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Missouri Senate Still a Toss Up

Raleigh, N.C. – The Missouri Senate race looks like a sheer toss up, in both the primary and general elections.

The Republican primary has always looked like a two way toss up between Todd Akin and Sarah Steelman, but now John Brunner deserves equal billing in that mix as well. All three candidates are within 5 points of each other with Steelman at 28%, Brunner at 25%, and Akin at 23%. Compared to PPP's last poll in late January Brunner is up 7 points, Steelman is down 4, and Akin has remained right in place.

When the field for this race was first developing it looked like Steelman might play the role of a Tea Party candidate, but instead Brunner has turned out to be the top choice of 'very conservative' voters with 33% to 26% for Akin and just 20% for Steelman. Steelman's strength is coming more from voters in the GOP center, as she leads Brunner by 21 points with moderates and by 8 with those identifying as only 'somewhat conservative.'

The arc of this race is pretty unmistakable- Brunner's the only candidate who's really gained much support over the last year with Akin and Steelman remaining largely stagnant.

There's no more clarity for the general election than there is for the primary. Claire McCaskill is basically tied with all three of her competitors, leading Brunner 46-44, dead even with Steelman at 44, and down 45-44 to Akin.

McCaskill's approval spread is 40/50, numbers that don't usually get a Senator reelected. But she's benefiting from the current anonymity of the GOP field. Only 56% of voters are familiar with Steelman and that goes down to 43% for Brunner and 42% for Akin.

“Claire McCaskill’s running even with her GOP opponents but her approval numbers are troubling,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Once Republicans are unified around their nominee she could find herself as the underdog.”

PPP surveyed 602 Missouri voters between May 24th and 27th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.0%. It also included an oversample of 430 Republican primary voters with an MOE of +/-4.7%.



Missouri Survey Results

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

Approve40% Not sure10%
Disapprove.....50%

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

Favorable.....21%
Unfavorable21%
Not sure57%

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

Favorable.....20%
Unfavorable23%
Not sure58%

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

Favorable.....30%
Unfavorable26%
Not sure45%

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

Claire McCaskill44%
Todd Akin45%
Undecided.....11%

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

Claire McCaskill46%
John Brunner44%
Undecided.....11%

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

Claire McCaskill44%
Sarah Steelman44%
Undecided.....12%

Q8 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain.....46%
Barack Obama.....45%
Someone else/Don't remember8%

Q9 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%

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

Woman53%
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.

Democrat35%
Republican.....33%
Independent/Other.....33%

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

White85%
African-American11%
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>	14%
<i>30 to 45</i>	21%
<i>46 to 65</i>	43%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill Approval				
Approve	40%	6%	76%	32%
Disapprove	50%	88%	14%	36%
Not sure	10%	5%	10%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	21%	34%	9%	16%
Unfavorable	21%	10%	35%	12%
Not sure	57%	56%	56%	72%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	20%	34%	6%	19%
Unfavorable	23%	10%	35%	23%
Not sure	58%	55%	60%	58%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	30%	40%	19%	28%
Unfavorable	26%	16%	37%	18%
Not sure	45%	44%	44%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill/Akin				
Claire McCaskill	44%	7%	83%	36%
Todd Akin	45%	81%	9%	36%
Undecided	11%	12%	7%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill/Brunner				
Claire McCaskill	46%	7%	86%	38%
John Brunner	44%	79%	9%	38%
Undecided	11%	14%	5%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
McCaskill/Steelman				
Claire McCaskill	44%	8%	84%	31%
Sarah Steelman	44%	81%	8%	43%
Undecided	12%	12%	9%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill Approval						
Approve	40%	78%	73%	56%	17%	7%
Disapprove	50%	12%	16%	33%	74%	87%
Not sure	10%	10%	11%	12%	9%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Akin Favorability						
Favorable	21%	7%	7%	14%	31%	36%
Unfavorable	21%	43%	25%	29%	10%	12%
Not sure	57%	50%	68%	57%	59%	52%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Brunner Favorability						
Favorable	20%	6%	6%	5%	36%	36%
Unfavorable	23%	42%	33%	31%	11%	9%
Not sure	58%	52%	61%	64%	53%	55%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Steelman Favorability						
Favorable	30%	27%	18%	20%	43%	37%
Unfavorable	26%	36%	39%	35%	11%	15%
Not sure	45%	37%	43%	45%	47%	47%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill/Akin						
Claire McCaskill	44%	86%	89%	60%	16%	7%
Todd Akin	45%	10%	8%	26%	66%	85%
Undecided	11%	4%	4%	14%	18%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill/Brunner						
Claire McCaskill	46%	90%	86%	62%	20%	8%
John Brunner	44%	10%	7%	27%	65%	81%
Undecided	11%	-	7%	11%	15%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
McCaskill/Steelman						
Claire McCaskill	44%	86%	81%	60%	19%	8%
Sarah Steelman	44%	10%	7%	28%	68%	78%
Undecided	12%	4%	11%	11%	13%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill Approval			
Approve	40%	40%	40%
Disapprove	50%	47%	54%
Not sure	10%	12%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Akin Favorability			
Favorable	21%	18%	24%
Unfavorable	21%	18%	25%
Not sure	57%	63%	51%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Brunner Favorability			
Favorable	20%	16%	24%
Unfavorable	23%	19%	26%
Not sure	58%	64%	50%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Steelman Favorability			
Favorable	30%	24%	36%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	28%
Not sure	45%	52%	36%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill/Akin			
Claire McCaskill	44%	45%	44%
Todd Akin	45%	43%	46%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill/Brunner			
Claire McCaskill	46%	45%	47%
John Brunner	44%	42%	46%
Undecided	11%	13%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
McCaskill/Steelman			
Claire McCaskill	44%	45%	44%
Sarah Steelman	44%	42%	47%
Undecided	12%	14%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill Approval				
Approve	40%	74%	9%	35%
Disapprove	50%	13%	83%	57%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	21%	8%	33%	23%
Unfavorable	21%	35%	10%	18%
Not sure	57%	57%	57%	58%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	20%	6%	33%	21%
Unfavorable	23%	34%	8%	25%
Not sure	58%	60%	59%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	30%	16%	39%	35%
Unfavorable	26%	34%	12%	31%
Not sure	45%	50%	49%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill/Akin				
Claire McCaskill	44%	82%	8%	41%
Todd Akin	45%	8%	82%	45%
Undecided	11%	10%	10%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill/Brunner				
Claire McCaskill	46%	83%	9%	43%
John Brunner	44%	9%	80%	44%
Undecided	11%	8%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
McCaskill/Steelman				
Claire McCaskill	44%	83%	8%	39%
Sarah Steelman	44%	6%	80%	48%
Undecided	12%	11%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill Approval				
Approve	40%	36%	78%	35%
Disapprove	50%	55%	11%	58%
Not sure	10%	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	21%	24%	11%	2%
Unfavorable	21%	20%	32%	29%
Not sure	57%	57%	57%	69%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	20%	21%	12%	14%
Unfavorable	23%	22%	32%	15%
Not sure	58%	57%	57%	70%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	30%	30%	33%	22%
Unfavorable	26%	26%	25%	14%
Not sure	45%	44%	42%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill/Akin				
Claire McCaskill	44%	40%	78%	44%
Todd Akin	45%	49%	9%	49%
Undecided	11%	11%	12%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill/Brunner				
Claire McCaskill	46%	41%	81%	51%
John Brunner	44%	48%	9%	41%
Undecided	11%	11%	10%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
McCaskill/Steelman				
Claire McCaskill	44%	40%	78%	42%
Sarah Steelman	44%	48%	13%	47%
Undecided	12%	12%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill Approval					
Approve	40%	51%	33%	38%	43%
Disapprove	50%	36%	54%	54%	49%
Not sure	10%	13%	13%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Akin Favorability					
Favorable	21%	10%	27%	22%	20%
Unfavorable	21%	23%	17%	21%	26%
Not sure	57%	67%	56%	57%	54%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Brunner Favorability					
Favorable	20%	8%	23%	21%	23%
Unfavorable	23%	26%	23%	20%	25%
Not sure	58%	67%	54%	59%	52%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Steelman Favorability					
Favorable	30%	33%	33%	30%	24%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	25%	26%	26%
Not sure	45%	44%	42%	44%	49%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill/Akin					
Claire McCaskill	44%	62%	37%	42%	44%
Todd Akin	45%	26%	48%	48%	46%
Undecided	11%	13%	15%	9%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill/Brunner					
Claire McCaskill	46%	64%	44%	42%	42%
John Brunner	44%	18%	48%	48%	48%
Undecided	11%	18%	8%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
McCaskill/Steelman					
Claire McCaskill	44%	62%	38%	42%	43%
Sarah Steelman	44%	21%	48%	50%	46%
Undecided	12%	18%	13%	9%	11%



Missouri Survey Results

- Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Todd Akin?
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <i>Favorable</i> | 34% |
| <i>Unfavorable</i> | 10% |
| <i>Not sure</i> | 56% |
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Brunner?
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <i>Favorable</i> | 38% |
| <i>Unfavorable</i> | 9% |
| <i>Not sure</i> | 52% |
- Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Steelman?
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <i>Favorable</i> | 39% |
| <i>Unfavorable</i> | 16% |
| <i>Not sure</i> | 44% |
- Q4** The major Republican candidates for Senate are Todd Akin, John Brunner, and Sarah Steelman. If the primary was today, who would you vote for?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Todd Akin</i> | 23% |
| <i>John Brunner</i> | 25% |
| <i>Sarah Steelman</i> | 28% |
| <i>Another candidate</i> | 4% |
| <i>Undecided</i> | 20% |
- Q5** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Very liberal</i> | 1% |
| <i>Somewhat liberal</i> | 5% |
| <i>Moderate</i> | 17% |
| <i>Somewhat conservative</i> | 39% |
| <i>Very conservative</i> | 39% |
- Q6** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| <i>Woman</i> | 46% |
| <i>Man</i> | 54% |
- Q7** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Democrat</i> | 1% |
| <i>Republican</i> | 71% |
| <i>Independent/Other</i> | 28% |
- Q8** If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| <i>18 to 45</i> | 18% |
| <i>46 to 65</i> | 49% |
| <i>Older than 65</i> | 33% |



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Akin Favorability						
Favorable	34%	-	19%	19%	38%	40%
Unfavorable	10%	-	14%	20%	6%	10%
Not sure	56%	100%	67%	61%	56%	50%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Brunner Favorability						
Favorable	38%	-	25%	19%	46%	41%
Unfavorable	9%	-	8%	22%	8%	6%
Not sure	52%	100%	66%	59%	46%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Steelman Favorability						
Favorable	39%	14%	24%	28%	42%	45%
Unfavorable	16%	24%	11%	23%	14%	16%
Not sure	44%	62%	65%	49%	45%	39%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary						
Todd Akin	23%	-	16%	18%	25%	26%
John Brunner	25%	24%	20%	12%	23%	33%
Sarah Steelman	28%	38%	40%	33%	31%	20%
Another candidate	4%	24%	5%	12%	2%	1%
Undecided	20%	14%	18%	24%	19%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Akin Favorability			
Favorable	34%	30%	39%
Unfavorable	10%	6%	14%
Not sure	56%	65%	48%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Brunner Favorability			
Favorable	38%	31%	44%
Unfavorable	9%	6%	12%
Not sure	52%	63%	43%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Steelman Favorability			
Favorable	39%	33%	44%
Unfavorable	16%	13%	19%
Not sure	44%	53%	37%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary			
Todd Akin	23%	23%	24%
John Brunner	25%	18%	30%
Sarah Steelman	28%	26%	30%
Another candidate	4%	5%	3%
Undecided	20%	29%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	20%	34%	35%
Unfavorable	10%	20%	9%	12%
Not sure	56%	60%	57%	52%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	38%	40%	38%	38%
Unfavorable	9%	20%	8%	14%
Not sure	52%	40%	54%	48%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	39%	20%	40%	38%
Unfavorable	16%	-	15%	20%
Not sure	44%	80%	45%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
2012 GOP Sen Primary				
Todd Akin	23%	20%	25%	19%
John Brunner	25%	20%	24%	27%
Sarah Steelman	28%	-	26%	33%
Another candidate	4%	20%	3%	5%
Undecided	20%	40%	21%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Akin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	30%	34%	37%
Unfavorable	10%	18%	8%	9%
Not sure	56%	53%	58%	54%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Brunner Favorability				
Favorable	38%	30%	39%	41%
Unfavorable	9%	15%	9%	7%
Not sure	52%	55%	52%	52%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Steelman Favorability				
Favorable	39%	40%	38%	42%
Unfavorable	16%	18%	19%	11%
Not sure	44%	43%	43%	47%

	Base	Age		
		18 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Sen Primary				
Todd Akin	23%	23%	21%	27%
John Brunner	25%	23%	26%	23%
Sarah Steelman	28%	18%	34%	25%
Another candidate	4%	5%	4%	2%
Undecided	20%	31%	14%	23%

