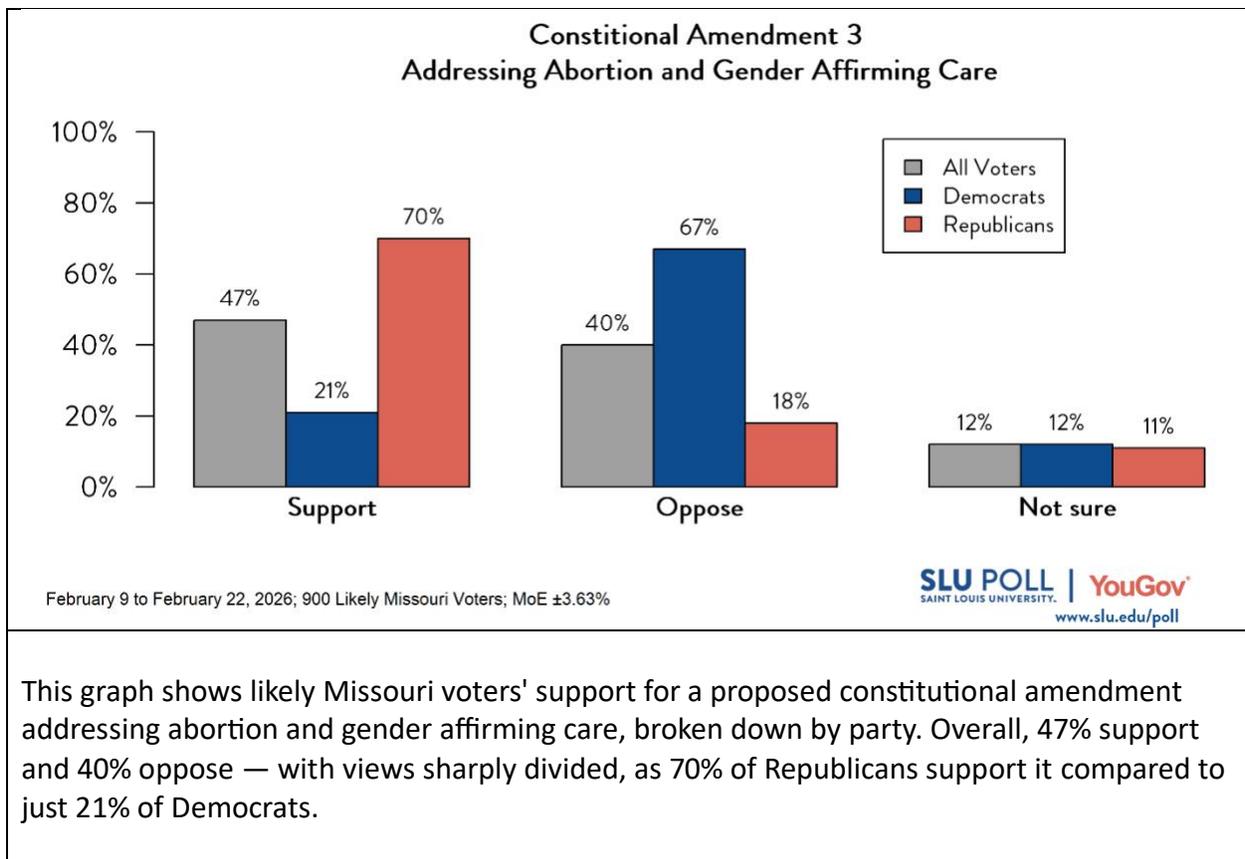# Missouri's Likely Voters Share Their Opinions in Our 2026 SLU/You Gov Poll on Reproductive Rights, Gender Transition, Punishments for Being Convicted of First-Degree Murder, SNAP Eligibility, Data Centers, and Other Issues

By Kenneth Warren, Ph.D.

In our 2026 SLU/You Gov poll, we asked 900 likely voters living in Missouri to express their opinions toward a host of socio-economic, political issues facing Missourians today. Their answers help us gain a better understanding of Missouri's political climate.

Constitional Amendment 3
Addressing Abortion and Gender Affirming Care

February 9 to February 22, 2026; 900 Likely Missouri Voters; MoE ±3.63%

SLU POLL | YouGov
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This graph shows likely Missouri voters' support for a proposed constitutional amendment addressing abortion and gender affirming care, broken down by party. Overall, 47% support and 40% oppose — with views sharply divided, as 70% of Republicans support it compared to just 21% of Democrats.
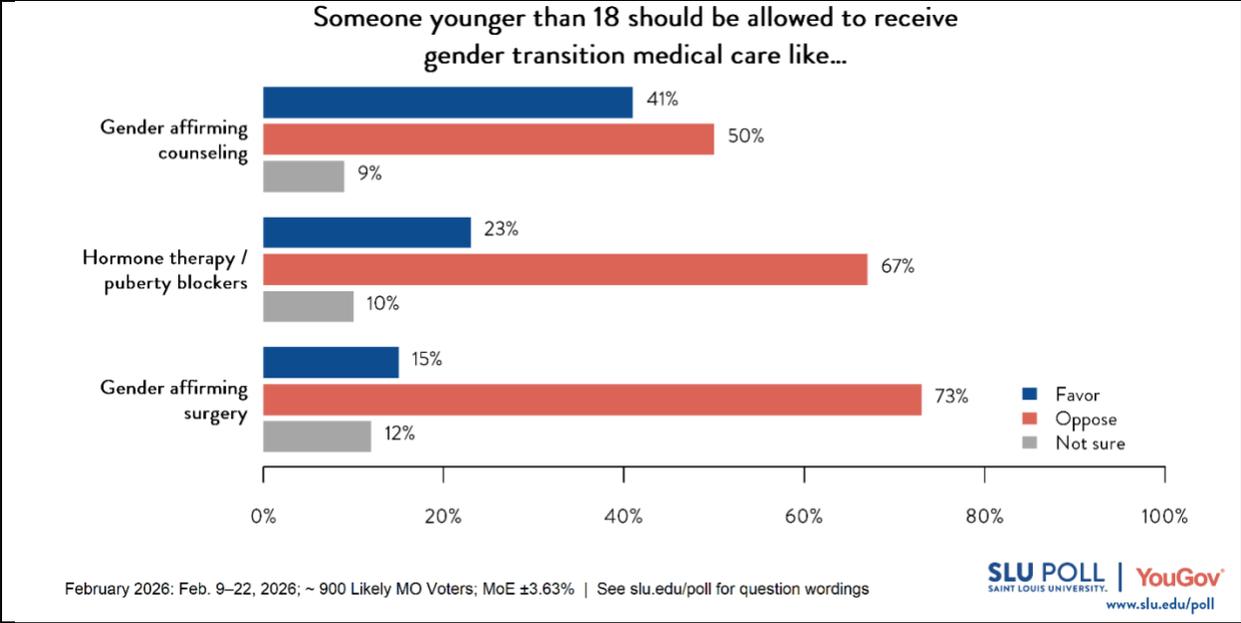
We asked Missouri's likely voters whether they would support Amendment 3 if it appeared on the Missouri ballot that basically calls for repealing the 2024 voter-approved Amendment providing reproductive healthcare rights. Forty-seven percent said they would support, while 40% opposed with 12% answering not sure. As expected, because this Amendment has been strongly pushed by Republicans in Jefferson City, Republicans were much more likely to answer support, 70%, than Democrats, 21% support. Men were also more supportive, 54%, than

women, 41%, as well as those with only high school or less education, 59%, as compared to those with a graduate education, 33%.
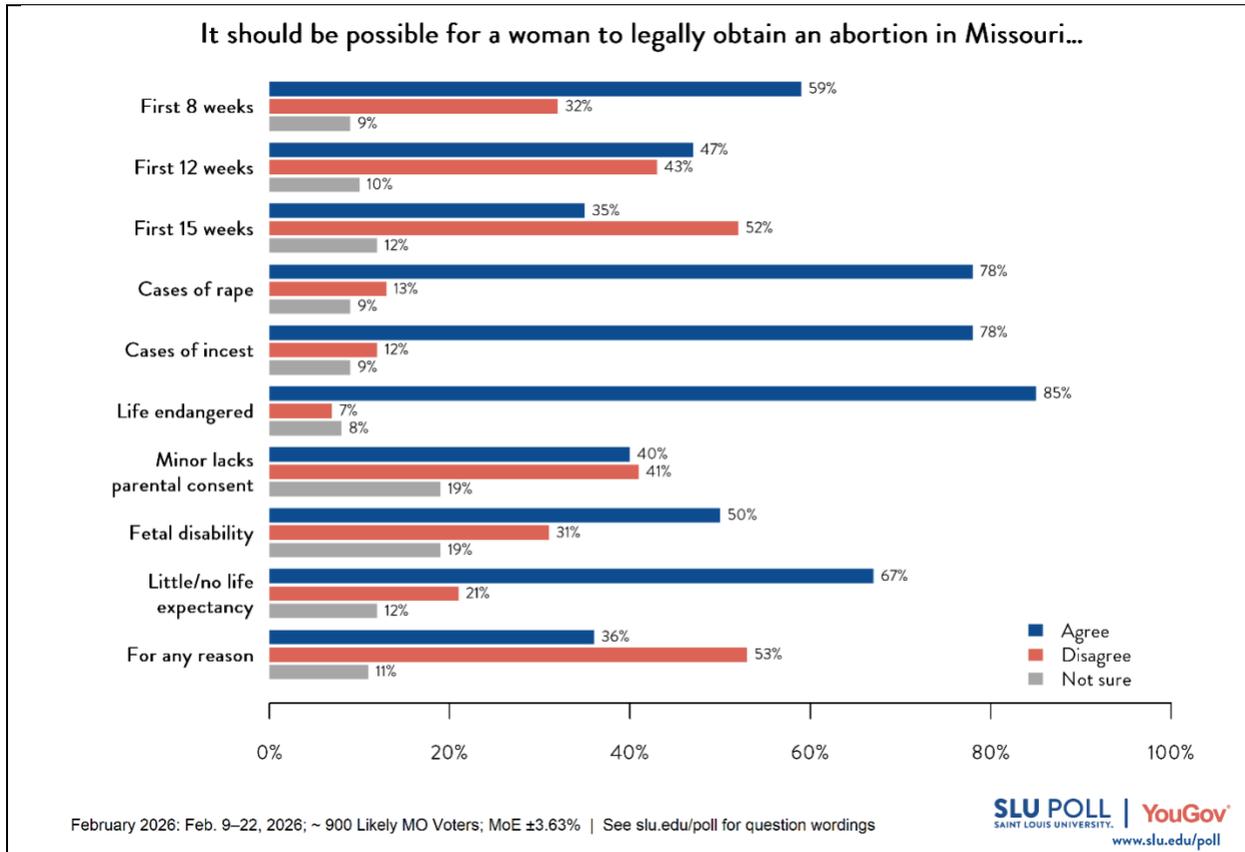
This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters think it should be possible for a woman to legally obtain an abortion in Missouri across ten different circumstances. Support ranges from 85% when a woman's life is endangered to 35% in the first 15 weeks of pregnancy.

In follow-up questions, we asked whether Missouri's likely voters agreed that a woman should be able to obtain a legal abortion in Missouri under various circumstances: in the first 8 weeks of pregnancy, 59% agreed; in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, 47% agreed; in the first 15 weeks of pregnancy, 35% agreed; in cases of rape, 78% agreed; in cases of incest, 78% agreed; when the woman's life is in danger by the pregnancy, 85% agreed; when a minor does not have parental consent of at least one parent, 40% agreed; when there is a strong change of the baby having a physical or mental disability, 50% agreed; when the baby is diagnosed with a disorder resulting in little or no life expectancy, 67%, and when the woman wants an abortion for any reason, 36% agreed. As expected, Democrats and women were much more likely to agree with the above questions than Republicans and men.

Someone younger than 18 should be allowed to receive gender transition medical care like...

Gender affirming counseling
- Favor: 41%
- Oppose: 50%
- Not sure: 9%

Hormone therapy / puberty blockers
- Favor: 23%
- Oppose: 67%
- Not sure: 10%

Gender affirming surgery
- Favor: 15%
- Oppose: 73%
- Not sure: 12%

Legend: Favor, Oppose, Not sure

February 2026: Feb. 9–22, 2026; ~ 900 Likely MO Voters; MoE ±3.63% | See slu.edu/poll for question wordings

SLU POLL | YouGov
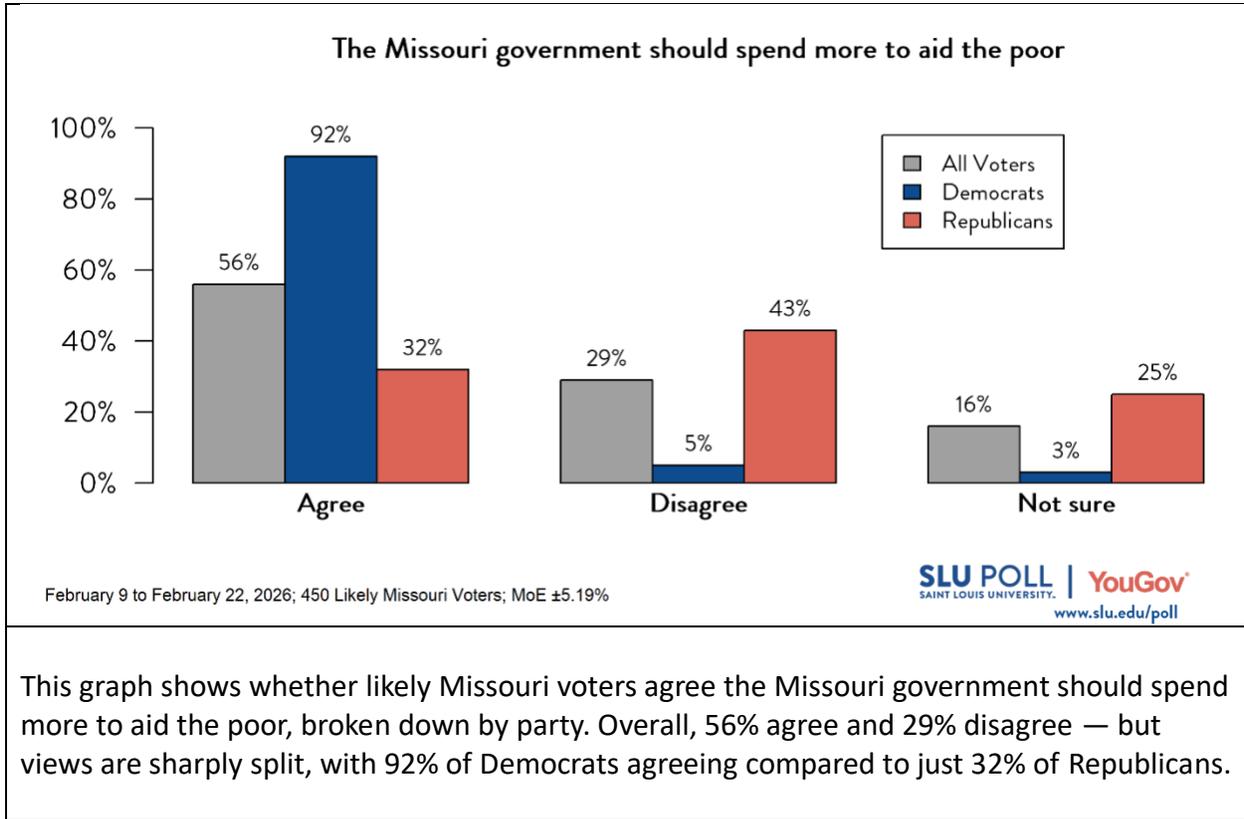SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY.
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This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters favor allowing someone younger than 18 to receive three types of gender transition medical care. Opposition is highest for gender affirming surgery (73%) and hormone therapy/puberty blockers (67%), while views are more closely divided on gender affirming counseling (41% favor, 50% oppose).

We also asked, "Do you favor or oppose allowing someone younger than 18 to receive gender transition medical care like . . . gender affirming counseling?" Forty-one percent favored with 50% opposed and 9% answering not sure; hormone therapy or medication that can temporarily prevent the effects of puberty, 23% favored with 67% opposed; gender affirming surgery, 15% favored with 73% opposed. To these questions, Republicans, women, those with a 4-year college education or graduate education, living in the metro St. Louis and metro Kansas City areas, were more likely to favor.
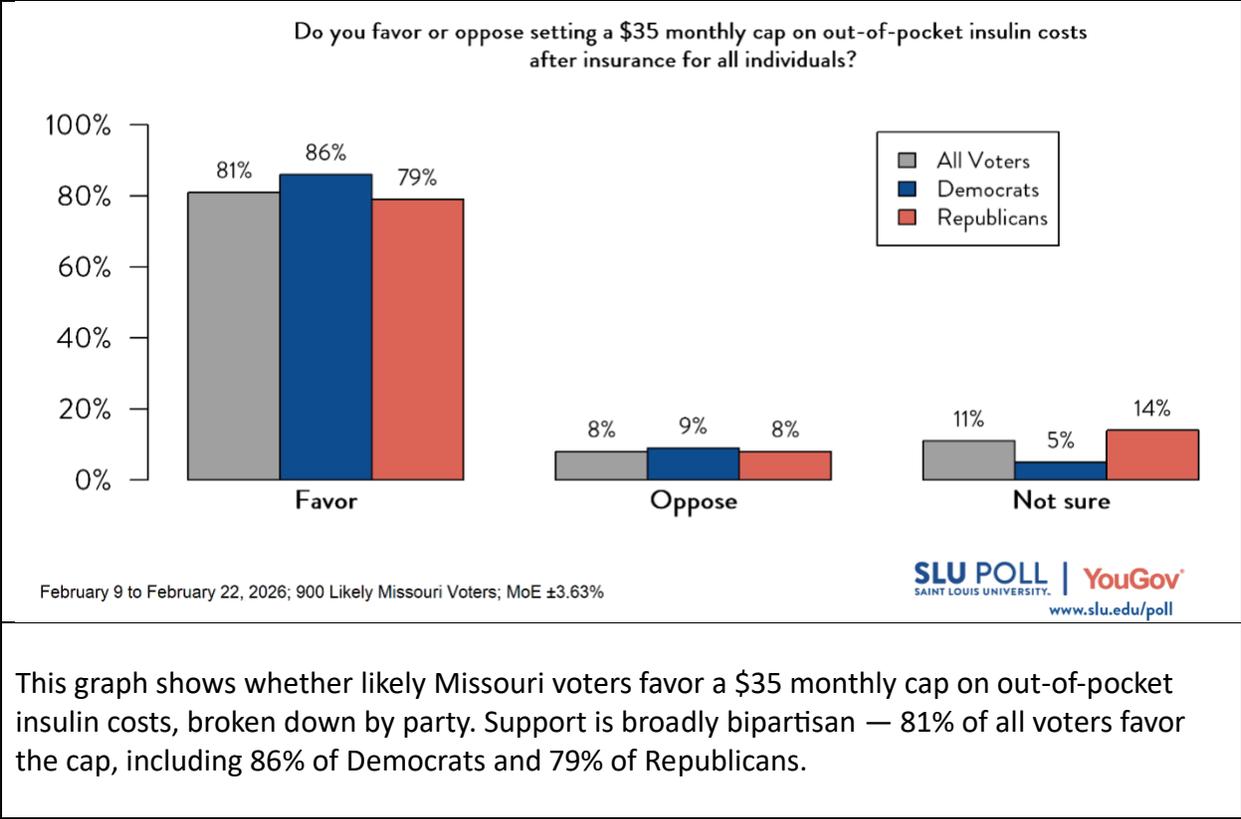
Regarding the ratings of schools, crime, and race relations in their respective communities across Missouri, only 26% of the respondents rated public schools in Missouri as good, 21%, to excellent, 2%; 46% rated crime picture in their community as good, 34%, to excellent, 12%; and 50% ranked race relations in their community as good, 41%, to excellent, 9%. As expected, blacks rated race relations much more negatively in their community than whites, 30% good to excellent for blacks compared to 51% good to excellent for whites. These findings were very similar to our findings in our 2025 SLU/YouGov poll.

Missourians have long expressed dissatisfaction with roads and infrastructure in Missouri. In our February 2025 poll, only 3% of Missouri's likely voters felt that Missouri's roads and

infrastructure deserved an excellent rating, while 27% answered good. A troubling 69% ranked roads and infrastructure as fair, 39%, to poor, 30%. Yet, this is better than what we found last year when just 23% gave roads and infrastructure a good, 20%, to excellent, 3%, score.

The Missouri government should spend more to aid the poor

February 9 to February 22, 2026; 450 Likely Missouri Voters; MoE ±5.19%

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This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters agree the Missouri government should spend more to aid the poor, broken down by party. Overall, 56% agree and 29% disagree — but views are sharply split, with 92% of Democrats agreeing compared to just 32% of Republicans.
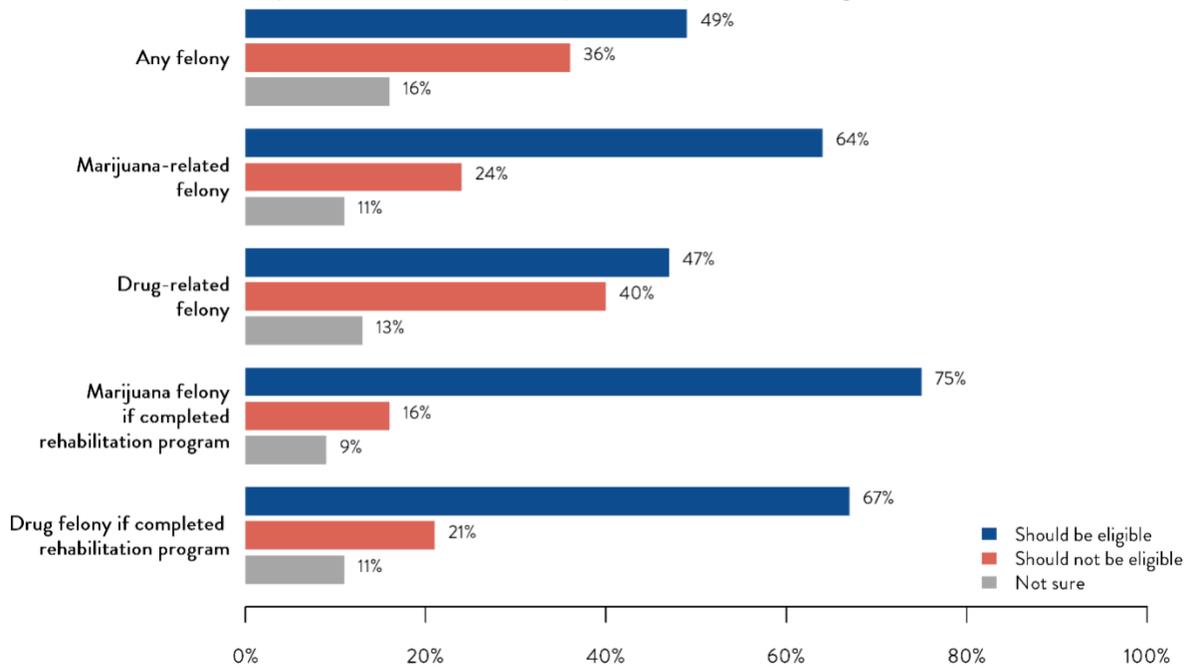
We asked whether Missouri's likely voters agreed that the State of Missouri should spend more money to aid the poor. Fifty-six percent agreed with only 29% disagreeing with 16% not sure. However, only 32% of Republicans agreed as compared to 92% of Democrats who agreed.

Do you favor or oppose setting a $35 monthly cap on out-of-pocket insulin costs after insurance for all individuals?

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This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters favor a $35 monthly cap on out-of-pocket insulin costs, broken down by party. Support is broadly bipartisan — 81% of all voters favor the cap, including 86% of Democrats and 79% of Republicans.

We also asked respondents whether they were worried about the costs of prescription drugs. Thirty-five percent said very worried, 43% said worried, 17% answered not too worried, while 5% said not worried at all. Respondents were also asked whether they favored or opposed setting a $35 monthly cap on out-of-pocket insulin costs, after insurance, for all individuals. This proposal was overwhelmingly favored with 81% saying they favor with only 8% opposed.

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

Any felony
- Should be eligible: 49%
- Should not be eligible: 36%
- Not sure: 16%

Marijuana-related felony
- Should be eligible: 64%
- Should not be eligible: 24%
- Not sure: 11%

Drug-related felony
- Should be eligible: 47%
- Should not be eligible: 40%
- Not sure: 13%

Marijuana felony if completed rehabilitation program
- Should be eligible: 75%
- Should not be eligible: 16%
- Not sure: 9%

Drug felony if completed rehabilitation program
- Should be eligible: 67%
- Should not be eligible: 21%
- Not sure: 11%

Legend:
- Should be eligible
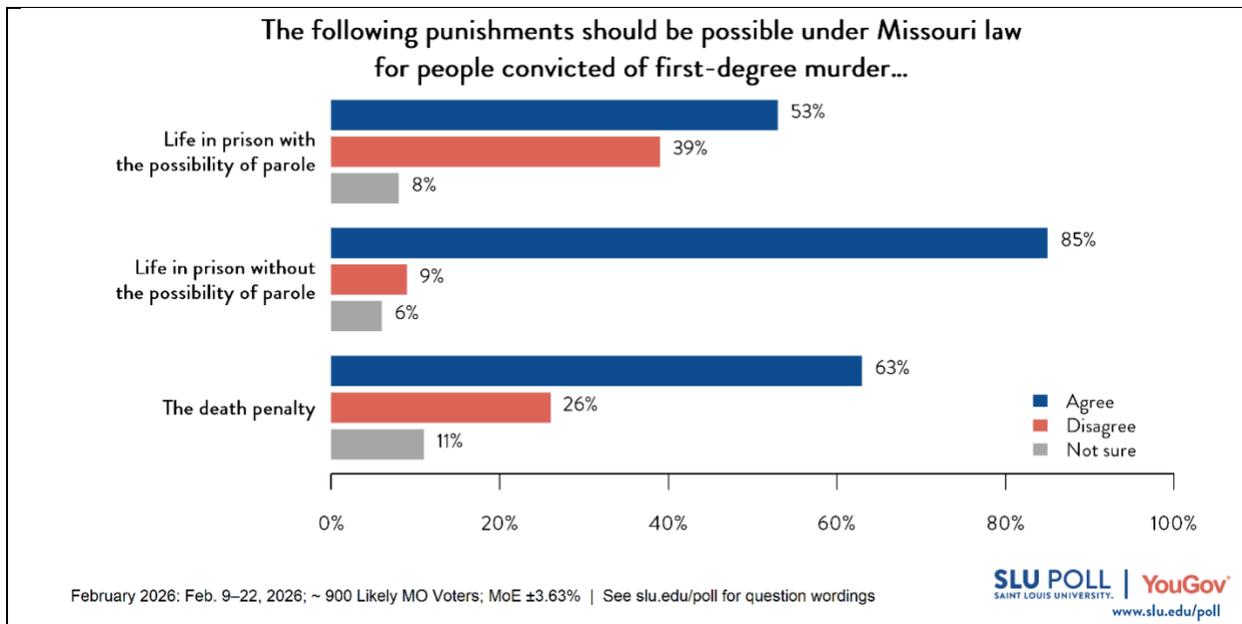- Should not be eligible
- Not sure

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This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters think formerly incarcerated individuals should be eligible for SNAP benefits across five felony scenarios. Support is highest when a rehabilitation program has been completed, with 75% saying marijuana felons who completed rehab should be eligible and 67% saying the same for drug felons who completed rehab.

Missouri's likely voters were asked questions pertaining to SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) eligibility if individuals were no longer incarcerated, but convicted of a felony, should be eligible, 49%, should not be eligible, 35%; convicted of a marijuana-related felony, 64% eligible, 24% not eligible; convicted of a drug-related felony, 47% eligible, not eligible, 40%; convicted of a marijuana related felony who have completed a rehabilitation program, 75% eligible, 16% not eligible; convicted of a drug-related felony who have completed a rehabilitation program, 67% eligible, 21% not eligible.
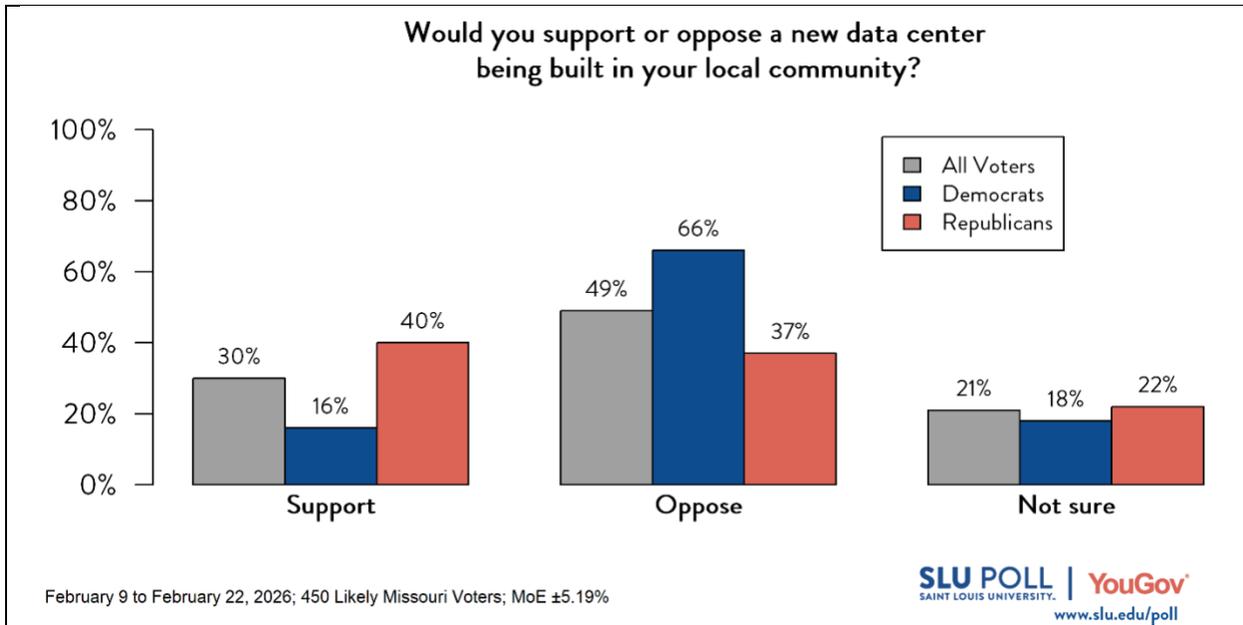
The following punishments should be possible under Missouri law for people convicted of first-degree murder...

Life in prison with the possibility of parole
- Agree: 53%
- Disagree: 39%
- Not sure: 8%

Life in prison without the possibility of parole
- Agree: 85%
- Disagree: 9%
- Not sure: 6%

The death penalty
- Agree: 63%
- Disagree: 26%
- Not sure: 11%

Legend:
- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure

(X-axis: 0%, 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%)

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This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters agree that three types of punishment should be possible under Missouri law for first-degree murder convictions. Life without parole draws the broadest support at 85%, followed by the death penalty at 63% and life with the possibility of parole at 53%.

Missouri's likely voters whether they agreed or disagreed that the following punishments should be possible under Missouri law for people convicted of first degree murder; life in prison with the possibility of parole, 53% agreed; life in prison without the possibility of parole, 85% agreed; the death penalty, 63% agreed. Democrats were found to favor more than Republicans the penalty of life in prison with the possibility of parole, 65% to 46%, while Republicans were found more than Democrats to favor the death penalty, 82% to 38%.

Respondents were also asked if a jury cannot unanimously agree to sentence someone convicted of first-degree murder to life in prison without the possibility of parole, should the judge be able to decide whether the sentence is life in prison without the possibility of parole or the death sentence? Fifty-nine percent agreed, while 26% disagreed with 15% not sure. Republicans were more likely to agree than Democrats, 73% to 47%.

In a related question, we asked Missouri likely voters whether they agreed that the Missouri governor should have the authority to temporarily pause all executions in the state. Sixty-three percent agreed, while only 22% disagreed with 15% not sure. We also asked, "How likely are you to support a candidate for office if you agree with the candidate on most issues and belong to the same political party, but disagree with the candidate on the death penalty?" The

overwhelming percentage of respondents said they would still support the candidate with 27% saying very likely, 53% answering somewhat likely, with only 7% saying somewhat unlikely and just 3% saying very unlikely with 9% answering not sure. Electoral behavior studies have long shown that partisan loyalty is very strong causing few partisans to abandon their support for their party office holders just because they may not agree with some of their positions on issues, although pro-choice advocates are most likely to vote against candidates of their own party who are pro-life (according to Pew Research, 52-58% of Democrats and 20-22% of Republicans will only vote for candidates who share their view on abortion).

Would you support or oppose a new data center being built in your local community?

Legend: All Voters, Democrats, Republicans

Support: All Voters 30%, Democrats 16%, Republicans 40%
Oppose: All Voters 49%, Democrats 66%, Republicans 37%
Not sure: All Voters 21%, Democrats 18%, Republicans 22%

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This graph shows whether likely Missouri voters support a new data center being built in their local community, broken down by party. Overall, 30% support and 49% oppose — with Republicans more evenly split (40% support, 37% oppose) compared to Democrats (16% support, 66% oppose).

Finally, regarding the building of data centers (large facilities that house computer servers for storing and transmitting data), we asked whether Missouri likely voters would support the building of a new data center in Missouri. 31% would support, 44% opposed, and 25% were not sure. Younger people (under 45) and Democrats and Independents were found to be more opposed than older Missourians and Republicans. To the question, would you support a new data center being built in your local community, a similar response was given with 30% supporting and 49% not supporting with 21% not sure. Democrats were much more likely to oppose the idea, 66%, than Republicans, 37%, with Independents in between, 46%. Our poll findings are consistent with what national polls are finding. For example, a December 2025

Cygnal poll found that 58% of Democrats compared to 35% of Republicans have an unfavorable opinion of AI data centers, mostly because Democrats view data centers as threats to the environment and will drive up utility costs at their expense.