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## McCaskill knotted with three GOP foes

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Things literally could not be any closer in Claire McCaskill’s bid for re-election. In PPP’s latest survey of the race, the freshman Missouri Senator ties each of her three prospective Republican opponents at 43%.

McCaskill has been neck-and-neck with frontrunner Sarah Steelman and strong challenger Todd Akin all the way, leading Steelman 43-42 and Akin 45-43 in PPP’s last look at the race four months ago. But voters’ views of McCaskill’s job performance have slipped a little since then, from 43% approving and 47% disapproving to 42-49, and the other GOP contender has gotten significantly better known.

John Brunner has upped his name recognition from 26% to 36%. He is still less known than Akin (47%) or Steelman (46%), but better liked, with an 18-18 favorability spread to Steelman’s 22-24 and Akin’s 19-28. Because of this rise in his public profile, Brunner has closed the gap with McCaskill by nine points since September, when he trailed 46-37. In yesterday’s release, Brunner was also seen creeping up on Steelman and Akin in the primary.

McCaskill is showing some weakness with her own party. In September, she earned 87-90% of the Democratic vote, but now can capture only 78-82%. Meanwhile, the Republicans are more united, earning 78-82% of their own partisans, versus 70-80% before. McCaskill is also down with independents, from leads of two to nine points, now only leading by one and trailing as much as 10. The two parties are most polarized in the event of a Steelman nomination, but she also racks up the largest lead with independents.

“Claire McCaskill’s definitely one of the most vulnerable incumbents in the country,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “What’s helping her out is that the Republican candidate field isn’t very strong either. This is looking like a toss up race much like the one McCaskill had when she was first elected in 2006.”

PPP surveyed 582 Missouri voters from January 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.1%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



## Missouri Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Claire McCaskill's job performance?

Approve .....42% Not sure .....10%  
Disapprove.....49%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Todd Akin?

Favorable..... 19%  
Unfavorable ..... 28%  
Not sure ..... 54%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Brunner?

Favorable..... 18%  
Unfavorable ..... 18%  
Not sure ..... 64%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Steelman?

Favorable..... 22%  
Unfavorable ..... 24%  
Not sure ..... 54%

**Q5** If the candidates for Senate this fall were Democrat Claire McCaskill and Republican Todd Akin, who would you vote for?

Claire McCaskill ..... 43%  
Todd Akin ..... 43%  
Undecided..... 14%

**Q6** If the candidates for Senate this fall were Democrat Claire McCaskill and Republican John Brunner, who would you vote for?

Claire McCaskill ..... 43%  
John Brunner ..... 43%  
Undecided..... 14%

**Q7** If the candidates for Senate this fall were Democrat Claire McCaskill and Republican Sarah Steelman, who would you vote for?

Claire McCaskill ..... 43%  
Sarah Steelman ..... 43%  
Undecided..... 13%

**Q8** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 46%  
Barack Obama..... 45%  
Someone else/Don't remember ..... 9%

**Q9** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 10%  
Somewhat liberal ..... 21%  
Moderate..... 27%  
Somewhat conservative..... 22%  
Very conservative ..... 20%

**Q10** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman ..... 53%  
Man..... 47%

**Q11** 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 ..... 39%  
Republican..... 35%  
Independent/Other..... 27%

**Q12** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White ..... 85%  
African-American ..... 10%  
Other..... 5%



**Q13** 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.....	18%
30 to 45.....	26%
46 to 65.....	36%
Older than 65.....	20%



**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>McCaskill Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	42%	10%	75%	32%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	83%	17%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	7%	8%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Akin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	19%	31%	5%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	9%	49%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	54%	60%	46%	64%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Brunner Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	27%	8%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	18%	6%	33%	6%
<b>Not sure</b>	64%	67%	59%	75%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Steelman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	34%	10%	21%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	14%	36%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	54%	52%	54%	66%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>McCaskill/Akin</b>				
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	10%	80%	32%
<b>Todd Akin</b>	43%	79%	7%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	11%	13%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>McCaskill/Brunner</b>				
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	9%	81%	32%
<b>John Brunner</b>	43%	79%	8%	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	12%	12%	37%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>McCaskill/Steelman</b>				
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	10%	80%	26%
<b>Sarah Steelman</b>	43%	80%	8%	34%
<b>Undecided</b>	13%	9%	13%	40%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>McCaskill Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	42%	66%	78%	50%	16%	9%
<b>Disapprove</b>	49%	25%	15%	35%	78%	82%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	9%	7%	15%	6%	10%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Akin Favorability</b>						
Favorable	19%	12%	3%	18%	29%	27%
Unfavorable	28%	42%	50%	34%	12%	6%
Not sure	54%	46%	47%	48%	59%	66%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Brunner Favorability</b>						
Favorable	18%	9%	8%	13%	30%	25%
Unfavorable	18%	28%	30%	26%	8%	3%
Not sure	64%	64%	62%	61%	62%	72%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Steelman Favorability</b>						
Favorable	22%	19%	7%	16%	34%	34%
Unfavorable	24%	31%	40%	25%	15%	12%
Not sure	54%	49%	52%	59%	51%	54%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>McCaskill/Akin</b>						
Claire McCaskill	43%	66%	77%	57%	17%	7%
Todd Akin	43%	12%	9%	30%	71%	78%
Undecided	14%	22%	14%	13%	11%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>McCaskill/Brunner</b>						
Claire McCaskill	43%	66%	81%	55%	15%	7%
John Brunner	43%	23%	9%	25%	75%	76%
Undecided	14%	10%	10%	19%	11%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>McCaskill/Steelman</b>						
Claire McCaskill	43%	65%	83%	54%	14%	6%
Sarah Steelman	43%	28%	8%	29%	70%	78%
Undecided	13%	7%	9%	16%	16%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McCaskill Approval</b>			
Approve	42%	43%	40%
Disapprove	49%	43%	55%
Not sure	10%	13%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Akin Favorability</b>			
Favorable	19%	17%	20%
Unfavorable	28%	24%	32%
Not sure	54%	59%	48%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Brunner Favorability</b>			
Favorable	18%	15%	21%
Unfavorable	18%	13%	24%
Not sure	64%	72%	55%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Steelman Favorability</b>			
Favorable	22%	21%	23%
Unfavorable	24%	17%	31%
Not sure	54%	62%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McCaskill/Akin</b>			
Claire McCaskill	43%	43%	43%
Todd Akin	43%	41%	45%
Undecided	14%	16%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McCaskill/Brunner</b>			
Claire McCaskill	43%	44%	42%
John Brunner	43%	38%	48%
Undecided	14%	18%	10%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>McCaskill/Steelman</b>			
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	<b>43%</b>	46%	40%
<b>Sarah Steelman</b>	<b>43%</b>	38%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13%</b>	16%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>McCaskill Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>42%</b>	75%	8%	36%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>49%</b>	16%	82%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Akin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>19%</b>	5%	32%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	47%	7%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>54%</b>	48%	61%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Brunner Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>18%</b>	9%	26%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>18%</b>	27%	6%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>64%</b>	64%	68%	60%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Steelman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	12%	33%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	33%	15%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	54%	55%	52%	55%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>McCaskill/Akin</b>				
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	78%	7%	42%
<b>Todd Akin</b>	43%	9%	81%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	13%	12%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>McCaskill/Brunner</b>				
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	80%	6%	38%
<b>John Brunner</b>	43%	10%	78%	44%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	10%	15%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>McCaskill/Steelman</b>				
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	82%	6%	35%
<b>Sarah Steelman</b>	43%	8%	82%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	13%	10%	12%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>McCaskill Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>42%</b>	38%	71%	46%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>49%</b>	53%	19%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	10%	9%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Akin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>19%</b>	19%	10%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>28%</b>	26%	42%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>54%</b>	55%	48%	38%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Brunner Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>18%</b>	17%	13%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>18%</b>	17%	29%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>64%</b>	66%	58%	42%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Steelman Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	22%	16%	43%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>24%</b>	23%	27%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>54%</b>	55%	57%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>McCaskill/Akin</b>				
Claire McCaskill	43%	39%	74%	63%
Todd Akin	43%	47%	14%	21%
Undecided	14%	14%	12%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>McCaskill/Brunner</b>				
Claire McCaskill	43%	38%	77%	61%
John Brunner	43%	47%	14%	25%
Undecided	14%	15%	9%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>McCaskill/Steelman</b>				
Claire McCaskill	43%	38%	74%	63%
Sarah Steelman	43%	48%	15%	23%
Undecided	13%	14%	12%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McCaskill Approval</b>					
Approve	42%	43%	47%	41%	35%
Disapprove	49%	35%	48%	51%	58%
Not sure	10%	22%	5%	8%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Akin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	19%	17%	15%	20%	22%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	23%	36%	26%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	54%	60%	49%	54%	53%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Brunner Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	18%	19%	14%	15%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	18%	19%	19%	18%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	64%	62%	67%	66%	58%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Steelman Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	22%	16%	21%	25%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	24%	24%	25%	27%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	54%	61%	55%	48%	57%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McCaskill/Akin</b>					
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	43%	44%	42%	47%	37%
<b>Todd Akin</b>	43%	29%	41%	44%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	27%	16%	9%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McCaskill/Brunner</b>					
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	<b>43%</b>	44%	42%	47%	36%
<b>John Brunner</b>	<b>43%</b>	37%	42%	41%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>14%</b>	19%	15%	11%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>McCaskill/Steelman</b>					
<b>Claire McCaskill</b>	<b>43%</b>	46%	42%	46%	36%
<b>Sarah Steelman</b>	<b>43%</b>	35%	47%	42%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13%</b>	19%	11%	12%	15%

