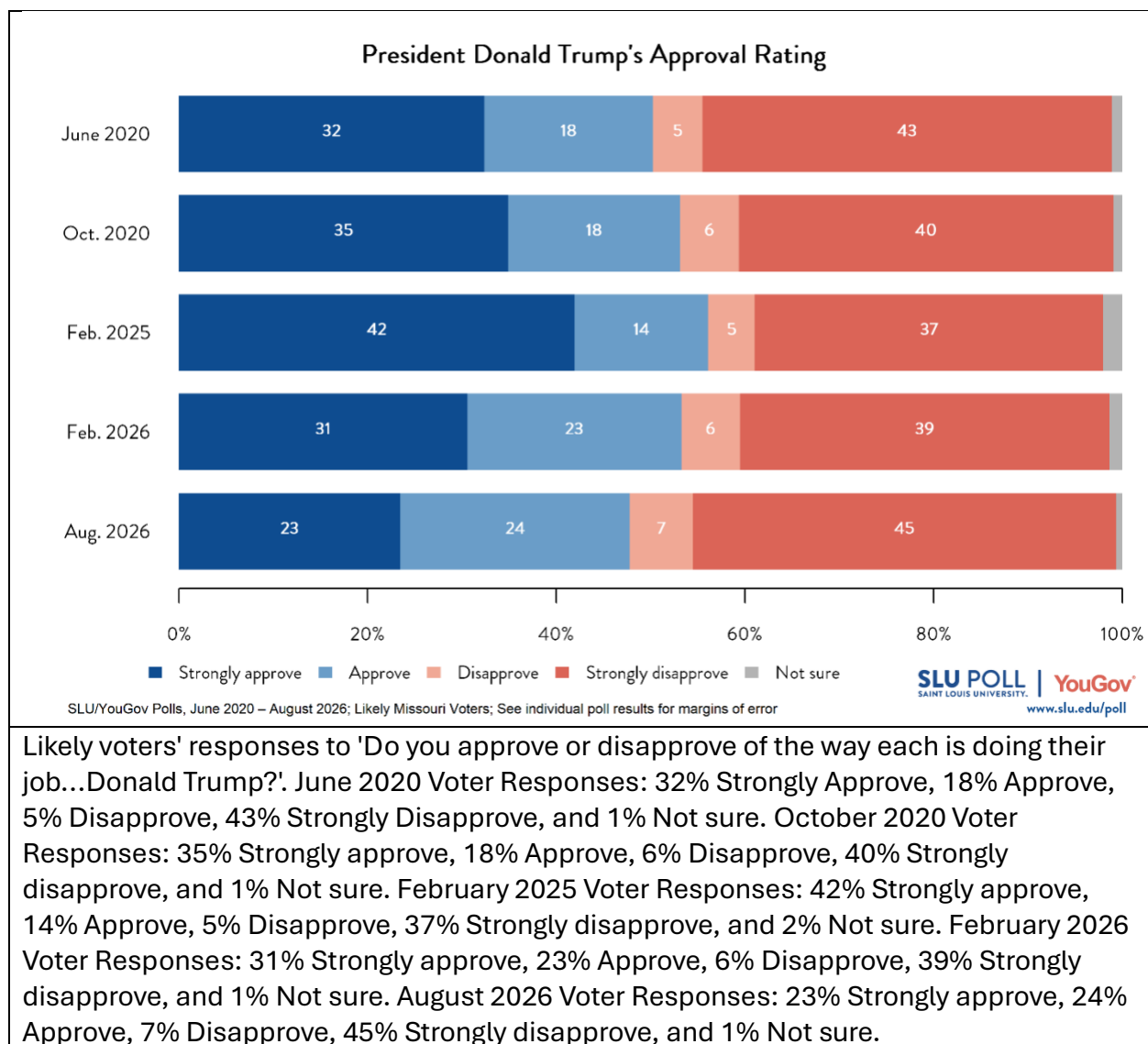


Our August 2026 SLU/YouGov Poll Shows Across-the-Board Decline in Approval of Missouri's Top Politicians, President Trump, the Missouri Legislature and U.S. Congress, As Well As the U.S. Court*

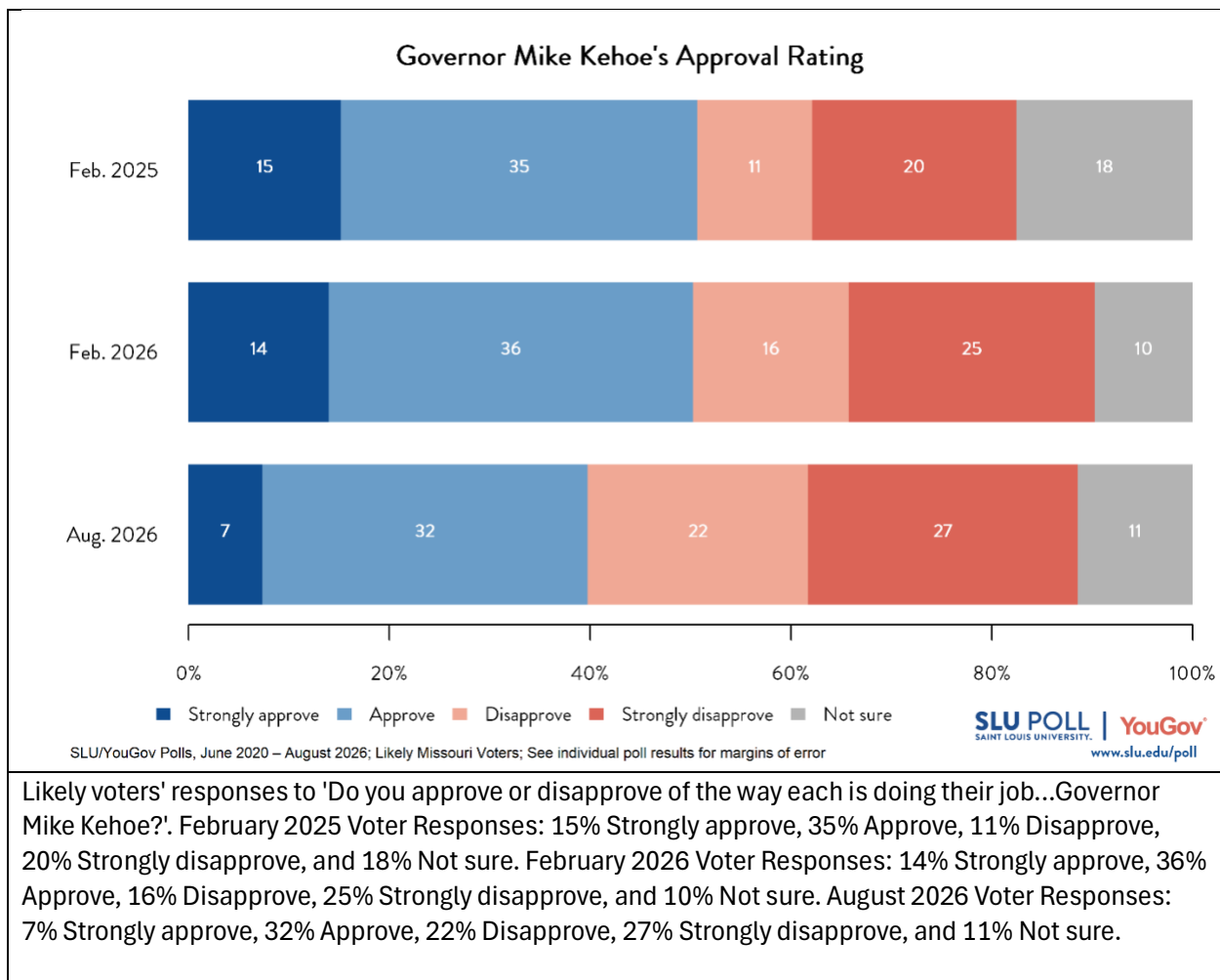
By Kenneth Warren, Ph.D.

Going into the 2016 election cycle, Democrats in Missouri controlled all statewide offices except for the Lt. Governor's seat held by Republican Peter Kinder. However, Trump's solid victory in the presidential race in Missouri by an 18.5% margin had long coattails, sweeping Republicans to victory in all statewide races. Since 2016 Republicans have dominated Missouri politics and have enjoyed relative popularity. The last Democrat to hold statewide office was State Auditor, Nicole Galloway, with her term ending on January 3, 2023. The last Democrat to hold a U.S. Senate seat from Missouri was Claire McCaskill. Her term ended on January 3, 2019. Since Galloway left office on January 3, 2023, Republicans have held all six statewide offices, as well as both U.S. Senate seats and six of the eight U.S. House seats. The Republican dominated legislature has drawn a new congressional map (House Bill 1) that would create another Republican-leaning congressional district, giving Republicans a good chance to win 7 out of 8 U.S. Representative seats in Missouri. However, on September 3, 2026 the Missouri Supreme Court placed on hold this new map until voters can decide in the upcoming November 3 election whether to approve or reject this new map.

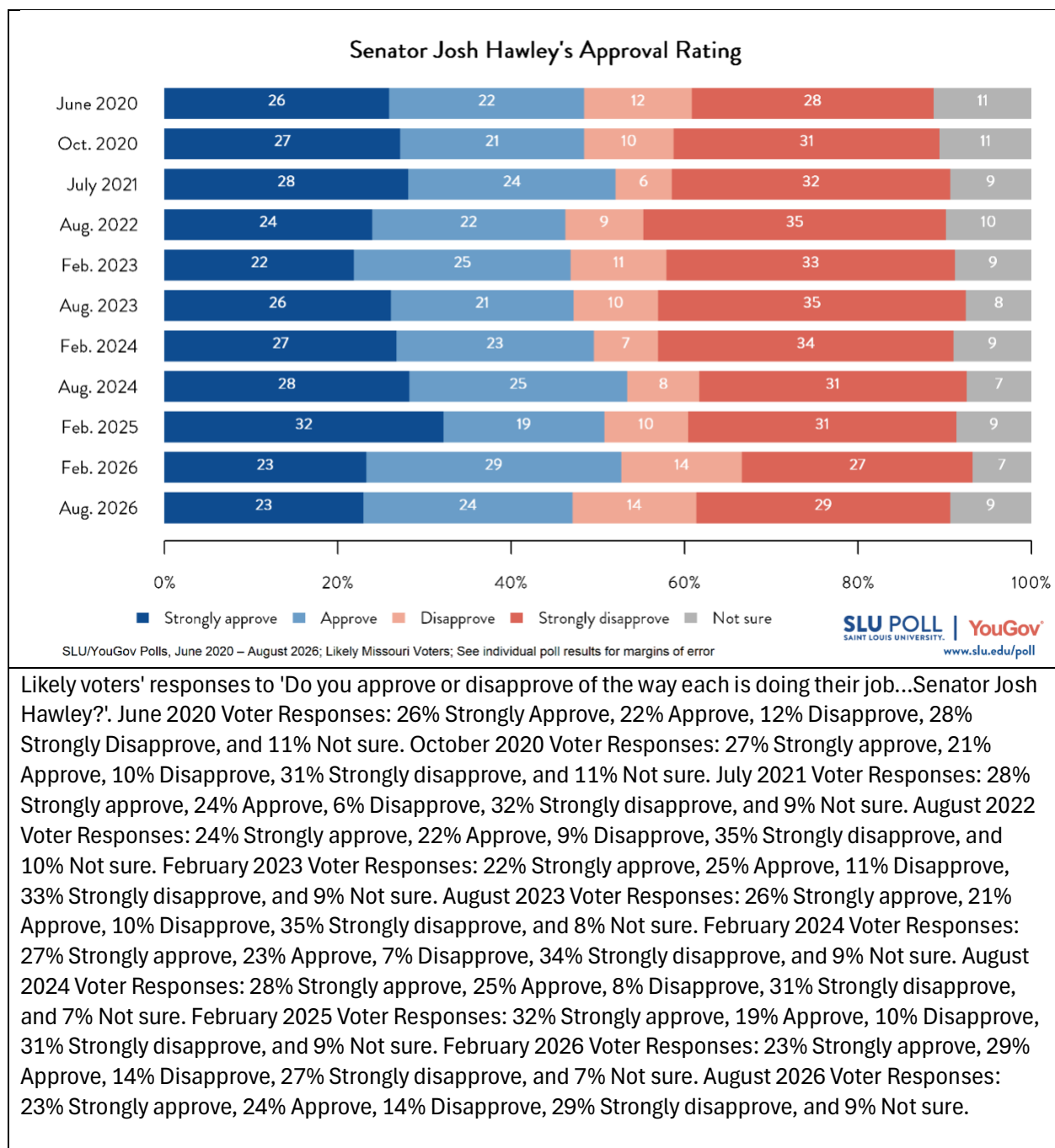
However, our August SLU/YouGov poll of 900 likely voters shows that the top elected statewide Republican politicians in Missouri, along with President Trump and the Republican-dominated Missouri state legislature, have experienced a downward trend in approval ratings when compared to past approval scores, reflecting a national trend of declining approval ratings for Republicans in general during the Trump administration. On January 27, 2025, seven days after Trump was inaugurated for his second term, his national approval rating stood at 52% with 43% disapproval, according to *New York Times* tracking using "polls conducted by dozens of different organizations since Inauguration Day". Trump's approval ratings have consistently dropped since he was inaugurated. By November 30, 2025, his approval had dropped to 41% with a disapproval of 56%. By April 6, 2026, his approval slipped to 39% with a disapproval of 57%, while on September 2, 2026, his approval was 38% and his disapproval was 58% for a -20 net approval score. An August 31 Economist/YouGov poll shows him with an even worse net approval rating at -26.



Our SLU/YouGov poll shows a similar, consistent decline in approval scores for Trump, although, as expected in the red state of Missouri, his decline in approval ratings has not been as dramatic. In our February 2025 SLU/YouGov poll, Trump's approval was 56% with 42% disapproval. A year later, our February 2026 SLU/YouGov poll showed Trump dropping slightly to 54% approval and 45% disapproving. However, our August 2026 poll showed that Trump, for the first time in our polling, had a higher disapproval rating, 52%, than approval rating, 47% for a net approval score of -5. This represents a significant drop in Trump's net approval rating from a +14 in our February 2025 poll to a -5 net approval score in our latest poll. This represents a net approval loss of 19 points.

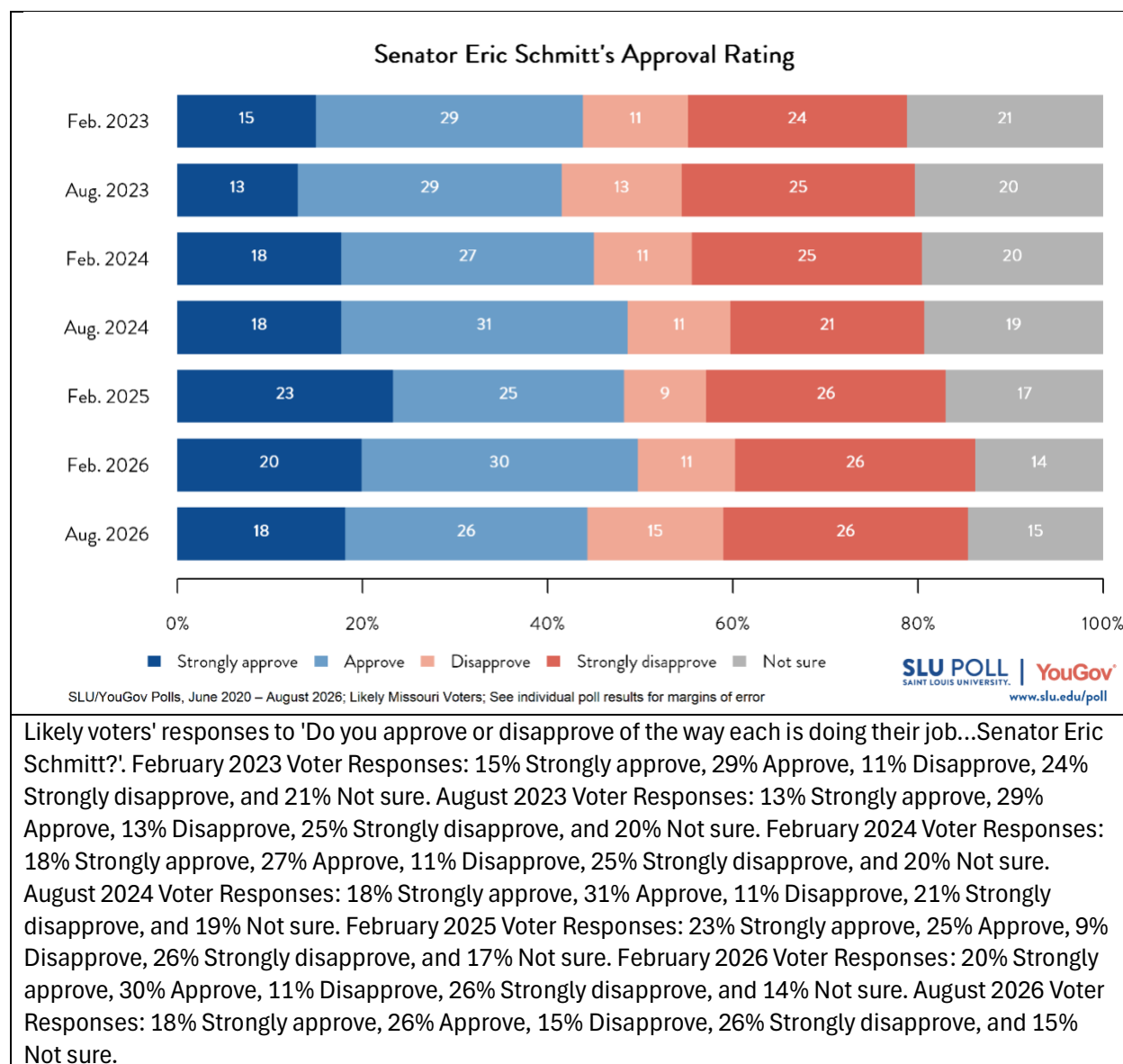


Just as Trump's coattails helped top Republican office holders in Missouri in the past, evidently Trump's declining approval scores are now hurting them. Governor Mike Kehoe in our February 2025 SLU/YouGov poll had a 50% approval rating, in our February 2026 poll he had an identical 50% approval score, while in our recent August 2026 poll Kehoe's approval rating dropped sharply to 39%. Of course, Trump's falling approval ratings likely caused Kehoe's numbers to decline as well, although Kehoe recently "went all in" on controversial and unpopular ballot issues like Amendments 4 (requiring voter approval of citizen-initiated constitutional amendments in each congressional district) and 5 (asking voters to do away with the state income tax in favor of other taxes, especially regressive sales and use taxes that would likely hurt middle to lower income Missourians) that voters rejected overwhelmingly in the August 4, 2026 primary. Amendment 4 received only 19.7% approval, while Amendment 5 received only 16.7% approval. Kehoe's enthusiastic backing of these very unpopular measures certainly must have hurt Kehoe's standing among Missourians.

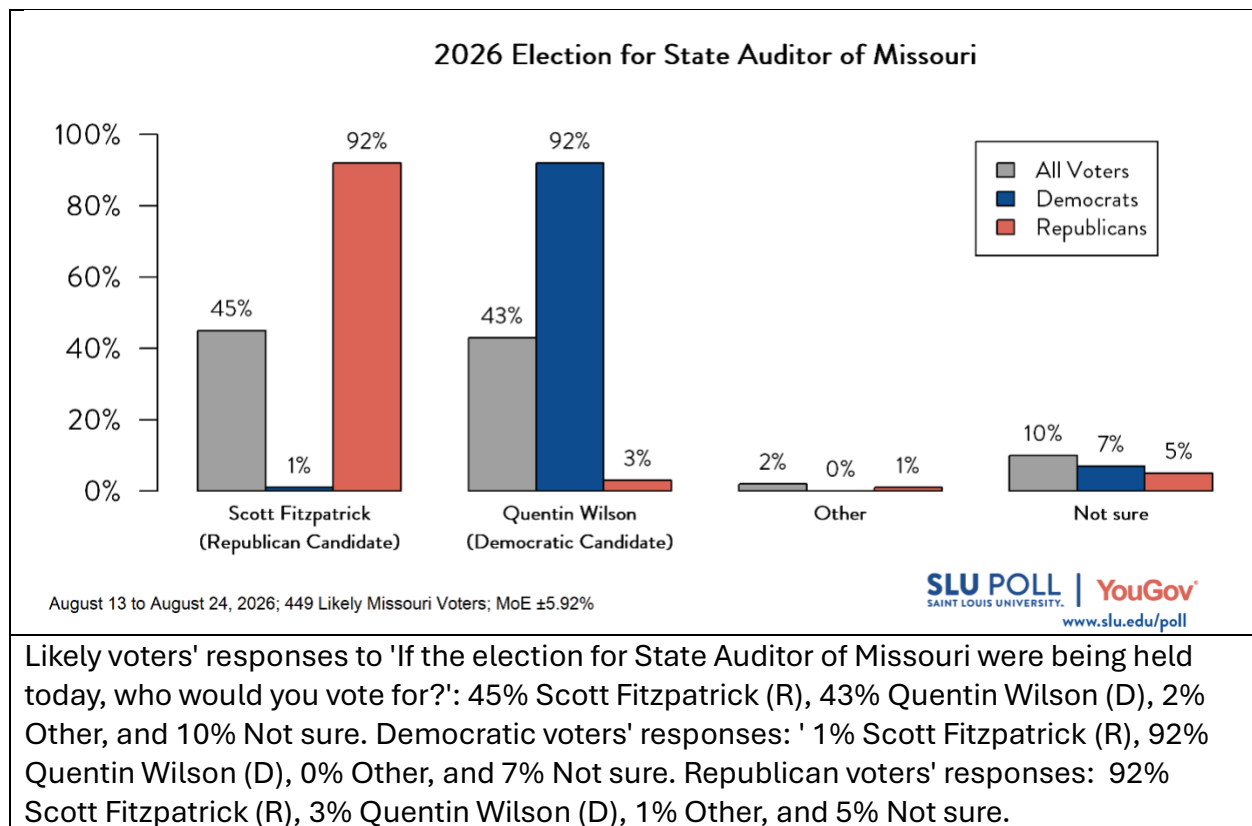


U.S. Senator Josh Hawley's approval ratings also took a hit in our August poll, but only a slight one compared to Trump. Hawley has had remarkably stable approval scores in our previous polls: 50% approval in our February 2024 poll, 53% in our August 2024 poll, 51% in our February 2025 poll, and 52% in our February 2026 poll. However, although still respectable, Hawley received his lowest approval score in our August 2026 poll, 47% with a disapproval percentage at 43%, giving Hawley a net approval score of plus 4. It would be

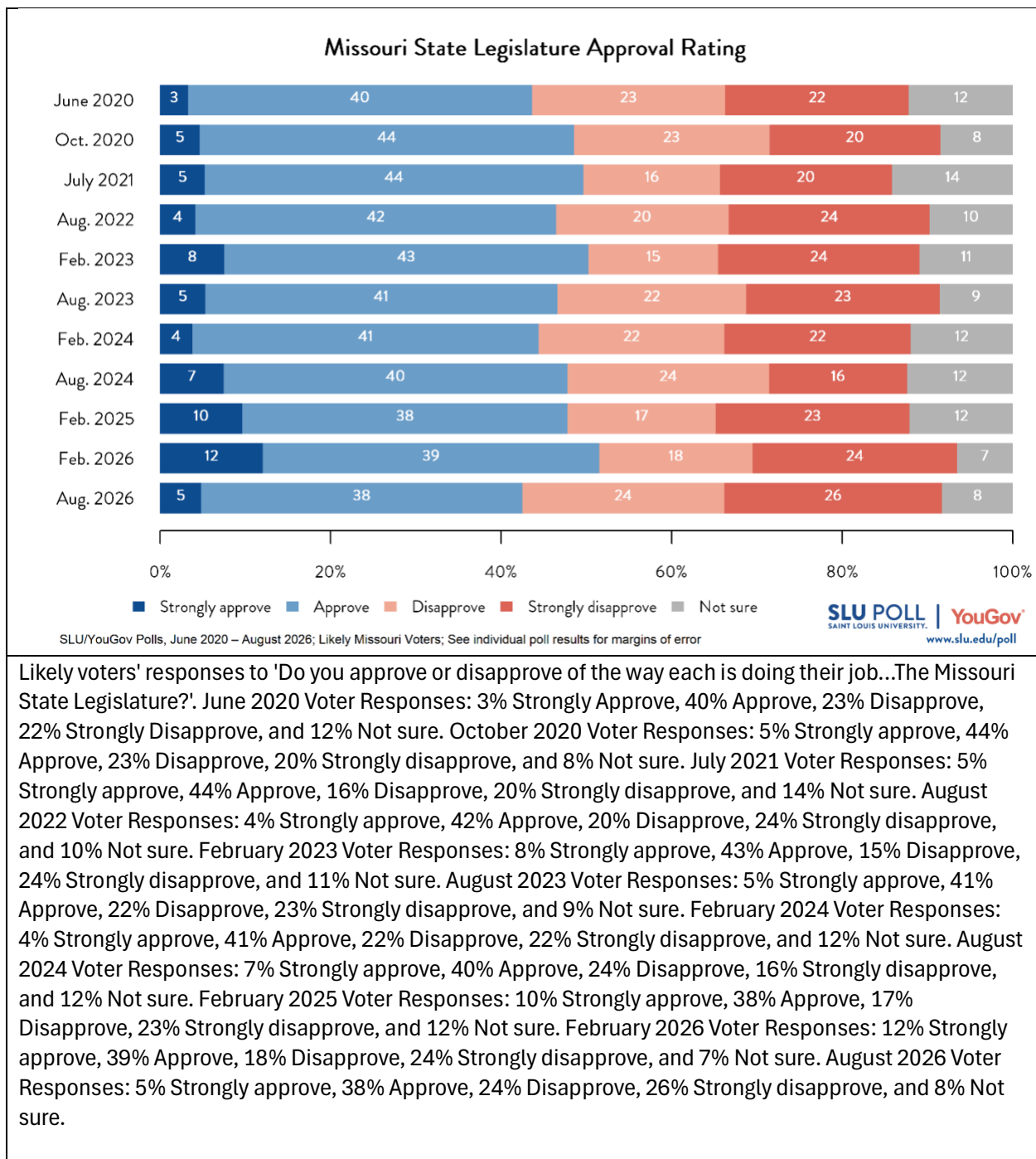
reasonable to speculate that Hawley's drop in approval ratings is likely due to Trump's declining approval scores nationally and in Missouri.



U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt's approval ratings took a slight dip as well. In our February 2025 SLU/YouGov, Schmitt had an approval rating of 48% with 35% disapproving. A year later in our February 2026 poll his approval score increased slightly to 50% with 36% disapproving. However, in our August 2026 poll Schmitt's approval percentage dropped to 44% with a 41% disapproval percentage. Schmitt, like most other Republicans nationally, have dropped in approval ratings due to a relatively unpopular Trump administration and declining approval scores for the Republican dominated U.S. Congress.

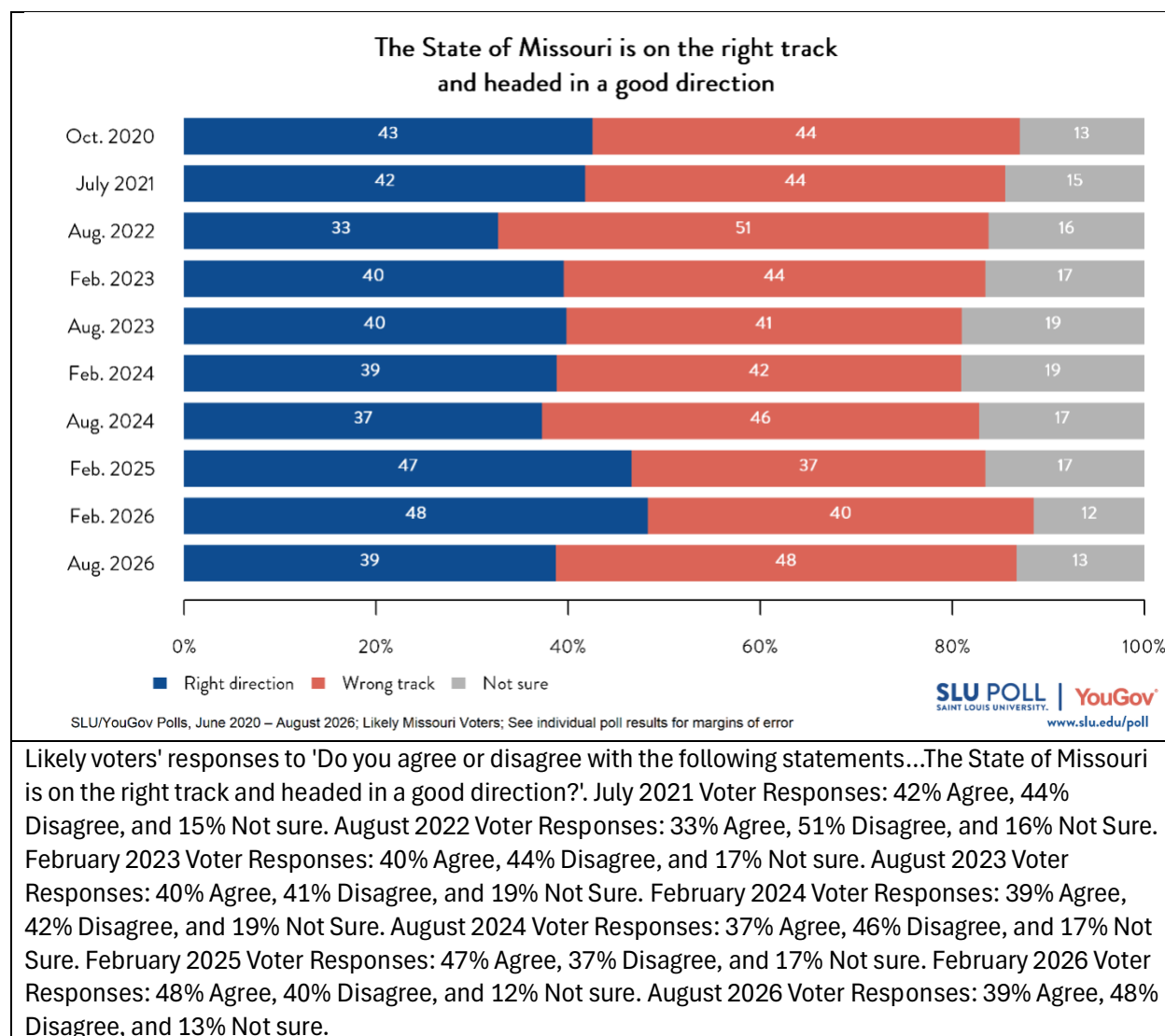


In fact, in an August 2026 Economist/YouGov poll that posted results on August 25, a plurality of voters when asked who they would vote for in the district where they lived, 46% said they would vote for a Democrat, while 40% said they would vote for a Republican. But in the red state of Missouri, our August poll showed a slight advantage for Republican candidates where 48% said they would vote for a Republican congressional candidate with 44% saying they would vote for the Democratic candidate. This is not a good sign for Republicans since we would expect a much larger percentage of Missouri likely voters saying they plan on voting for the Republican candidate in the solid red state of Missouri. Another bad sign for Republicans in Missouri is that our poll found that Republican incumbent Scott Fitzpatrick is only ahead of Quentin Wilson in the upcoming State Auditor's race by 2%, 45% to 43%. It is not that our poll shows Fitzpatrick losing, but that we would expect an incumbent Republican holding statewide office in the deep red state of Missouri to be way ahead of his Democratic challenger.



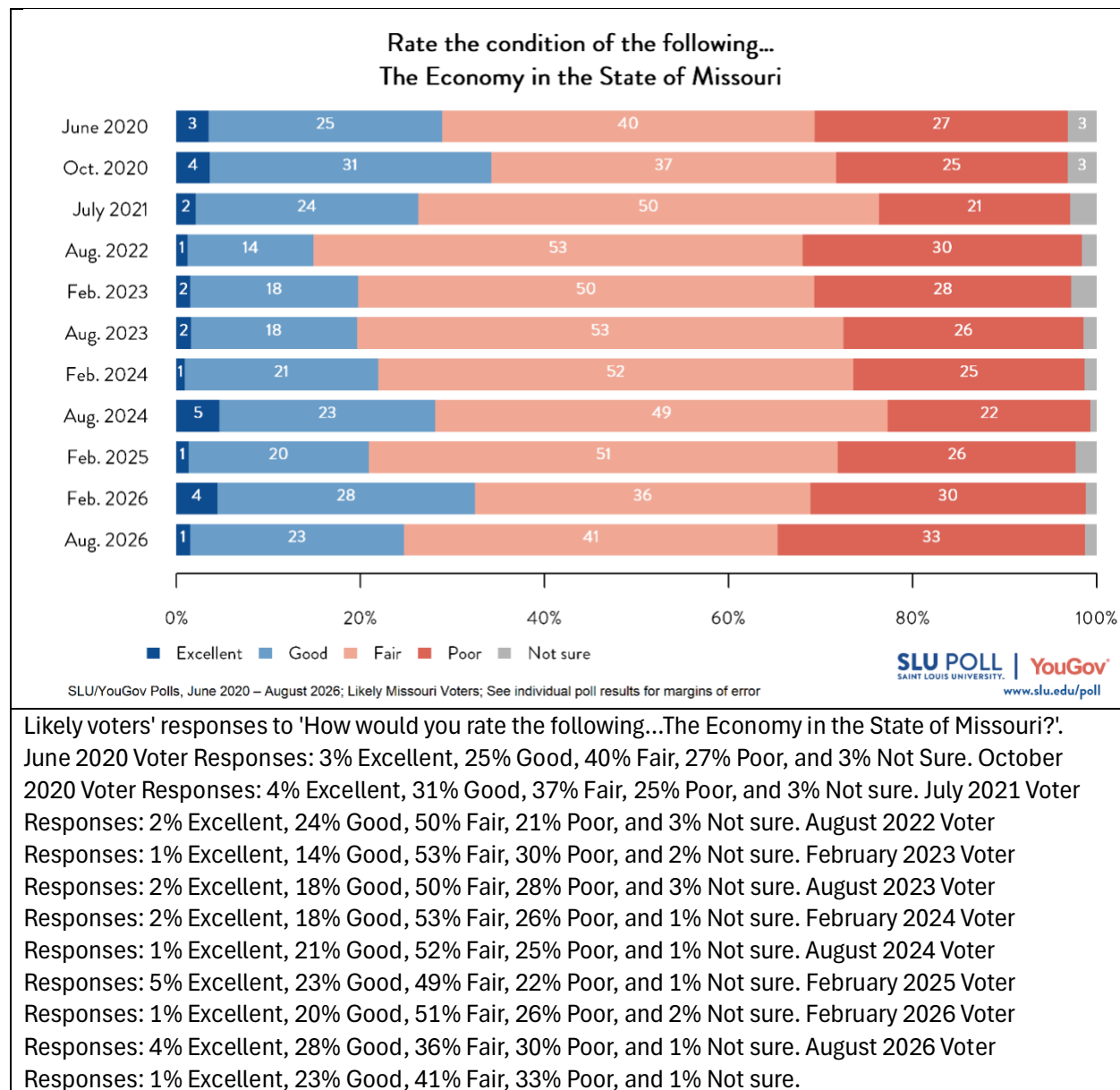
Our SLU/YouGov polls have consistently shown that Missouri’s likely voters give relatively high approval ratings to the Missouri State Legislature, while fairly poor scores for the U.S. Congress. For example, in our 2026 February poll 33% of Missouri’s likely voters approved of the job the U.S. Congress was doing, yet 51% approved of the job the Missouri State Legislature was doing. However, a noticeable decline in these numbers was seen in our August 2026 poll with only 25% of Missouri’s likely voters approving of the job the U.S.

Congress was doing, an 8% approval drop, while 43% approved of the job the Missouri State legislature was doing, a drop of 8%.



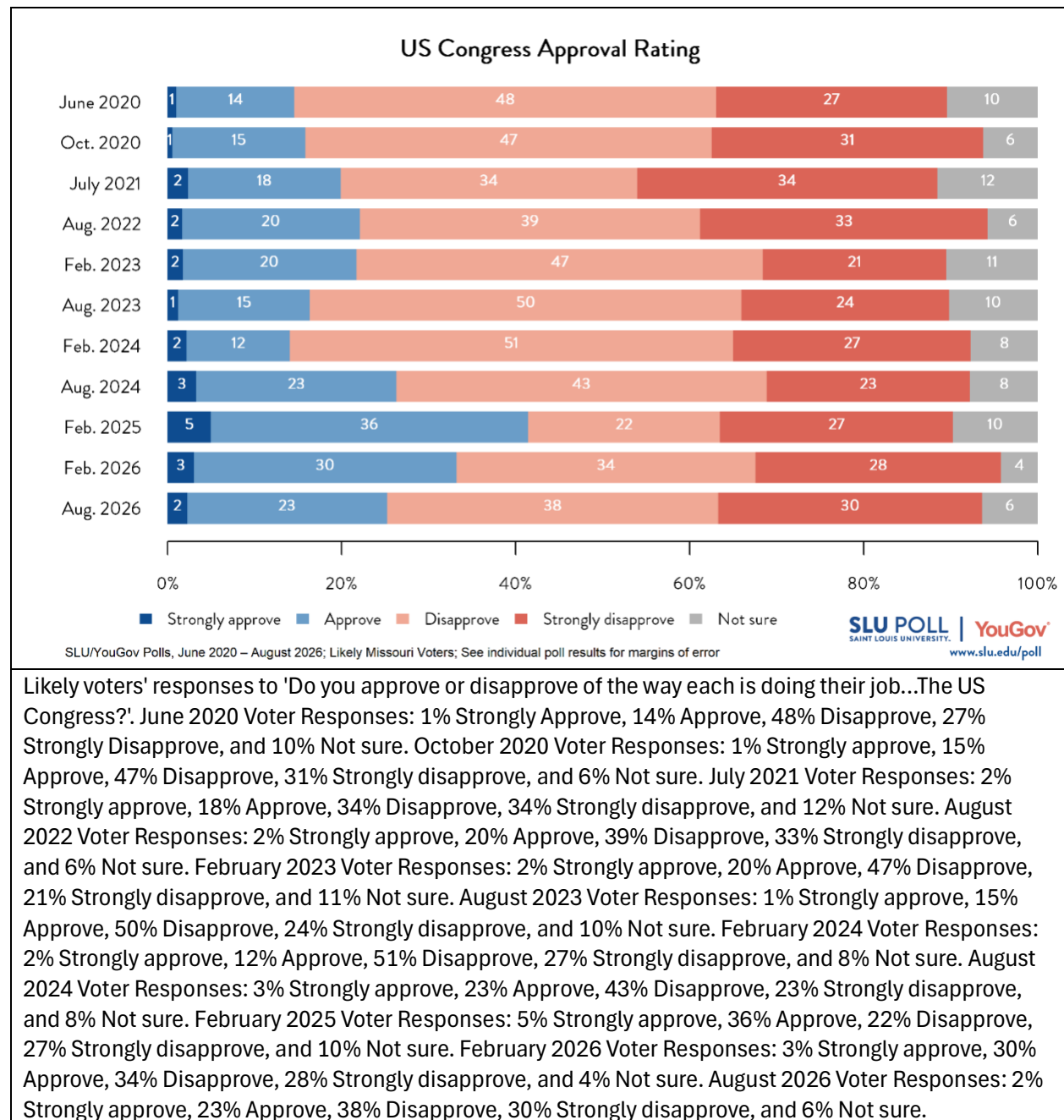
Our August SLU/YouGov poll is showing what national polls are showing overall. Americans are not happy with the direction of our country, believing the U.S. is on the wrong track. According to YouGov tracking polls, on January 20, 2025, when Trump was inaugurated, 33% of Americans felt the U.S. was generally headed in the right direction with 58% believing we were on the wrong track. On August 31, 2026, 29% believed the U.S. was headed in the right direction with 64% saying we were on the wrong track. Our 2026 February poll, we found that 43% felt that the U.S. was on the right track with 50% saying that the U.S. was not on the right track, while 48% felt Missouri was on the right track with 40% saying Missouri was on the wrong track. However, our August 2026 poll showed

considerably less optimism from Missouri's likely voters with only 35% believing the U.S. was on the right track with 58% saying wrong track, while 39% felt Missouri was on the right track with 48% saying wrong track. This is the first time in our polling that a larger percentage of Missouri's likely voters believed Missouri was on the wrong track than right track.



Overall, the reasons for the declining numbers are obvious when we look at some other August 2026 poll results. Respondents believed that Missouri should give top priority to improving the economy of Missouri. And for good reason, 74% of respondents rated the economy of Missouri as fair to poor with only 1% rating it as excellent. The U.S. economy

was ranked slightly worse with 79% rating it as fair to poor with 2% rating it as excellent. We also found that 70% of likely voters rated public schools in Missouri fair to poor, 75% rated roads and infrastructure in Missouri fair to poor, while 66% of respondents said they were very worried or somewhat worried about being able to afford food and groceries, housing costs, 51%, utility costs, 62%, gasoline, 66%, property taxes, 59%, and educational expenses, 39%.



Our SLU/YouGov poll showed decline in approval ratings for all top elected office holders in Missouri, as well as President Trump. We also found that the U.S. Congress and the Missouri Legislature has experienced lower approval ratings in our most recent 2026 August poll. The same is true for the U.S. Supreme Court, although Missouri's likely voters give significantly higher approval ratings to the U.S. Supreme Court than Americans in national polls. Probably no institution in American politics has fallen more in approval ratings than the U.S. Supreme Court. According to Gallup Poll historical tracking, in August 2000 the U.S. Supreme Court had lofty approval ratings at 62% with only 29% disapproving. By September 2021, the high Court's approval rating dropped to 40%, and by July 2026 to 33%. This is a remarkable decline, but understandable due to the clear politicalization of today's U.S. Supreme Court that has handed down very controversial decisions reversing decades of Supreme Court precedents and clearly bolstering the Republican agenda, but especially President Trump's executive power. According to our SLU/YouGov polling, Missouri's likely voters have not turned against the high court as much as Americans nationally. In our February 2025 poll, likely Missouri voters gave the Supreme Court a 51% approval rating, in our February 2026 poll a 48% approval score, while in our most recent August 2026 poll a 45% approval percentage. Although Missouri likely voters have given the U.S. Supreme Court progressively lower approval ratings, Missouri's Republican leanings have been more supportive of the conservative Roberts' Court than what Gallup has found nationally.

*The poll numbers/percentages used when I wrote the poll results for our 2026 February SLU/YouGov poll last March are slightly different than the poll numbers I am using from that same poll for this write-up because YouGov changed its weighting of demographics which changed slightly the percentages. YouGov changed it weighting to make the results more representative of the actual population universe.

This analysis is based on data from the August 2026 SLU/YouGov Poll and reflects the opinion of the author.