



Missouri Voters' Opinions on Charter Schools

The following document summarizes the opinions of likely voters in Missouri on issues related to charter schools. These results are from SLU/YouGov Polls conducted from June 2020 to February 2025. The SLU/YouGov Poll is a biannual survey of likely Missouri voters aiming to inform policymakers, citizens, and researchers of Missourians' opinions on important issues facing the state.

Full demographic crosstabs and raw data for independent analyses of SLU/YouGov Polls are available at slu.edu/poll.

Key Missouri Findings

- 55% of Missouri voters believe charter schools should be allowed to operate in their local district (February 2025 Poll)
- 56% of Missouri voters believe charter schools should be allowed to operate across the state (February 2025 Poll)
- 23% of Missouri voters correctly identify Missouri charter schools as public schools (February 2025 Poll)

Media Inquiries

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Missouri Voters' Public Opinion on Charter Schools

Creation and Operation of Charter Schools

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allowing charter schools to operate in my school district	55%	39%	64%	60%
...allowing charter schools to operate in all parts of the state	56%	39%	64%	63%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2025 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.64%

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...charter schools should be allowed to operate in my school district	52%	33%	62%	61%
...charter schools should be allowed to operate in all areas of the state	55%	39%	62%	63%

Reporting percent support. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.02%

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...public charter schools should be allowed to operate in all parts of the state	62%	53%	64%	68%
...public charter schools should be allowed to operate in all parts of the state	60%	47%	65%	65%

Reporting percent agree. Source: Aug. 2022 SLU/YouGov Poll, 447 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±5.93%

Reporting percent agree. Source: July 2021 SLU/YouGov Poll, 950 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.18%

Missouri permits the formation of charter schools in the state... Do you...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...support the formation of charter schools	52%	40%	61%	57%

Reporting percent strongly/somewhat support. Source: June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.95%

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...public schools slated for closure should be able to convert to a charter school to remain open	52%	42%	58%	59%

Reporting percent support. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.02%

Do you think your local community would support the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...charter schools should be allowed to operate in my school district	38%	33%	41%	41%
...charter schools should be allowed to operate in all areas of the state	39%	34%	42%	44%

Reporting percent support. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.02%

Knowledge about Charter Schools

Would you describe charter schools as public schools or private schools?	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...public schools	23%	21%	26%	22%
...private schools	58%	60%	55%	58%

Reporting percent selected public schools or private schools. Respondents had a "not sure" option.
Source: Feb. 2025 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.64%

Missouri permits the formation of charter schools in the state... Would you describe charter schools as public schools or private schools?	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...public schools	40%	40%	39%	40%
...private schools	61%	60%	61%	60%

Reporting percent selected public schools or private schools. Respondents did not have a "not sure" option.
Source: June 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.95%

To the best of your knowledge, are these policies currently enacted in Missouri or your school district...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...charter schools can operate in my school district	29%	36%	23%	31%
...charter schools can operate in all parts of the state	24%	30%	22%	20%

Reporting percent selected yes. Source: Feb. 2025 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.64%

Access to and usage of Charter Schools

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...traditionally homeschooled students should have access to attend a charter school where students would split their time learning in school and at home	62%	49%	68%	70%

Reporting percent support. Source: Aug. 2023 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.02%

Do you support or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...allow students to enroll in public schools outside of the school district where they live	59%	53%	64%	59%
...allow students to enroll in public schools, excluding charter schools, outside of the school district where they live	45%	46%	49%	38%

Reporting percent [strongly] support. Source: Feb. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 900 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±3.74%

What kindergarten through 12 th grade schooling options have you used, either currently or previously, for any child who has lived in your household [select all that apply]...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...public charter school	3%	6%	3%	0%

Reporting percent used. Source: July 2021 SLU/YouGov Poll, 950 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ±4.18%

If barriers to availability (i.e. transportation, admissions requirements, location) were not a factor, would you consider enrolling any child in your household in a... Charter school	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
... Charter school	42%	28%	49%	37%

Reporting percent yes. Source: October 2020 SLU/YouGov Poll, 203 Likely Missouri Voters who are parents of school children, MoE ±9.17%

About the SLU/YouGov Poll

The SLU/YouGov Poll is a biannual survey of likely Missouri voters aiming to inform policymakers, citizens, and researchers of Missourians' opinions on important issues facing the state. No other academic institution regularly conducts a non-partisan, scientific survey of Missouri voters and makes results and raw data publicly available. For questions or suggestions concerning the SLU/YouGov Poll, contact poll director Steven Rogers, Ph.D., at steven.rogers@slu.edu.

About Saint Louis University

Founded in 1818, Saint Louis University is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious Catholic institutions. Rooted in Jesuit values and its pioneering history as the first university west of the Mississippi River, SLU offers more than 15,200 students a rigorous, transformative education of the whole person. At the core of the University's diverse community of scholars is SLU's service-focused mission, which challenges and prepares students to make the world a better, more just place.

About YouGov

Saint Louis University has partnered with YouGov to conduct its annual survey of Missouri voters. YouGov conducts surveys for multiple academic institutions and is the primary, trusted survey firm for media organizations, including CBS News and The Economist. An independent Pew Research Center study of online survey firms in 2016 further concluded that YouGov "consistently outperforms competitors."

The SLU/YouGov Poll is funded by the PRiME Center in SLU's School of Education.