

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MO Gov. Jay Nixon looking good for second term

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP’s Wednesday release revealed a potentially tight 2012 re-election battle for freshman Senator Claire McCaskill in Missouri, but against two of the same opponents, first-term Governor Jay Nixon is in much better shape. Nixon tops Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder, 47-39, and former state treasurer Sarah Steelman, 46-35. McCaskill trailed Kinder by two and beat Steelman by only one.

The difference owes to the two figures’ relative popularity. Nixon has a 44-30 approval rating, tying him with Alaska’s recently re-elected Sean Parnell and Connecticut’s outgoing Jodi Rell as the sixth most popular governor PPP has measured in 2010. McCaskill posts only a 43-44, putting her somewhere in the middle of the pack of senators. Nixon is actually relatively unpopular in his own party, showing a weak 54-26 to McCaskill’s 77-10, but Nixon is far less polarizing. Whereas McCaskill has almost reverse numbers with Republicans as with Democrats, Nixon breaks even among the GOP at 34-37. 43% of independents approve of each, but only 23% disapprove of Nixon’s performance, versus 40% for McCaskill.

Thus, in the horse races, Nixon does better than McCaskill across the aisle, pulling 14 or 15% of Republicans to McCaskill’s 7 or 8%, and beating Kinder by 10 and Steelman by 17 with independents, versus McCaskill’s respective seven-point deficit and three-point lead. Despite Nixon’s base’s beef with his job performance, they return home when it comes time to vote. Both candidates have the Democratic base almost unanimously locked up.

Unfortunately for Nixon, Steelman announced for Senate while this poll was in the field, and will face McCaskill if she survives the primary, a feat she could not accomplish when she ran for governor in 2008.

“Jay Nixon has built a strong bipartisan brand in a swing state that has been a little tough for Democrats of late, and right now, it looks like he will start out in a solid position on his way to re-election,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 515 Missouri voters from November 29th to December 1st. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Missouri Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Jay Nixon's job performance?

Approve 44%
Disapprove..... 30%
Not sure 27%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Peter Kinder?

Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 54%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Steelman?

Favorable..... 22%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 59%

Q4 If the candidates for Governor in 2012 were Democrat Jay Nixon and Republican Peter Kinder, who would you vote for?

Jay Nixon..... 47%
Peter Kinder..... 39%
Undecided..... 14%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor in 2012 were Democrat Jay Nixon and Republican Sarah Steelman, who would you vote for?

Jay Nixon 46%
Sarah Steelman 35%
Undecided..... 19%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 17%
Moderate..... 39%
Conservative..... 44%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q8 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 36%
Republican..... 39%
Independent/Other..... 26%

Q9 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 84%
African-American 12%
Other..... 4%

Q10 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 8%
30 to 45..... 31%
46 to 65..... 34%
Older than 65..... 27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Nixon Approval				
Approve	44%	59%	50%	32%
Disapprove	30%	23%	26%	36%
Not sure	27%	19%	25%	32%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Kinder Favorability				
Favorable	23%	21%	16%	30%
Unfavorable	22%	33%	24%	17%
Not sure	54%	46%	60%	52%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	22%	18%	21%	23%
Unfavorable	19%	28%	19%	16%
Not sure	59%	54%	60%	60%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Nixon/Kinder				
Jay Nixon	47%	90%	58%	21%
Peter Kinder	39%	5%	22%	67%
Undecided	14%	5%	20%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Nixon/Steelman				
Jay Nixon	46%	83%	58%	21%
Sarah Steelman	35%	8%	19%	59%
Undecided	19%	9%	24%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon Approval			
Approve	44%	41%	46%
Disapprove	30%	27%	33%
Not sure	27%	31%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kinder Favorability			
Favorable	23%	19%	28%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	23%
Not sure	54%	59%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Steelman Favorability			
Favorable	22%	18%	26%
Unfavorable	19%	17%	22%
Not sure	59%	65%	52%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Kinder			
Jay Nixon	47%	50%	44%
Peter Kinder	39%	35%	44%
Undecided	14%	15%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Steelman			
Jay Nixon	46%	47%	44%
Sarah Steelman	35%	33%	37%
Undecided	19%	20%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon Approval				
Approve	44%	54%	34%	43%
Disapprove	30%	26%	37%	23%
Not sure	27%	20%	29%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kinder Favorability				
Favorable	23%	12%	36%	19%
Unfavorable	22%	35%	14%	18%
Not sure	54%	52%	50%	63%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	22%	16%	24%	24%
Unfavorable	19%	28%	14%	15%
Not sure	59%	55%	61%	61%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Kinder				
Jay Nixon	47%	85%	15%	43%
Peter Kinder	39%	4%	74%	33%
Undecided	14%	11%	10%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Steelman				
Jay Nixon	46%	82%	14%	45%
Sarah Steelman	35%	4%	67%	28%
Undecided	19%	14%	19%	27%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon Approval				
Approve	44%	44%	41%	42%
Disapprove	30%	29%	32%	33%
Not sure	27%	27%	27%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Kinder Favorability				
Favorable	23%	25%	14%	8%
Unfavorable	22%	20%	27%	58%
Not sure	54%	55%	59%	33%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	22%	22%	18%	17%
Unfavorable	19%	18%	23%	33%
Not sure	59%	59%	59%	50%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Kinder				
Jay Nixon	47%	41%	82%	67%
Peter Kinder	39%	46%	5%	8%
Undecided	14%	13%	14%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Steelman				
Jay Nixon	46%	41%	77%	58%
Sarah Steelman	35%	39%	9%	17%
Undecided	19%	20%	14%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon Approval					
Approve	44%	39%	38%	42%	54%
Disapprove	30%	37%	34%	27%	26%
Not sure	27%	25%	28%	31%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kinder Favorability					
Favorable	23%	27%	18%	26%	25%
Unfavorable	22%	29%	18%	24%	24%
Not sure	54%	44%	64%	51%	50%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Steelman Favorability					
Favorable	22%	16%	17%	25%	24%
Unfavorable	19%	36%	16%	17%	21%
Not sure	59%	49%	67%	57%	55%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Kinder					
Jay Nixon	47%	64%	42%	44%	51%
Peter Kinder	39%	25%	44%	40%	36%
Undecided	14%	11%	14%	15%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Steelman					
Jay Nixon	46%	53%	43%	45%	49%
Sarah Steelman	35%	31%	39%	36%	30%
Undecided	19%	16%	19%	19%	22%

