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McCaskill in dead heats with Steelman, Akin

Raleigh, N.C. – Claire McCaskill’s approval rating has slipped a hair since PPP last polled Missouri in May, but she retains similarly slim leads over her two most likely opponents for a second Senate term, and both are still pretty unknown to voters.

43% approve of McCaskill’s work in Washington, down from 46% four months ago. The same 47% disapprove. Among the 87 senators on which PPP has polled, only one of the 23 Democrats on the ballot next year has a worse standing—Nebraska’s Ben Nelson.

But for now at least, McCaskill leads three Republicans running to replace her. She tops former State Treasurer Sarah Steelman, 43-42, down from 45-42 in the previous poll. McCaskill also edges Rep. Todd Akin, 45-43, versus 46-45 in May. And she leads businessman John Brunner, 46-37, up from 47-41.

McCaskill benefits from the anonymity of these Republicans vying for the nomination. Three-quarters have no opinion of Brunner, and over half are not familiar with the other two. None of them is seen positively by voters either. Steelman is best off, with 23% seeing her favorably and 25% unfavorably, followed by Akin’s 18-26 and Brunner’s 7-19.

McCaskill wins 87-90% of her party, and the Republicans only 70-80% of theirs. She also leads with independents by two to nine points. But because of the larger number of undecided Republicans than Democrats, the race with Akin would be tied if they moved Akin’s way, and McCaskill would trail Steelman by three.

“Claire McCaskill continues to look extremely vulnerable for reelection,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But it bodes well for her that even at a low time for her party she’s running slightly ahead of her opposition. She might be able to hang on if Democrats see any improvement in their position over the next year.”

PPP surveyed 632 Missouri voters from September 9th to 12th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.9%. 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..... 43% Not sure 10%
Disapprove..... 47%

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

Favorable..... 18%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 57%

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

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

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

Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 52%

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

Claire McCaskill 45%
Todd Akin 43%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Claire McCaskill 46%
John Brunner 37%
Undecided..... 17%

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

Claire McCaskill 43%
Sarah Steelman 42%
Undecided..... 16%

Q8 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 48%
Barack Obama..... 45%
Someone else/Don't remember 7%

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

Very liberal..... 10%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 27%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 23%

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

Woman 49%
Man..... 51%

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 33%
Republican..... 37%
Independent/Other..... 30%

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>	10%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill Approval				
Approve	43%	11%	78%	36%
Disapprove	47%	79%	12%	55%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	18%	27%	6%	28%
Unfavorable	26%	13%	41%	15%
Not sure	57%	60%	53%	56%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	7%	9%	4%	7%
Unfavorable	19%	10%	28%	21%
Not sure	74%	81%	68%	72%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	23%	34%	10%	29%
Unfavorable	25%	12%	40%	26%
Not sure	52%	54%	50%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill/Akin				
Claire McCaskill	45%	8%	86%	40%
Todd Akin	43%	79%	6%	31%
Undecided	12%	13%	8%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill/Brunner				
Claire McCaskill	46%	8%	86%	45%
John Brunner	37%	70%	3%	27%
Undecided	17%	22%	11%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill/Steelman				
Claire McCaskill	43%	5%	85%	33%
Sarah Steelman	42%	79%	5%	24%
Undecided	16%	17%	11%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill Approval						
Approve	43%	84%	74%	61%	22%	9%
Disapprove	47%	10%	16%	28%	66%	84%
Not sure	10%	6%	10%	11%	13%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Akin Favorability						
Favorable	18%	11%	7%	8%	23%	31%
Unfavorable	26%	37%	47%	32%	17%	10%
Not sure	57%	52%	46%	59%	59%	59%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Brunner Favorability						
Favorable	7%	3%	9%	2%	6%	12%
Unfavorable	19%	30%	27%	23%	12%	11%
Not sure	74%	67%	63%	74%	81%	77%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Steelman Favorability						
Favorable	23%	15%	15%	15%	25%	38%
Unfavorable	25%	51%	34%	28%	17%	14%
Not sure	52%	34%	51%	57%	58%	47%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill/Akin						
Claire McCaskill	45%	89%	79%	67%	21%	8%
Todd Akin	43%	2%	16%	19%	64%	82%
Undecided	12%	9%	5%	14%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill/Brunner						
Claire McCaskill	46%	84%	80%	68%	20%	11%
John Brunner	37%	4%	11%	14%	52%	78%
Undecided	17%	11%	9%	18%	28%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill/Steelman						
Claire McCaskill	43%	86%	79%	62%	18%	8%
Sarah Steelman	42%	7%	10%	18%	60%	82%
Undecided	16%	7%	11%	20%	22%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill Approval			
Approve	43%	46%	40%
Disapprove	47%	39%	55%
Not sure	10%	15%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Akin Favorability			
Favorable	18%	15%	20%
Unfavorable	26%	21%	31%
Not sure	57%	64%	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Brunner Favorability			
Favorable	7%	5%	9%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	22%
Not sure	74%	79%	70%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Steelman Favorability			
Favorable	23%	20%	26%
Unfavorable	25%	23%	28%
Not sure	52%	57%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill/Akin			
Claire McCaskill	45%	48%	42%
Todd Akin	43%	36%	49%
Undecided	12%	15%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill/Brunner			
Claire McCaskill	46%	48%	44%
John Brunner	37%	32%	42%
Undecided	17%	20%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill/Steelman			
Claire McCaskill	43%	46%	40%
Sarah Steelman	42%	37%	46%
Undecided	16%	17%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill Approval				
Approve	43%	80%	12%	40%
Disapprove	47%	11%	79%	48%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	18%	10%	25%	16%
Unfavorable	26%	35%	12%	33%
Not sure	57%	55%	63%	51%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	7%	6%	10%	3%
Unfavorable	19%	27%	11%	19%
Not sure	74%	67%	79%	78%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	23%	14%	32%	21%
Unfavorable	25%	38%	13%	26%
Not sure	52%	47%	55%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill/Akin				
Claire McCaskill	45%	88%	7%	45%
Todd Akin	43%	5%	80%	39%
Undecided	12%	7%	12%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill/Brunner				
Claire McCaskill	46%	90%	8%	42%
John Brunner	37%	5%	70%	33%
Undecided	17%	5%	22%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill/Steelman				
Claire McCaskill	43%	87%	5%	40%
Sarah Steelman	42%	6%	77%	38%
Undecided	16%	7%	19%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill Approval				
Approve	43%	38%	84%	45%
Disapprove	47%	52%	9%	44%
Not sure	10%	10%	7%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	18%	17%	17%	26%
Unfavorable	26%	26%	24%	28%
Not sure	57%	57%	59%	46%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	7%	6%	6%	19%
Unfavorable	19%	18%	24%	16%
Not sure	74%	76%	70%	65%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	23%	24%	12%	32%
Unfavorable	25%	25%	26%	33%
Not sure	52%	51%	63%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill/Akin				
Claire McCaskill	45%	40%	90%	49%
Todd Akin	43%	47%	8%	40%
Undecided	12%	13%	3%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill/Brunner				
Claire McCaskill	46%	40%	90%	43%
John Brunner	37%	41%	7%	35%
Undecided	17%	19%	3%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill/Steelman				
Claire McCaskill	43%	37%	86%	49%
Sarah Steelman	42%	46%	7%	35%
Undecided	16%	17%	7%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill Approval					
Approve	43%	55%	36%	44%	45%
Disapprove	47%	38%	51%	47%	47%
Not sure	10%	7%	13%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Akin Favorability					
Favorable	18%	14%	21%	17%	16%
Unfavorable	26%	25%	21%	27%	28%
Not sure	57%	61%	57%	56%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Brunner Favorability					
Favorable	7%	10%	10%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	19%	31%	14%	19%	17%
Not sure	74%	59%	76%	76%	78%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Steelman Favorability					
Favorable	23%	21%	24%	22%	25%
Unfavorable	25%	28%	21%	28%	24%
Not sure	52%	52%	55%	50%	51%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill/Akin					
Claire McCaskill	45%	55%	37%	47%	47%
Todd Akin	43%	31%	48%	43%	43%
Undecided	12%	14%	15%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill/Brunner					
Claire McCaskill	46%	59%	35%	46%	51%
John Brunner	37%	28%	43%	36%	36%
Undecided	17%	14%	23%	17%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill/Steelman					
Claire McCaskill	43%	52%	32%	46%	46%
Sarah Steelman	42%	31%	46%	41%	41%
Undecided	16%	17%	21%	13%	13%

