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Missouri Voters' Opinions on Technology

The following document summarizes the opinions of likely voters in Missouri on issues related to technology. These results are from SLU/YouGov Polls conducted from June 2020 to February 2025.

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

Key Missouri Findings

- At least 70% of voters want to prohibit students' access to cell phones in elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Only 13% of voters believe that social media has had a positive impact on society.
- Most Missouri voters believe that a child should be at least 12 years old before being allowed to access social media.
- 46% of voters favor the federal government banning access to social media platforms owned by other countries (for example, TikTok), 34% oppose, and 20% are not sure
- 71% of voters favor prohibiting the usage of artificial intelligence-generated content in political advertisements.

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Missouri Voters' Public Opinion on Technology

Technology and Society

Do you believe the following advances in technology have had more positive or negative effects on society...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...personal computer	79%	85%	77%	78%
...the internet	64%	69%	63%	62%
...smart phones	52%	61%	49%	48%
...social media	13%	19%	12%	11%
...artificial intelligence (for example, ChatGPT or Google Gemini)	16%	22%	13%	16%

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

At what age should children be legally allowed access to social media?	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
Median Age Reported:	12	12	13	13

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

Technology in Schools

Do you favor or oppose Missouri public schools providing each student a personal laptop or tablet computer to use in the classroom for education purposes in...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...elementary schools	44%	60%	38%	36%
...middle schools	66%	82%	58%	60%
...high schools	80%	94%	74%	73%

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

Do you favor or oppose public schools prohibiting students from accessing cell phones during regular instructional activities unless authorized by the school principal in...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...elementary schools	76%	73%	83%	67%
...middle schools	75%	72%	82%	66%
...high schools	70%	69%	77%	62%

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

Do you favor or oppose...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...prohibiting high school students from accessing their cell phones during regular school hours	72%	69%	82%	68%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ± 5.40%

	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...prohibiting high school students from accessing their cell phones during class	79%	72%	85%	81%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Aug. 2024 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ± 5.33%

Do you favor or oppose public schools prohibiting students from accessing social media using the school's internet access, except when instructed by the teacher for educational purposes in...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...elementary schools	84%	84%	85%	81%
...middle schools	83%	84%	85%	80%
...high schools	81%	84%	82%	79%

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

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...prohibiting students from using artificial intelligence on schoolwork	69%	63%	78%	59%

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

A bill in the Missouri state legislature proposed school districts adopt internet safety policies for students to be allowed to access the internet provided by the school district. Do you...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...favor school districts adopting such policies	85%	82%	90%	85%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2025 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ± 5.01%

Technology and Curriculum

Do you favor or oppose requiring Missouri public schools to teach students...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...how to identify online misinformation	86%	95%	81%	87%
...the purpose and acceptable use of social media platforms	76%	87%	67%	80%
...about social media's negative effects on mental health	86%	93%	83%	86%
...how to appropriately use artificial intelligence (for example, ChatGPT) in educational and workplace settings	70%	81%	62%	76%

Reporting percent favor. Source: Feb. 2025 SLU/YouGov Poll, 450 Likely Missouri Voters, MoE ± 5.01%

Technology and Politics

Do you favor or oppose the following policies...	All Voters	Dem. Voters	Rep. Voters	Ind. Voters
...the federal government banning access to social media platforms owned by other countries (for example, TikTok)	46%	30%	62%	39%
...requiring political advertisements to include a disclaimer if they contain artificial intelligence-generated content	84%	86%	82%	83%
...prohibiting the usage of artificial intelligence-generated content in political advertisements	75%	78%	75%	71%

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

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."

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