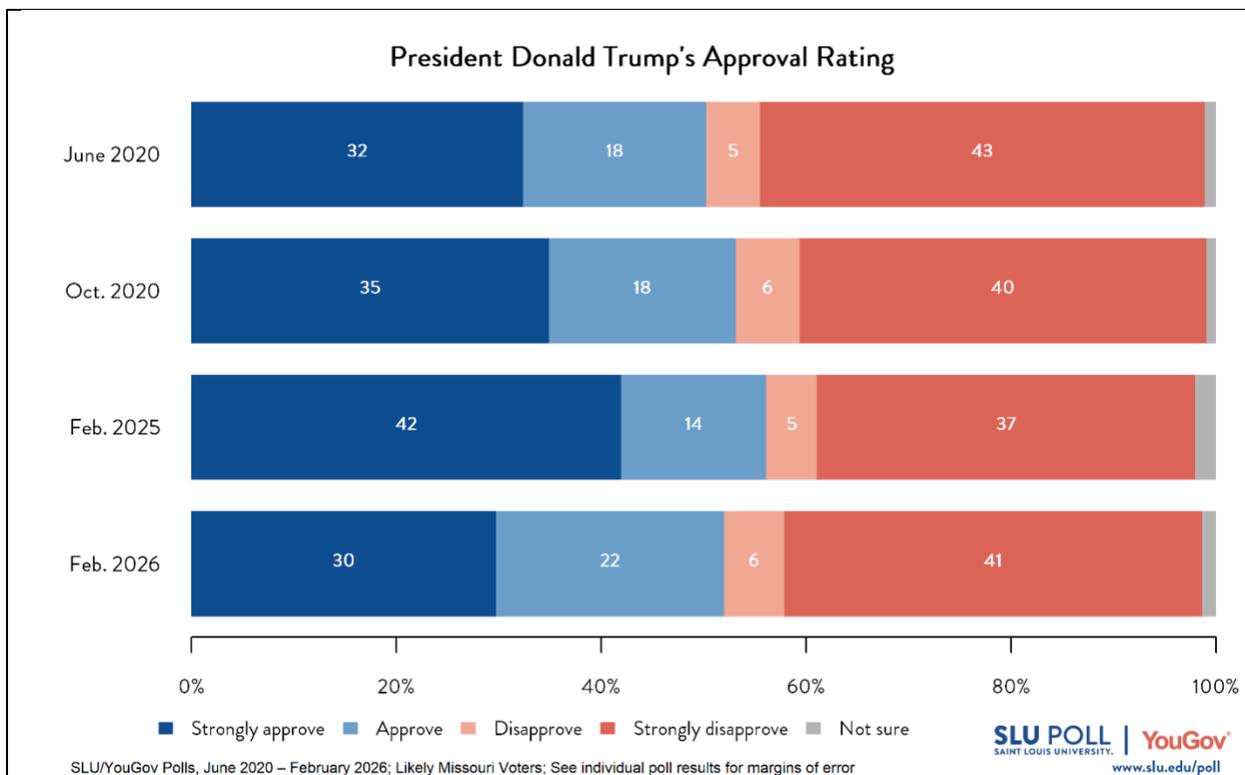# Being A Solid Red State, Not Surprising that Missouri's Likely Voters Give Positive Ratings to All Missouri's Top Politicians, as Well as Missouri's Republican-Dominated State Legislature and President Trump
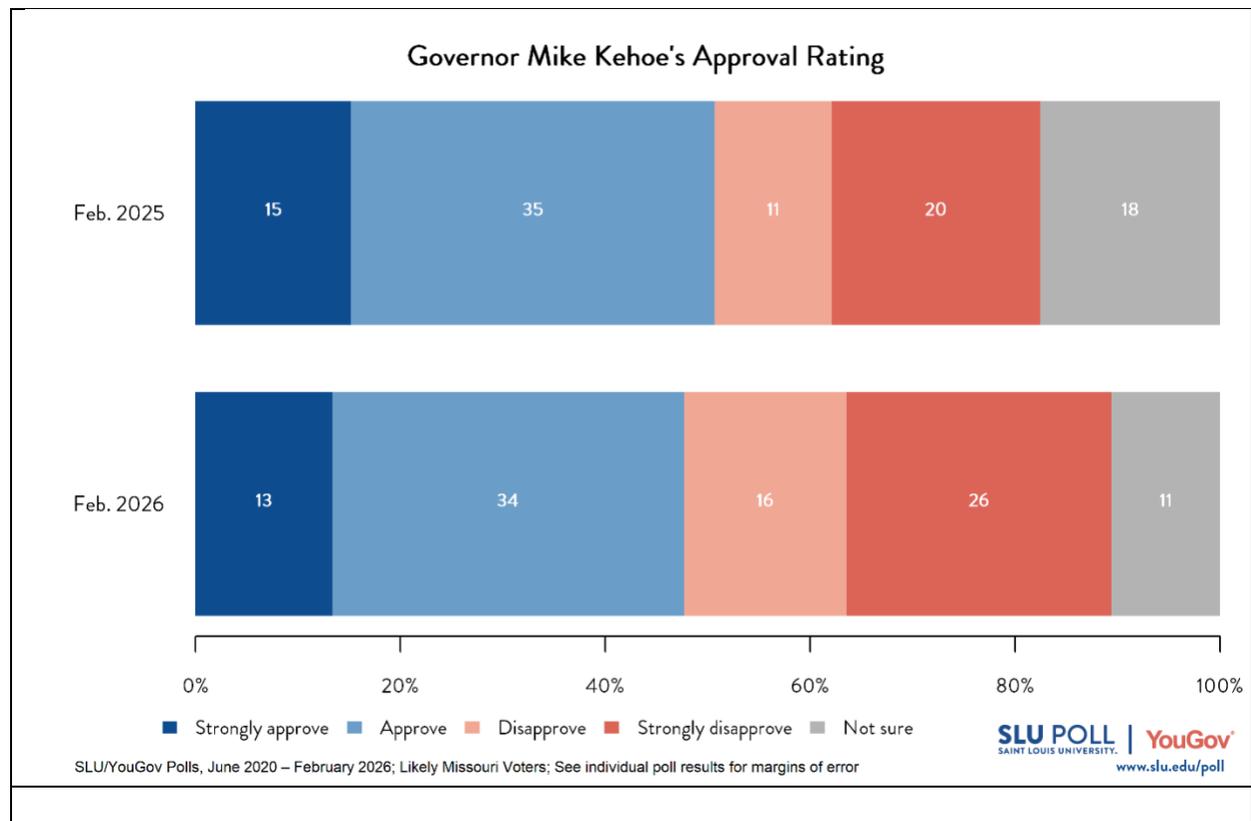
By Kenneth Warren, Ph.D.

While Democrats in Missouri entering the 2016 election controlled all statewide offices except the Lt. Governor's seat, Trump's coattails in his convincing electoral victory in Missouri in 2016 helped Republicans sweep all statewide offices in that election, turning Missouri into a red state. Republicans since have dominated Missouri's elections, making it clear that Missouri is not only a red state, but a solid red state. It was not surprising, then, that our previous SLU/YouGov polls have shown that Missouri's likely voters have consistently given Missouri's Republican politicians fairly positive approval ratings, as well as Republican President Donald Trump. Our February 2026 poll results show the same relatively high approval ratings for Missouri's Republican office holders with President Trump enjoying even slightly higher approval ratings.

President Donald Trump's Approval Rating

	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Not sure
June 2020	32	18	5	43	
Oct. 2020	35	18	6	40	
Feb. 2025	42	14	5	37	
Feb. 2026	30	22	6	41	

SLU/YouGov Polls, June 2020 – February 2026; Likely Missouri Voters; See individual poll results for margins of error

SLU POLL | **YouGov**
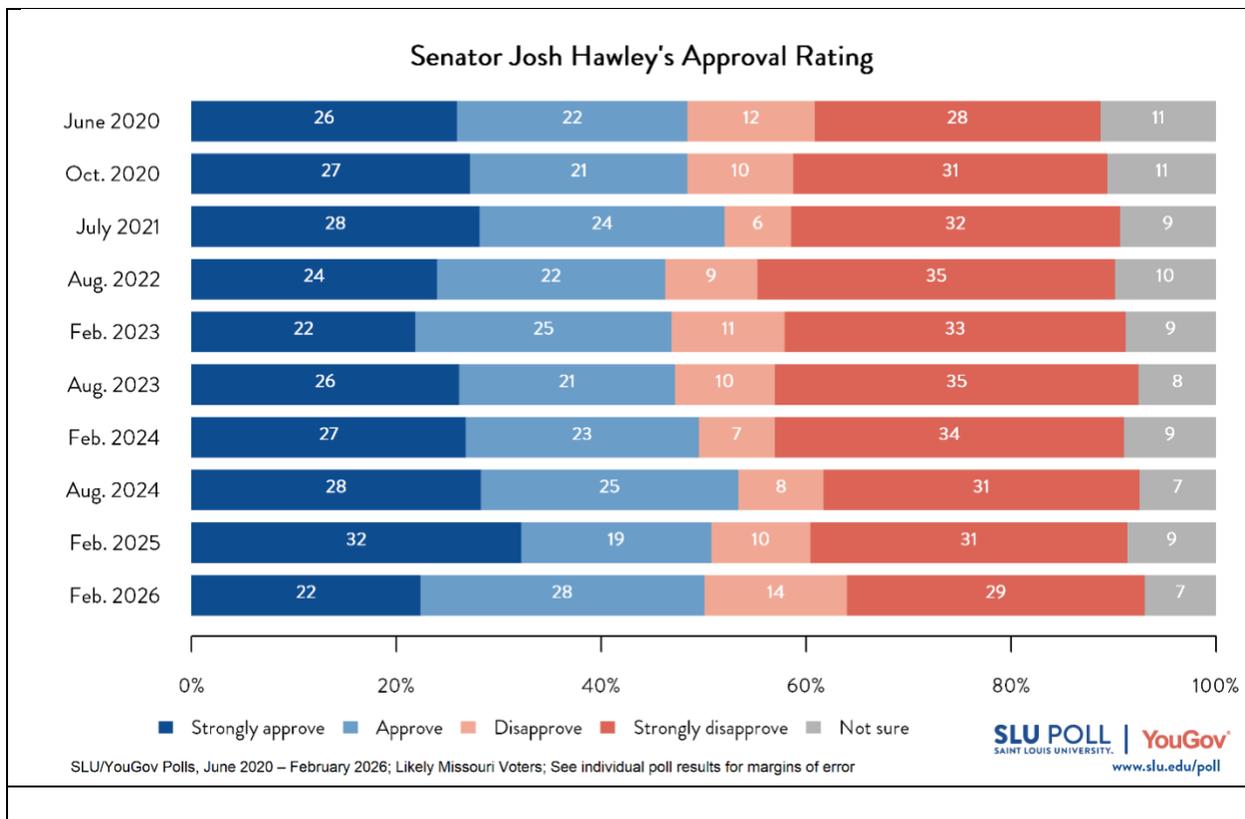SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.
www.slu.edu/poll

This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of President Donald Trump across four polls from June 2020 to February 2026. In February 2026, 52% of likely voters approve of Trump (30% strongly, 22% approve), while 47% disapprove (6% disapprove, 41% strongly disapprove).

In our February 2025 SLU/YouGov poll, President Trump received a 56% approval rating with 42% strongly approving and 14% approving, while 5% disapproved and 37% strongly disapproved. In our February 2026 poll, a slightly weaker majority of Missouri likely voters approved of his job performance, 52%, with 30% strongly approving and 22% approving. Yet our poll showed that Trump tends to be a polarizing figure among voters because, although 6% answered disapproved in our 2026 poll, 41% said they strongly disapprove of Trump's job performance. A careful reading of Trump's approval ratings reveal that Trump's approval ratings have declined since our February 2025 poll. Although his overall approval numbers only dropped 5% from 56% overall approval in 2025 to 52% overall approval in 2026, the intensity of his approval ratings declined noticeably from 42% strongly approving last year to 30% this year for a 12% drop, while his strongly disapproving percentage increased from 37% last year to 41% this year. Pollsters believe that such a finding cannot be ignored since 11% more likely voters strongly disapproved of Trump's job performance than strongly approved. Since angry voters tend to be more motivated to turn out and vote, will Trump's high strongly disapproval percentage cause trouble for Missouri Republicans in the congressional elections in Missouri this year?

Governor Mike Kehoe's Approval Rating

Feb. 2025: Strongly approve 15, Approve 35, Disapprove 11, Strongly disapprove 20, Not sure 18

Feb. 2026: Strongly approve 13, Approve 34, Disapprove 16, Strongly disapprove 26, Not sure 11

Legend: Strongly approve, Approve, Disapprove, Strongly disapprove, Not sure

SLU POLL | YouGov
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.
www.slu.edu/poll

SLU/YouGov Polls, June 2020 – February 2026; Likely Missouri Voters; See individual poll results for margins of error
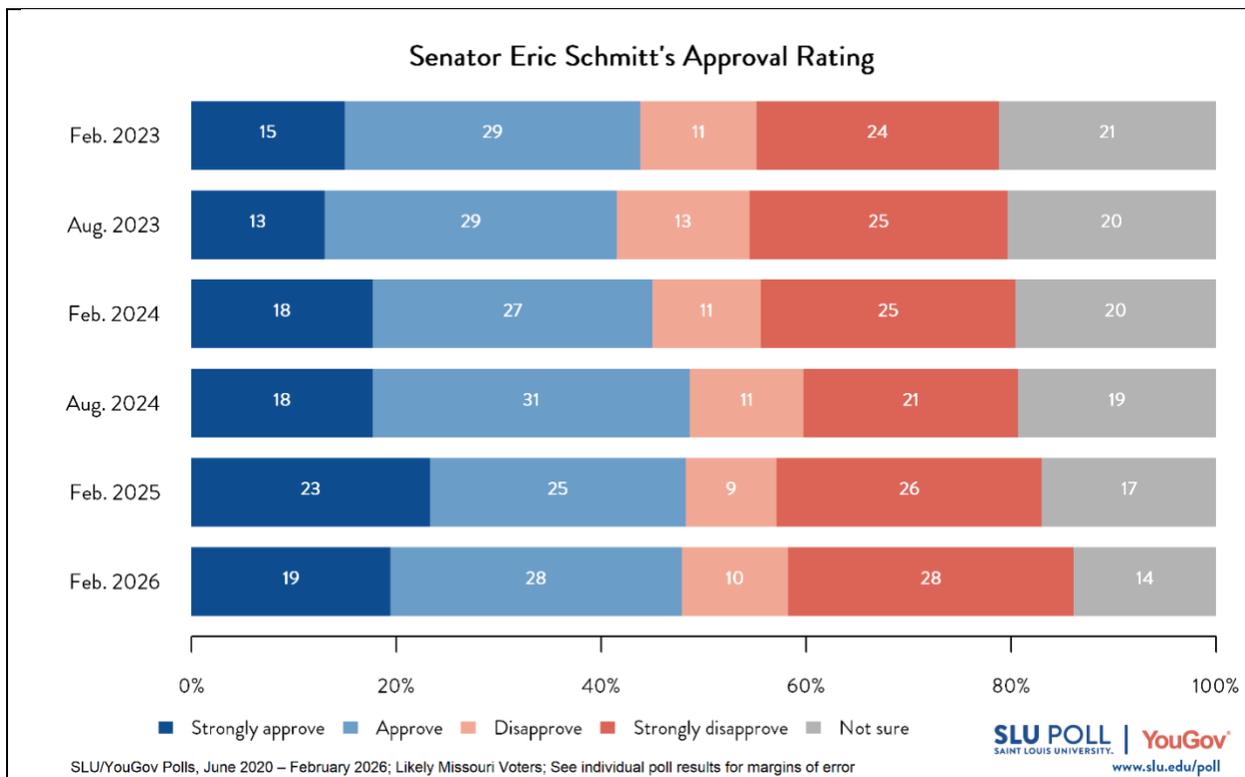
This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of Governor Mike Kehoe across two polls from February 2025 to February 2026. In February 2026, 47% approve (13% strongly, 34% approve) while 42% disapprove (16% disapprove, 26% strongly disapprove), and 11% are not sure.

Like Trump's approval scores, Governor Mike Kehoe's approval ratings have also seen a slight decline since our February 2025 SLU/YouGov polling, although Kehoe's overall approval percentages are quite respectable. In our February 2026 polling Kehoe's overall approval is 47% with 13% strongly approving and 34% approving, down from a 50% overall approval score last year. When comparing this year's approval rating with last year's, we find this decline insignificant because it is within our margin of error of +/- 3.63%. This minor decline can also be attributed to the fact that last year, as Trump, they had just been elected and were enjoying their honeymoon period where voters, as well as the media, tend to be less critical of newly elected politicians. Since Trump's 2025 inauguration approval ratings, his approval ratings have dropped notably in national polling (see Economist/YouGov tracker), but only marginally in Missouri. Normally, when a president's approval ratings decline, elected politicians within the president's party also see a decline in their approval ratings, and this is what has been seen this past year in national polling, as well as in our polling in Missouri.

Senator Josh Hawley's Approval Rating

Poll	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Not sure
June 2020	26	22	12	28	11
Oct. 2020	27	21	10	31	11
July 2021	28	24	6	32	9
Aug. 2022	24	22	9	35	10
Feb. 2023	22	25	11	33	9
Aug. 2023	26	21	10	35	8
Feb. 2024	27	23	7	34	9
Aug. 2024	28	25	8	31	7
Feb. 2025	32	19	10	31	9
Feb. 2026	22	28	14	29	7

SLU/YouGov Polls, June 2020 – February 2026; Likely Missouri Voters; See individual poll results for margins of error

SLU POLL | YouGov
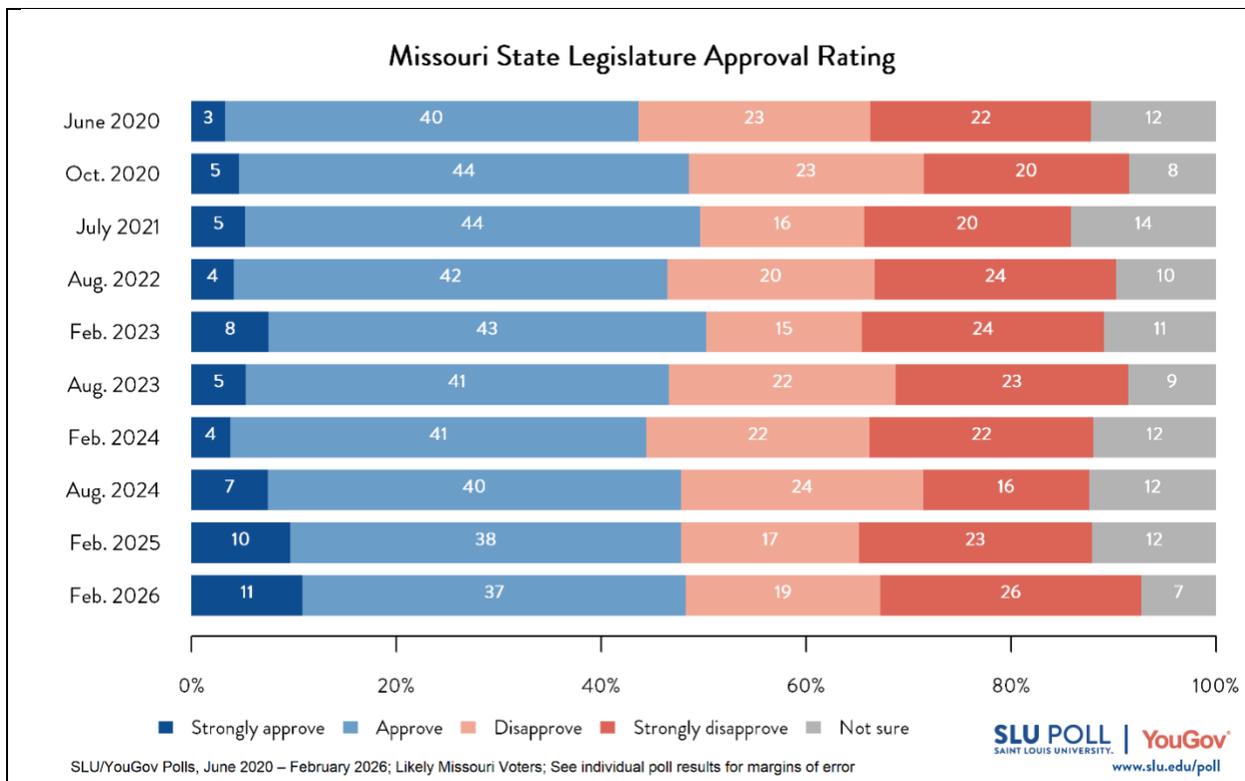SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.
www.slu.edu/poll

This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of Senator Josh Hawley across ten polls from June 2020 to February 2026. In February 2026, 50% approve (22% strongly, 28% approve) while 43% disapprove (14% disapprove, 29% strongly disapprove), and 7% are not sure.

However, U.S. Senator Josh Hawley's approval ratings remain almost the same from our last year's polling, dipping only 1%. In our February 2025 poll his overall approval rating among Missouri's likely voters stood at 51%, while this year his overall approval percentage is 50%. Not surprisingly, we found the same pattern for U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt with his overall approval percentage dipping only 1% from our last year's polling, from 48% approval to 47% approval. The consistency in polling results is not surprising in political polling because in states where the demographics remain rather stable, especially regarding partisanship, as in Missouri's electorate, we can expect little change since partisan loyal support for their party's office holders tends to remain steadfast.

Senator Eric Schmitt's Approval Rating

	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Not sure
Feb. 2023	15	29	11	24	21
Aug. 2023	13	29	13	25	20
Feb. 2024	18	27	11	25	20
Aug. 2024	18	31	11	21	19
Feb. 2025	23	25	9	26	17
Feb. 2026	19	28	10	28	14

SLU/YouGov Polls, June 2020 – February 2026; Likely Missouri Voters; See individual poll results for margins of error

SLU POLL | YouGov
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.
www.slu.edu/poll

This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of Senator Eric Schmitt across six polls from February 2023 to February 2026. In February 2026, 47% approve (19% strongly, 28% approve) while 38% disapprove (10% disapprove, 28% strongly disapprove), and 14% are not sure.
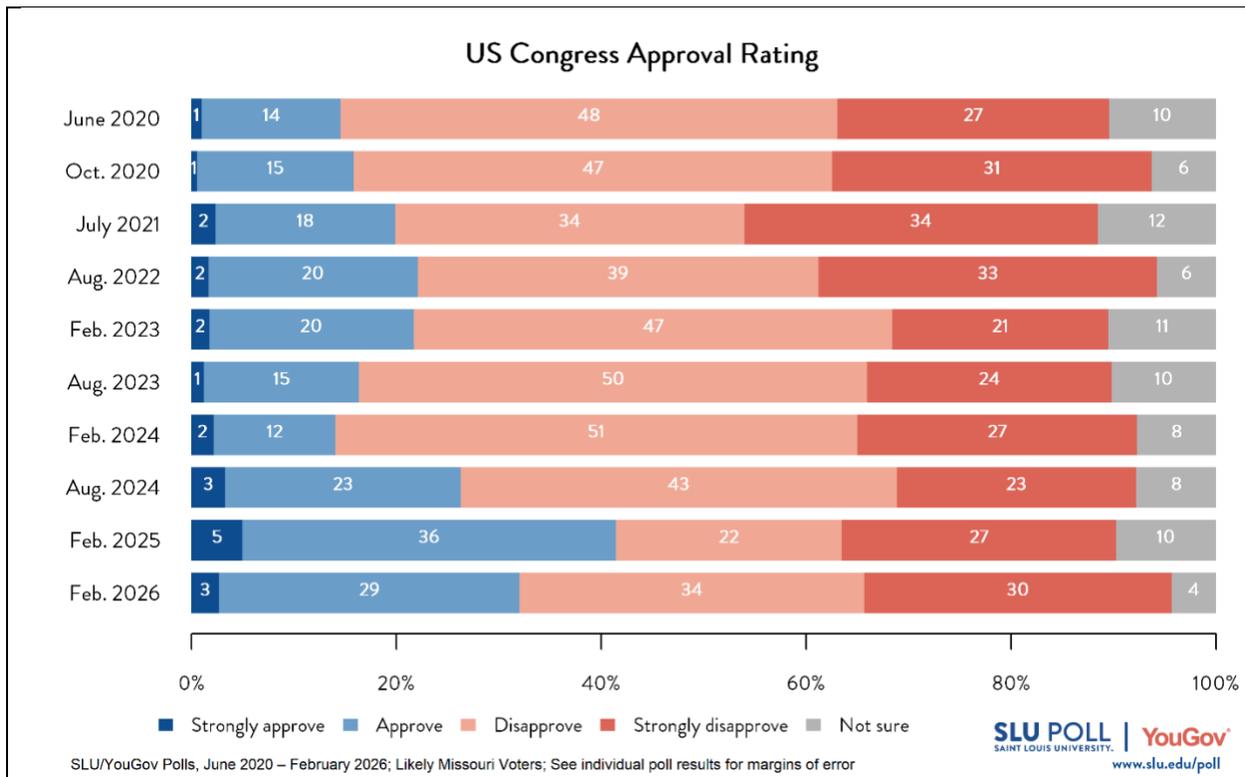
As in our last year's poll, the level of approval expressed by Missouri's likely voters for Missouri's Republican politicians was virtually the same as their approval for Missouri's Republican dominated state legislature with 48% overall approval, 11% strongly approving and 37% approving. Last year we found the identical 48% overall approval percentage for Missouri's state legislature. In this year's poll 45% percent disapproved overall with 19% disapproving and 26% strongly disapproving. Again, as for the elected officials, the strongly disapproving was found to be noticeably higher compared to those respondents who strongly approved, 11% strongly approving to 26% strongly disapproving. To reiterate, since intense disapproval is normally associated with highly motivated voters who tend to turn out to vote more than voters voicing less displeasure, we should expect this finding to at least marginally favor Democrats in the upcoming fall elections.

Missouri State Legislature Approval Rating

Date	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Not sure
June 2020	3	40	23	22	12
Oct. 2020	5	44	23	20	8
July 2021	5	44	16	20	14
Aug. 2022	4	42	20	24	10
Feb. 2023	8	43	15	24	11
Aug. 2023	5	41	22	23	9
Feb. 2024	4	41	22	22	12
Aug. 2024	7	40	24	16	12
Feb. 2025	10	38	17	23	12
Feb. 2026	11	37	19	26	7

SLU/YouGov Polls, June 2020 – February 2026; Likely Missouri Voters; See individual poll results for margins of error

SLU POLL | YouGov

www.slu.edu/poll

This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of the Missouri State Legislature across ten polls from June 2020 to February 2026. In February 2026, 48% approve (11% strongly, 37% approve) while 45% disapprove (19% disapprove, 26% strongly disapprove), and 7% are not sure.

Although Missouri's likely voters expressed rather strong approval for Missouri's state legislature, their approval for the job the U.S. Congress was doing was much less favorable,
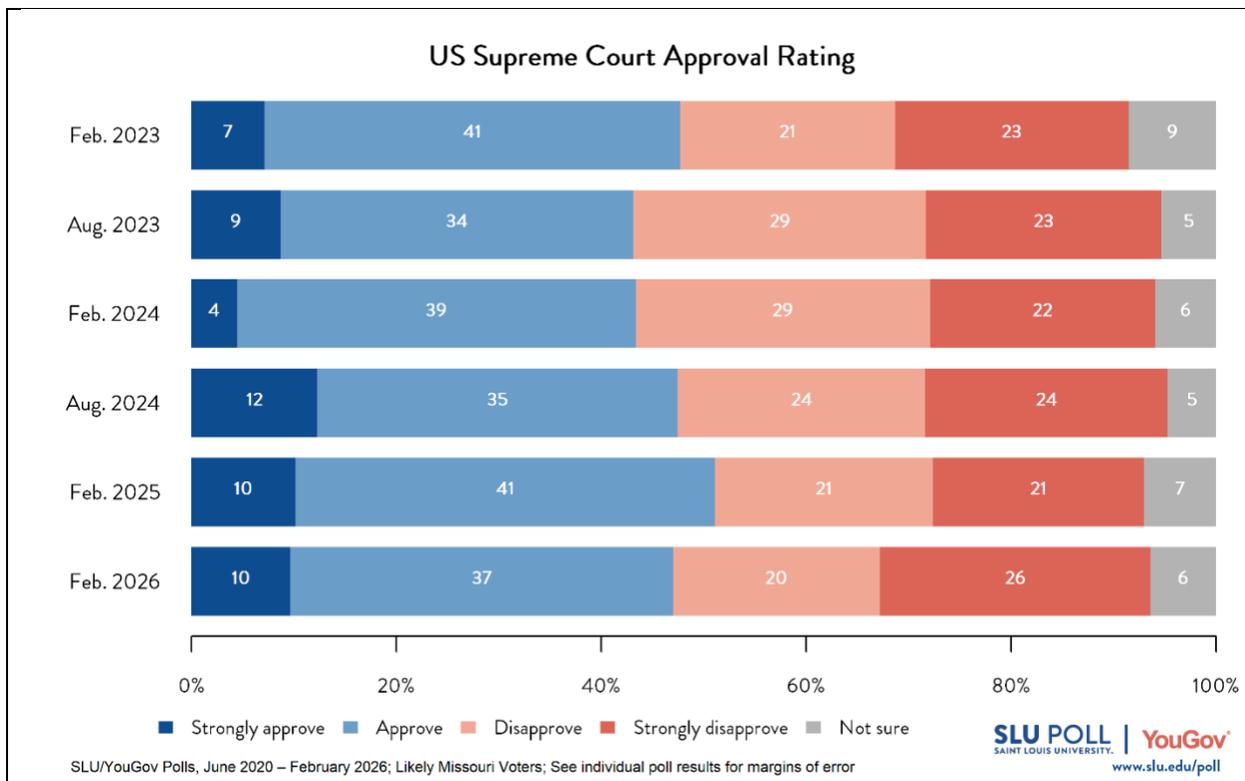
giving the U.S. Congress an overall approval score of 32% with only 3% strongly approving and 29% approving. Even though the U.S. Congress is Republican dominated with Republicans controlling both houses of Congress, a much greater percentage of Missourians disapproved of the U.S. Congress' job performance, 64%, than approved, 32%. This represents a 9% drop in approval since our poll last year where 41% expressed overall approval with 49% expressing overall disapproval. Comparatively, recent national polling shows an average approval rating for the U.S. Congress at 25% (March, 2026, Ballotpedia Polling Average), so Missouri's likely voters give Congress a somewhat higher approval score at 32%, although this should be expected since Missouri is a red state while the nation as a whole is not red or blue, but purple.

US Congress Approval Rating

Poll	Strongly approve	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Not sure
June 2020	1	14	48	27	10
Oct. 2020	1	15	47	31	6
July 2021	2	18	34	34	12
Aug. 2022	2	20	39	33	6
Feb. 2023	2	20	47	21	11
Aug. 2023	1	15	50	24	10
Feb. 2024	2	12	51	27	8
Aug. 2024	3	23	43	23	8
Feb. 2025	5	36	22	27	10
Feb. 2026	3	29	34	30	4

■ Strongly approve ■ Approve ■ Disapprove ■ Strongly disapprove ■ Not sure

SLU/YouGov Polls, June 2020 – February 2026; Likely Missouri Voters; See individual poll results for margins of error

SLU POLL | YouGov
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.   www.slu.edu/poll

This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of the US Congress across ten polls from June 2020 to February 2026. In February 2026, 32% approve (3% strongly, 29% approve) while 64% disapprove (34% disapprove, 30% strongly disapprove), and 4% are not sure.

In a related question, we asked voters: "If an election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?" Expectedly, due to Missouri's red leanings, 51% said they would vote for the Republican Party's candidate, while only 39% said they would vote for the Democrat Party's candidate, while 3% said other and 7% were not sure.

Finally, we asked Missouri's likely voters in our SLU/YouGov poll about whether they approved or disapproved of the job the U.S. Supreme Court was doing. Last year a bare majority of likely Missouri voters approved, 51%, with 41% approving and 10% strongly approving. Last year 42 disapproved with 21% disapproving and 21% strongly disapproving. However, this year's polling shows a different story with 47% approving with 37% approving and 10% strongly approving, but almost the same express disapproval, 46%, with 20% disapproving and 26% strongly disapproving. Noteworthy is that more than twice the percentage strongly disapproved than strongly approved. This may be due in part to the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling against Trump being able to impose tariffs without congressional approval – a ruling handed down as this poll was being conducted. This decision likely met with disapproval among many voters in a state leaning red and overall supportive of President Trump.

This graph tracks likely Missouri voters' approval of the US Supreme Court across six polls from February 2023 to February 2026. In February 2026, 47% approve (10% strongly, 37% approve) while 46% disapprove (20% disapprove, 26% strongly disapprove), and 6% are not sure.

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