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Nixon leads Spence, Randles by big but shrinking margins

Raleigh, N.C. – Jay Nixon has managed to move himself up in the rankings of the most popular governors in the country but lose ground in his re-election bid since PPP last polled Missouri in January. But he still remains a solid favorite for another term against two leading Republicans who are still almost completely unknown to the general electorate.

46% of Show-Me State voters like their governor's work, and 29% dislike it, versus his 44-31 approval spread four months ago. He has inched up with his own party and with independents, and he retains unusually strong crossover support—29% of Republicans approve to 39% who disapprove.

But, at the same time, his two potential opponents have crept up on him in the horseraces, and once a GOP nominee is chosen and is able to broaden his public profile, the race could close further. Nixon leads frontrunner Dave Spence by 11 points (45-34), down from 20 points in the last survey (47-27). He tops Bill Randles by 14 (46-32.)

Nixon leads by double digits with independents in either match-up, and at a third of the electorate, they make a big difference in this state, about equal to the proportion of Democrats and Republicans.

It looks like Nixon will probably draw the tougher of the two match-ups. Spence has opened up a big lead over Randles in the primary contest this spring. When PPP polled the two likely primary entrants in January, Randles led by an insignificant 15-12 margin, with 74% undecided that far out. But with two and a half months to go, Spence finds himself with a 32-11 lead, with 5% combined for two minor candidates and 53% preferring someone else or completely undecided.

“Jay Nixon remains a clear favorite for reelection but it's unlikely he'll be able to match his 20 point margin of victory from 2008,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 602 Missouri voters, including an oversample of 430 Republican primary voters, from May 24th to 27th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-4.0% and for the Republicans it's +/-4.7%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



Missouri Survey Results

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

Approve46% Not sure25%
Disapprove.....29%

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

Favorable..... 7%
Unfavorable20%
Not sure74%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Spence?

Favorable..... 13%
Unfavorable17%
Not sure70%

Q4 If the candidates for Governor this fall were Democrat Jay Nixon and Republican Bill Randles, who would you vote for?

Jay Nixon 46%
Bill Randles.....32%
Undecided.....22%

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

Jay Nixon 45%
Dave Spence34%
Undecided.....21%

Q6 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 46%
Barack Obama.....45%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal14%
Moderate.....30%
Somewhat conservative.....25%
Very conservative21%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 53%
Man.....47%

Q9 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 35%
Republican.....33%
Independent/Other.....33%

Q10 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 85%
African-American11%
Other.....5%

Q11 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..... 14%
30 to 45.....21%
46 to 65.....43%
Older than 65.....22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon Approval				
Approve	46%	29%	62%	53%
Disapprove	29%	41%	20%	16%
Not sure	25%	30%	18%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	7%	11%	2%	5%
Unfavorable	20%	6%	33%	22%
Not sure	74%	82%	65%	74%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	13%	21%	4%	16%
Unfavorable	17%	4%	31%	13%
Not sure	70%	75%	64%	71%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon/Randles				
Jay Nixon	46%	15%	77%	46%
Bill Randles	32%	59%	6%	25%
Undecided	22%	26%	16%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Nixon/Spence				
Jay Nixon	45%	14%	78%	42%
Dave Spence	34%	64%	7%	18%
Undecided	21%	22%	16%	41%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon Approval						
Approve	46%	66%	58%	60%	33%	25%
Disapprove	29%	17%	22%	19%	38%	44%
Not sure	25%	17%	20%	21%	29%	31%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Randles Favorability						
Favorable	7%	4%	5%	5%	12%	5%
Unfavorable	20%	48%	28%	25%	8%	8%
Not sure	74%	48%	67%	70%	80%	87%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Spence Favorability						
Favorable	13%	10%	7%	9%	15%	21%
Unfavorable	17%	41%	32%	21%	6%	5%
Not sure	70%	49%	61%	70%	79%	74%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon/Randles						
Jay Nixon	46%	79%	74%	68%	21%	11%
Bill Randles	32%	5%	8%	16%	50%	60%
Undecided	22%	16%	18%	16%	28%	29%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Nixon/Spence						
Jay Nixon	45%	72%	79%	68%	23%	7%
Dave Spence	34%	4%	6%	17%	53%	67%
Undecided	21%	24%	15%	16%	24%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon Approval			
Approve	46%	41%	51%
Disapprove	29%	29%	29%
Not sure	25%	29%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Randles Favorability			
Favorable	7%	5%	8%
Unfavorable	20%	17%	22%
Not sure	74%	78%	69%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Spence Favorability			
Favorable	13%	9%	18%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	19%
Not sure	70%	76%	63%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Randles			
Jay Nixon	46%	44%	48%
Bill Randles	32%	30%	34%
Undecided	22%	25%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Nixon/Spence			
Jay Nixon	45%	44%	47%
Dave Spence	34%	31%	37%
Undecided	21%	25%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon Approval				
Approve	46%	57%	29%	51%
Disapprove	29%	21%	39%	29%
Not sure	25%	22%	32%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	7%	3%	10%	8%
Unfavorable	20%	35%	5%	18%
Not sure	74%	62%	85%	75%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	13%	7%	20%	12%
Unfavorable	17%	31%	4%	16%
Not sure	70%	63%	75%	71%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Randles				
Jay Nixon	46%	78%	13%	45%
Bill Randles	32%	6%	63%	28%
Undecided	22%	17%	23%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Nixon/Spence				
Jay Nixon	45%	80%	11%	44%
Dave Spence	34%	5%	69%	30%
Undecided	21%	15%	20%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon Approval				
Approve	46%	46%	52%	25%
Disapprove	29%	29%	25%	46%
Not sure	25%	25%	23%	30%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	7%	7%	7%	2%
Unfavorable	20%	18%	37%	12%
Not sure	74%	75%	56%	86%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	13%	14%	11%	7%
Unfavorable	17%	16%	32%	13%
Not sure	70%	71%	58%	80%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Randles				
Jay Nixon	46%	44%	69%	37%
Bill Randles	32%	35%	10%	31%
Undecided	22%	21%	21%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Nixon/Spence				
Jay Nixon	45%	42%	73%	39%
Dave Spence	34%	37%	6%	38%
Undecided	21%	20%	21%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon Approval					
Approve	46%	44%	40%	47%	50%
Disapprove	29%	26%	37%	30%	23%
Not sure	25%	31%	23%	22%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Randles Favorability					
Favorable	7%	3%	10%	7%	5%
Unfavorable	20%	28%	23%	17%	15%
Not sure	74%	69%	67%	76%	79%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Spence Favorability					
Favorable	13%	10%	13%	13%	14%
Unfavorable	17%	21%	12%	16%	22%
Not sure	70%	69%	75%	70%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Randles					
Jay Nixon	46%	54%	40%	46%	47%
Bill Randles	32%	15%	38%	34%	32%
Undecided	22%	31%	21%	20%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Nixon/Spence					
Jay Nixon	45%	51%	46%	43%	46%
Dave Spence	34%	13%	38%	39%	35%
Undecided	21%	36%	15%	19%	20%





Missouri Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Randles?

Favorable..... 10%
Unfavorable 7%
Not sure 83%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Dave Spence?

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 7%
Not sure 74%

Q3 The Republican candidates for Governor are Bill Randles, Fred Sauer, Dave Spence, and John Weiler. If the primary was today, who would you vote for?

Bill Randles..... 11%
Fred Sauer..... 4%
Dave Spence 32%
John Weiler..... 1%
Another candidate..... 10%
Undecided..... 43%

Q4 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 1%
Somewhat liberal 5%
Moderate..... 17%
Somewhat conservative..... 39%
Very conservative 39%

Q5 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 46%
Man..... 54%

Q6 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..... 1%
Republican..... 71%
Independent/Other..... 28%

Q7 If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

18 to 45..... 18%
46 to 65..... 49%
Older than 65..... 33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Randles Favorability						
Favorable	10%	-	5%	3%	15%	10%
Unfavorable	7%	24%	14%	13%	5%	5%
Not sure	83%	76%	81%	84%	80%	84%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Spence Favorability						
Favorable	19%	14%	11%	14%	20%	21%
Unfavorable	7%	-	14%	14%	5%	6%
Not sure	74%	86%	75%	72%	75%	73%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Gov Primary						
Bill Randles	11%	-	11%	3%	15%	11%
Fred Sauer	4%	-	-	8%	5%	0%
Dave Spence	32%	32%	37%	25%	36%	30%
John Weiler	1%	-	-	4%	-	1%
Another candidate	10%	-	12%	18%	7%	9%
Undecided	43%	68%	40%	42%	37%	49%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Randles Favorability			
Favorable	10%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	7%	3%	10%
Not sure	83%	88%	78%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Spence Favorability			
Favorable	19%	14%	23%
Unfavorable	7%	6%	8%
Not sure	74%	79%	70%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Gov Primary			
Bill Randles	11%	9%	13%
Fred Sauer	4%	1%	6%
Dave Spence	32%	29%	34%
John Weiler	1%	0%	1%
Another candidate	10%	10%	10%
Undecided	43%	52%	36%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	10%	-	10%	11%
Unfavorable	7%	20%	8%	6%
Not sure	83%	80%	82%	84%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	19%	-	20%	17%
Unfavorable	7%	-	6%	9%
Not sure	74%	100%	74%	74%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
2012 GOP Gov Primary				
Bill Randles	11%	-	12%	8%
Fred Sauer	4%	-	3%	4%
Dave Spence	32%	-	33%	30%
John Weiler	1%	-	1%	-
Another candidate	10%	40%	7%	16%
Undecided	43%	60%	44%	42%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Randles Favorability				
Favorable	10%	5%	14%	8%
Unfavorable	7%	10%	7%	6%
Not sure	83%	85%	80%	85%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Spence Favorability				
Favorable	19%	15%	21%	18%
Unfavorable	7%	5%	8%	7%
Not sure	74%	80%	71%	75%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Gov Primary				
Bill Randles	11%	8%	14%	9%
Fred Sauer	4%	5%	4%	2%
Dave Spence	32%	28%	34%	31%
John Weiler	1%	3%	-	1%
Another candidate	10%	15%	7%	10%
Undecided	43%	41%	41%	47%

