



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nixon Leads Republican Field in Gubernatorial Race

Raleigh, N.C. – Missouri Governor Jay Nixon leads a largely unknown Republican field for Governor by big margins, a new poll from Public Policy Polling finds. Nixon leads both announced candidates, businessman Dave Spence by 20 points (47-27), and consultant Bill Randles by 18 points (47-29), and leads potential candidate State Auditor Tom Schweich by 18 also (48-30).

Voters have almost no impression of any of three potential challengers. Bill Randles is unknown by 76% of the electorate, while 9% view him favorably and 16% unfavorably. Dave Spence is unknown by 79% of voters and, with 6% holding a favorable view and 15% unfavorable. And Tom Schweich, the only current office holder of the challengers we tested, is unknown to 72% of voters with a 12% favorability rating and 16% unfavorable.

Nixon is aided by a positive job approval rating. 44% of voters approve and 31% disapprove. He enjoys support from Democrats (54-25), Independents (44-29), and slightly over one third of Republican voters also approve of his job performance (34-40).

“Jay Nixon’s in a very strong position right now for two reasons,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The first is that he has an unusual amount of appeal to Republican and independent voters for a Democratic Governor. That alone would make him a very formidable candidate. But he’s also benefiting from the fact that he has very weak opposition.”

PPP releases earlier this week in Missouri found that the races for both President and Senate in the state look like toss ups, with Barack Obama and Mitt Romney tied in the state and Claire McCaskill knotted with all three of her potential Republican opponents.

PPP surveyed 582 Missouri voters from January 27th to 29th. 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 Governor Jay Nixon's job performance?

Approve..... 44% Not sure 24%

Disapprove..... 31%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Randles?

Favorable..... 9%

Unfavorable 16%

Not sure 76%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tom Schweich?

Favorable..... 12%

Unfavorable 16%

Not sure 72%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Spence?

Favorable..... 6%

Unfavorable 15%

Not sure 79%

Q5 If the candidates for Governor this fall were Democrat Jay Nixon and Republican Bill Randles, who would you vote for?

Jay Nixon..... 47%

Bill Randles..... 29%

Undecided..... 24%

Q6 If the candidates for Governor this fall were Democrat Jay Nixon and Republican Tom Schweich, who would you vote for?

Jay Nixon..... 48%

Tom Schweich..... 30%

Undecided..... 22%

Q7 If the candidates for Governor this fall were Democrat Jay Nixon and Republican Dave Spence, who would you vote for?

Jay Nixon..... 47%

Dave Spence 27%

Undecided..... 26%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	18%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	36%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon Approval				
Approve	44%	37%	54%	37%
Disapprove	31%	38%	26%	23%
Not sure	24%	25%	21%	40%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	9%	10%	7%	10%
Unfavorable	16%	7%	26%	10%
Not sure	76%	83%	67%	81%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Schweich Favorability				
Favorable	12%	18%	6%	10%
Unfavorable	16%	6%	28%	8%
Not sure	72%	77%	66%	82%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	6%	7%	6%	4%
Unfavorable	15%	7%	24%	9%
Not sure	79%	86%	70%	87%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon/Randles				
Jay Nixon	47%	20%	76%	37%
Bill Randles	29%	52%	8%	21%
Undecided	24%	27%	16%	43%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon/Schweich				
Jay Nixon	48%	20%	78%	35%
Tom Schweich	30%	55%	6%	20%
Undecided	22%	25%	16%	45%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon/Spence				
Jay Nixon	47%	20%	77%	38%
Dave Spence	27%	50%	5%	17%
Undecided	26%	30%	18%	45%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon Approval						
Approve	44%	43%	55%	52%	43%	25%
Disapprove	31%	31%	23%	23%	35%	45%
Not sure	24%	26%	22%	25%	21%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Randles Favorability						
Favorable	9%	8%	9%	7%	11%	8%
Unfavorable	16%	32%	23%	13%	14%	6%
Not sure	76%	60%	69%	80%	76%	86%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Schweich Favorability						
Favorable	12%	8%	8%	6%	16%	21%
Unfavorable	16%	24%	31%	15%	10%	4%
Not sure	72%	68%	61%	79%	74%	76%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Spence Favorability						
Favorable	6%	12%	5%	5%	6%	8%
Unfavorable	15%	20%	26%	16%	10%	5%
Not sure	79%	68%	69%	80%	84%	87%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon/Randles						
Jay Nixon	47%	57%	72%	62%	31%	13%
Bill Randles	29%	13%	8%	16%	42%	64%
Undecided	24%	30%	19%	22%	27%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon/Schweich						
Jay Nixon	48%	61%	74%	64%	29%	12%
Tom Schweich	30%	16%	7%	14%	48%	62%
Undecided	22%	22%	19%	22%	23%	26%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon/Spence						
Jay Nixon	47%	52%	74%	66%	27%	12%
Dave Spence	27%	16%	6%	11%	41%	59%
Undecided	26%	31%	20%	23%	31%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon Approval			
Approve	44%	43%	46%
Disapprove	31%	30%	33%
Not sure	24%	27%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Randles Favorability			
Favorable	9%	6%	11%
Unfavorable	16%	15%	16%
Not sure	76%	79%	73%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Schweich Favorability			
Favorable	12%	10%	14%
Unfavorable	16%	13%	20%
Not sure	72%	77%	67%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Spence Favorability			
Favorable	6%	4%	9%
Unfavorable	15%	12%	18%
Not sure	79%	84%	73%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Randles			
Jay Nixon	47%	48%	46%
Bill Randles	29%	28%	31%
Undecided	24%	24%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Schweich			
Jay Nixon	48%	49%	47%
Tom Schweich	30%	27%	32%
Undecided	22%	24%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Spence			
Jay Nixon	47%	48%	46%
Dave Spence	27%	24%	30%
Undecided	26%	28%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon Approval				
Approve	44%	54%	34%	44%
Disapprove	31%	25%	40%	29%
Not sure	24%	21%	26%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	9%	6%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	16%	25%	8%	12%
Not sure	76%	69%	83%	76%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Schweich Favorability				
Favorable	12%	6%	17%	13%
Unfavorable	16%	26%	5%	15%
Not sure	72%	67%	78%	72%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	6%	6%	7%	7%
Unfavorable	15%	22%	7%	15%
Not sure	79%	73%	87%	78%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Randles				
Jay Nixon	47%	77%	16%	44%
Bill Randles	29%	9%	58%	22%
Undecided	24%	14%	26%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Schweich				
Jay Nixon	48%	78%	16%	45%
Tom Schweich	30%	9%	58%	24%
Undecided	22%	13%	26%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Spence				
Jay Nixon	47%	77%	18%	43%
Dave Spence	27%	9%	54%	17%
Undecided	26%	15%	28%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon Approval				
Approve	44%	44%	44%	55%
Disapprove	31%	32%	30%	19%
Not sure	24%	24%	27%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	9%	8%	5%	27%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	30%	22%
Not sure	76%	78%	65%	51%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Schweich Favorability				
Favorable	12%	11%	9%	23%
Unfavorable	16%	14%	26%	27%
Not sure	72%	74%	65%	51%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	6%	6%	6%	15%
Unfavorable	15%	13%	19%	30%
Not sure	79%	81%	75%	55%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Randles				
Jay Nixon	47%	44%	69%	51%
Bill Randles	29%	31%	13%	33%
Undecided	24%	25%	18%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Schweich				
Jay Nixon	48%	45%	68%	53%
Tom Schweich	30%	32%	10%	33%
Undecided	22%	23%	21%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Spence				
Jay Nixon	47%	44%	71%	55%
Dave Spence	27%	29%	10%	26%
Undecided	26%	28%	18%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon Approval					
Approve	44%	38%	49%	44%	44%
Disapprove	31%	31%	31%	32%	30%
Not sure	24%	31%	21%	24%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Randles Favorability					
Favorable	9%	13%	8%	6%	10%
Unfavorable	16%	21%	12%	15%	17%
Not sure	76%	65%	79%	80%	73%

	Base	Age			
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Favorable	12%	15%	10%	9%	15%
Unfavorable	16%	17%	16%	16%	14%
Not sure	72%	67%	74%	75%	70%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Spence Favorability					
Favorable	6%	12%	5%	3%	8%
Unfavorable	15%	13%	16%	15%	14%
Not sure	79%	75%	78%	82%	78%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Randles					
Jay Nixon	47%	52%	41%	52%	42%
Bill Randles	29%	15%	32%	31%	37%
Undecided	24%	33%	27%	18%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Schweich					
Jay Nixon	48%	54%	44%	51%	41%
Tom Schweich	30%	17%	30%	31%	38%
Undecided	22%	29%	26%	18%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Spence					
Jay Nixon	47%	49%	42%	52%	43%
Dave Spence	27%	14%	27%	29%	34%
Undecided	26%	37%	30%	20%	23%

