

2011 House District 24 Constituent Survey Results



Thank you for participating in my survey of constituent opinions this year. In order to be able to represent you, I need to know what you think. The following results show the opinions of those who responded by mail compared with those who answered online or by email.

Chris Kelly

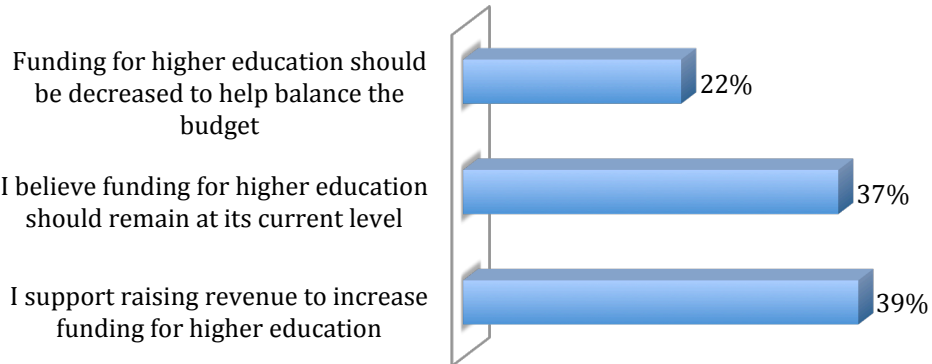
1. EDUCATION FUNDING

Missouri ranks 47th in the nation in per capita funding for higher education and 43rd in combined local and state funding for elementary and secondary education. Of the \$7.3 billion in net state general revenue, approximately \$2.8 billion is appropriated for elementary and secondary education. That amounts to 38.9 percent of total general revenue. Funding for higher education is approximately \$900 million, or 12.5 percent, of general revenue. Combined, educational funding takes up more than 51 percent of total general revenue. Of the remaining funds, 31.9 percent is allocated to Medicaid and other health care programs through the departments of social services, health and senior services, and mental health. The remaining 16.7 percent of general revenue is divided among the other 11 state departments, the judiciary, legislature, elected officials, employee benefits, maintenance and repair of state property, and payment of the state's debt. What funding level for higher education would you support?

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
I support raising revenue to increase funding for higher education	39%	415	37%	348	59%	67
I believe funding for higher education should remain at its current level	37%	394	38%	364	27%	30
Funding for higher education should be decreased to help balance the budget	22%	229	23%	219	9%	10
No Responses	2%	26	2%	20	5%	6
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

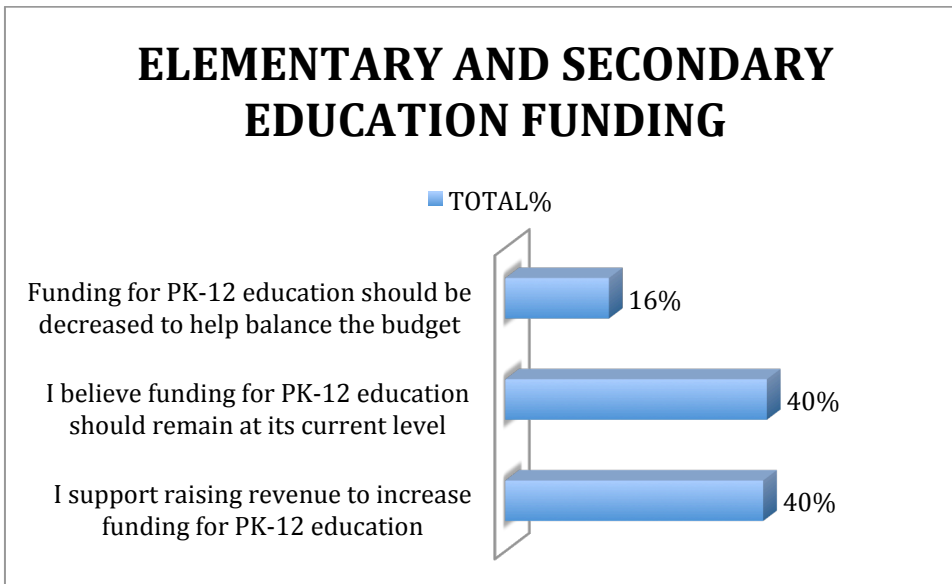
HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

■ TOTAL %



2. What funding level for elementary and secondary education would you support?

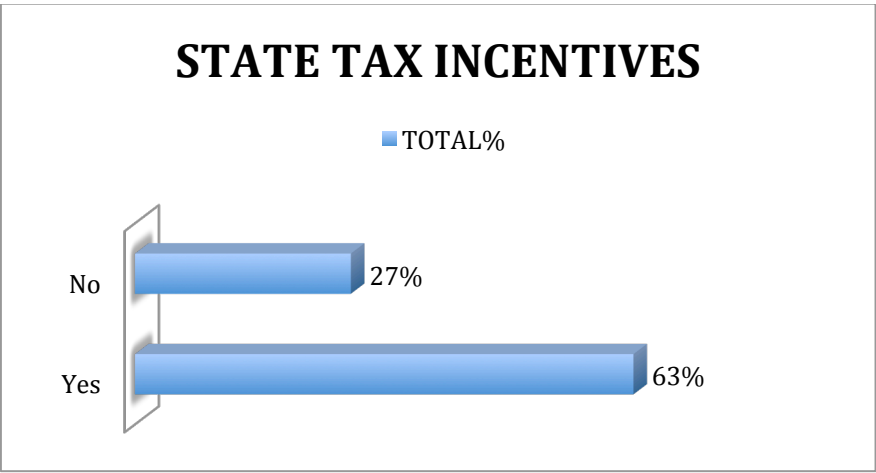
	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
I support raising revenue to increase funding for PK-12 education	40%	423	38%	358	58%	65
I believe funding for PK-12 education should remain at its current level	40%	429	42%	399	27%	30
Funding for PK-12 education should be decreased to help balance the budget	16%	170	17%	158	11%	12
No Responses	4%	42	4%	36	5%	6
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113



3. JOBS

Stimulating Job Growth As Missouri’s unemployment rate has consistently hovered around or above 9 percent for the past year, the legislature has sought ways to create and retain good-paying jobs. One method that has been used is to offer tax incentives to businesses willing to relocate to Missouri and bring new jobs. Missouri also uses tax credits to retain existing jobs by enticing businesses currently located here to stay, while other states use tax credits to lure businesses away from Missouri. Do you support state tax incentives for large businesses willing to relocate to Missouri?

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Yes	63%	665	63%	598	59%	67
No	27%	288	27%	258	27%	30
No opinion	7%	72	7%	63	8%	9
No Responses	4%	39	3%	32	6%	7
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

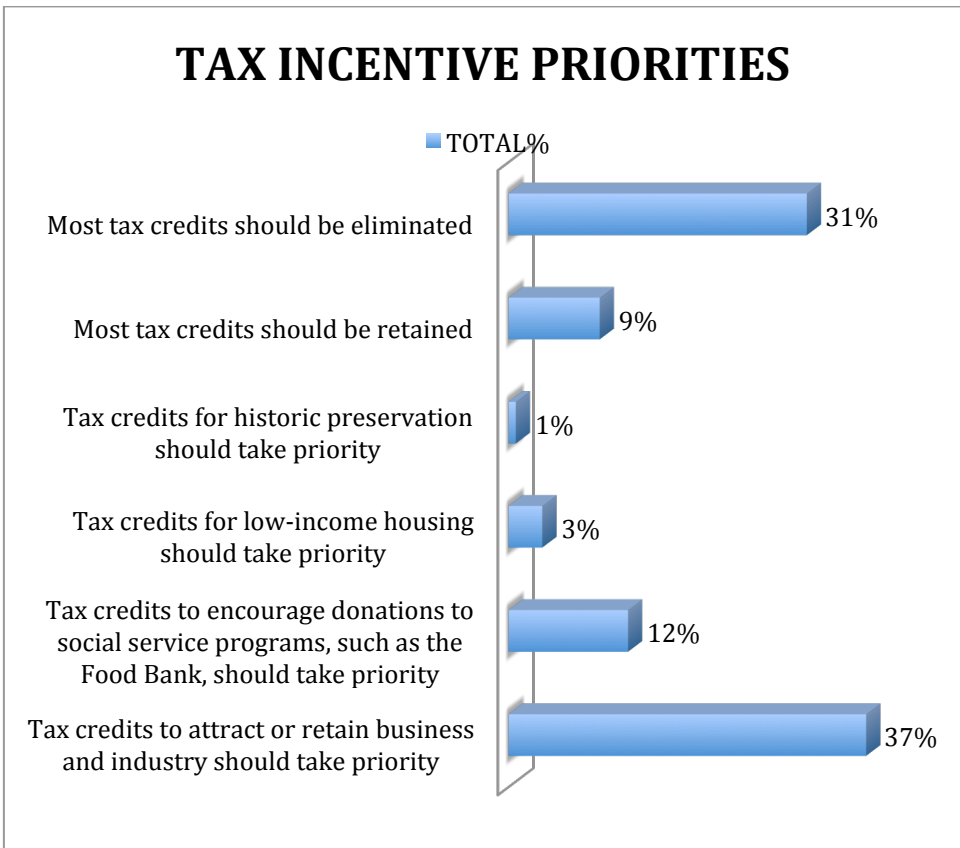


4. TAX CREDITS

Missouri has 61 tax credit programs to encourage a wide range of activity. In 2009, individuals and businesses redeemed nearly \$585 million in state income tax credits. That figure represents an 86 percent increase since 2000, which is four times the growth rate of Missouri's general revenue. Supporters of tax credits argue that credits are important for creating and retaining jobs and providing assistance to persons in need. Critics have said that some tax credits have proven to be ineffective and that all tax credits need to be reviewed on a regular basis. Which categories of tax credits do you believe should have priority? (Choose one)

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Tax credits to attract or retain business and industry should take priority	37%	392	37%	351	36%	41
Tax credits to encourage donations to social service programs, such as the Food Bank, should take priority	12%	131	12%	114	15%	17
Tax credits for low-income housing should take priority	3%	37	3%	28	8%	9
Tax credits for historic preservation should take priority	1%	8	1%	7	<1%	1
Most tax credits should be retained	9%	100	10%	92	7%	8
Most tax credits should be eliminated	31%	327	31%	298	26%	29
No Responses	6%	69	6%	61	7%	8
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

TAX INCENTIVE PRIORITIES

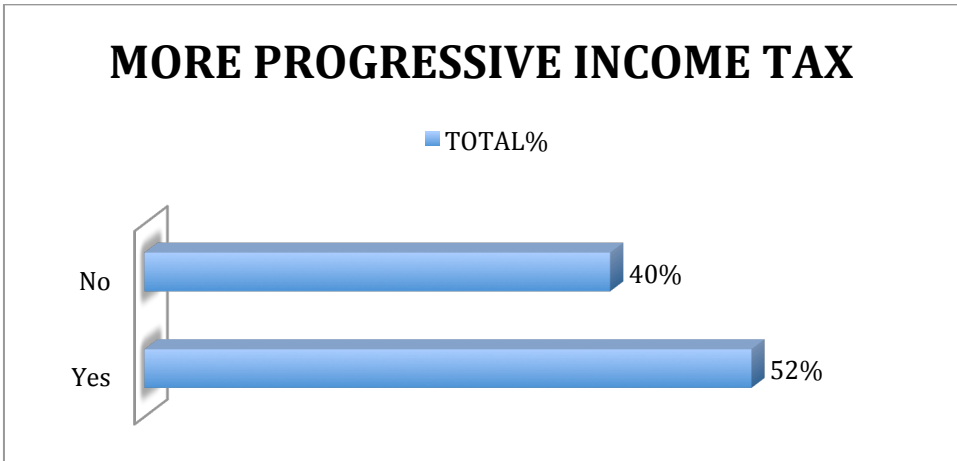


5. INCOME TAX STRUCTURE

Although Missouri’s income tax structure contains 10 separate income brackets—the most of any state—nine apply to annual incomes of \$9,000 or less. As a result, the state has a de facto “flat” income tax with the overwhelming majority of Missourians paying the same 6 percent rate regardless of income. The federal government, by contrast, has a progressive income tax structure under which those with higher incomes pay higher rates and those with lower incomes pay lower rates. Should Missouri adopt a more progressive income tax structure under which people making more money would pay a higher tax rate?

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Yes	52%	550	52%	481	61%	69
No	40%	422	41%	387	31%	35
No opinion	5%	48	5%	43	4%	5
No Responses	3%	34	3%	30	4%	4
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

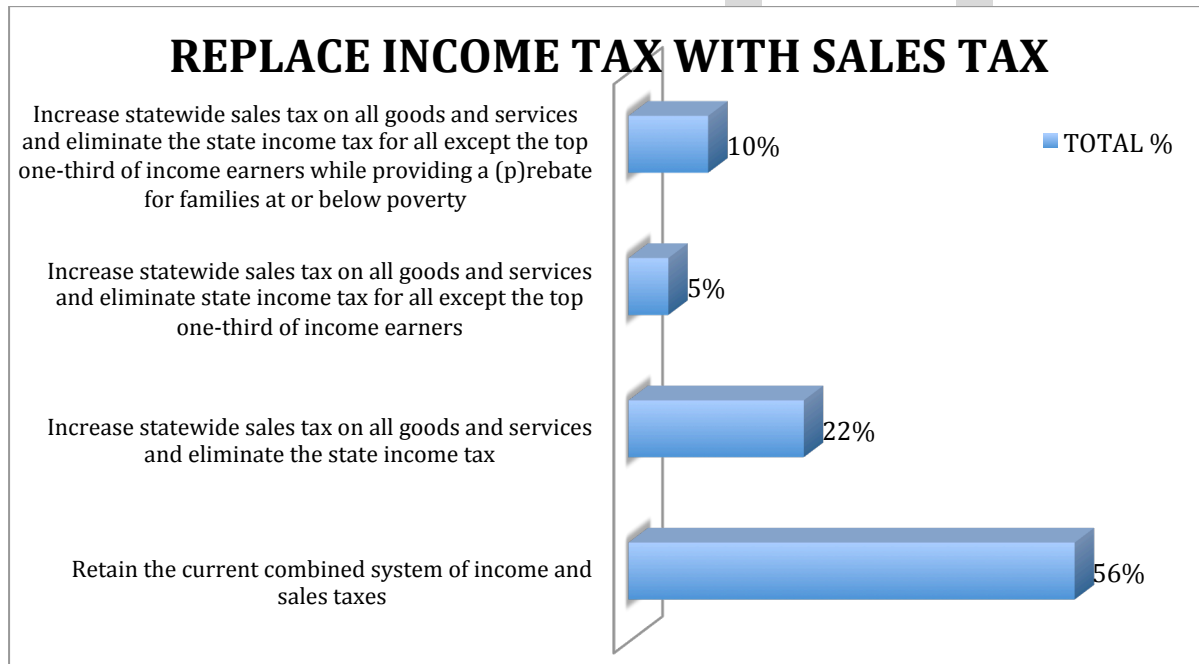
MORE PROGRESSIVE INCOME TAX



6. REPLACING THE INCOME TAX WITH A HIGHER SALES TAX

The General Assembly is expected to consider eliminating the state’s income tax and replacing it with a substantially higher sales tax that would apply to the purchase of both goods and services, which currently aren’t subject to sales taxes. It is estimated that to replace the lost income tax revenue, Missouri’s statewide sales tax of 4.225 percent would have to be at least doubled and perhaps tripled, which would add substantially to the cost of goods and services. Some legislators are trying to find a way that would push more emphasis on taxing consumption, rather than income, but would eliminate several of the problems with implementing a simple regressive sales tax. Which of the following options would you prefer? (Check one)

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Retain the current combined system of income and sales taxes	56%	593	56%	531	55%	62
Increase statewide sales tax on all goods and services and eliminate the state income tax	22%	235	23%	217	16%	18
Increase statewide sales tax on all goods and services and eliminate state income tax for all except the top one-third of income earners	5%	53	5%	44	8%	9
Increase statewide sales tax on all goods and services and eliminate the state income tax for all except the top one-third of income earners while providing a (p)rebate for families at or below poverty to help offset the higher sales tax rate on essential goods/services	10%	105	10%	96	8%	9
No Responses	7%	78	7%	63	13%	15
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

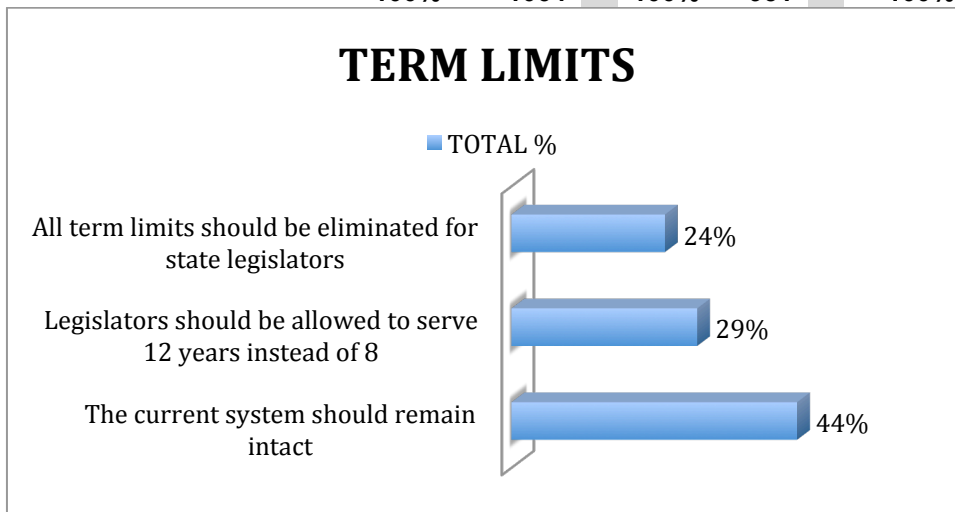


7. TERM LIMITS

In 1992, Missouri voters approved a constitutional amendment limiting the number of years a legislator can serve in Missouri’s General Assembly. Legislators, with some exceptions for partial terms, can serve for a total of 16 years but no more than 8 years each in the House or Senate. Legislative term limits took full effect with

the 2002 elections. Critics of term limits say the rapid turnover caused by term limits has resulted in inexperienced lawmakers who lack institutional knowledge and expertise on complex issues and has shifted power from the legislature to the executive branch and special interest lobbyists. Supporters say legislative term limits ensure that Missourians are being represented by people with fresh ideas. With respect to term limits for state legislators, which option do you prefer? (Choose one)

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
The current system should remain intact	44%	469	46%	441	25%	28
Legislators should be allowed to serve 12 years instead of 8	29%	305	28%	265	35%	40
All term limits should be eliminated for state legislators	24%	252	22%	210	37%	42
No Responses	4%	38	4%	35	3%	3
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

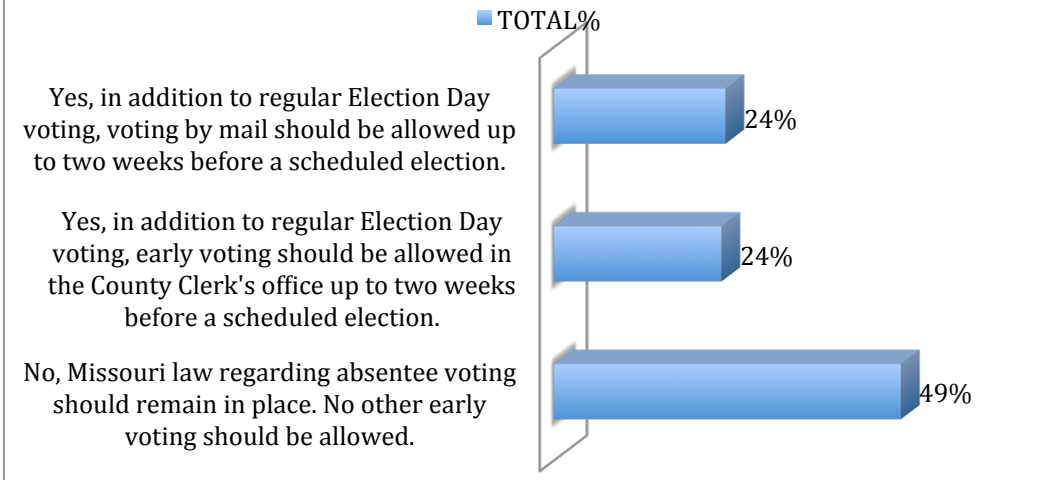


8. EARLY VOTING

During the 2008 election cycle, 35 states allowed some form of early voting in which voters had the opportunity to cast their ballots prior to Election Day. Missouri allows absentee voting, but only for voters who meet certain criteria, such as absence from their home county on Election Day or who have a disability that prevents them from going to the polls. Legislation under consideration in Missouri would allow voters to cast early ballots without showing cause. Proponents of early voting say it makes voting more accessible and provides a more convenient option to the busy polling location on Election Day. Opponents say early voting would increase the costs of elections and are concerned that some voters who cast early ballots may change their minds prior to Election Day but be unable to change how they voted. Should Missouri allow early voting? (Check one)

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email #	Email %
No, Missouri law regarding absentee voting should remain in place. No other early voting should be allowed.	49%	520	51%	485	35	31%
Yes, in addition to regular Election Day voting, early voting should be allowed in the County Clerk's office up to two weeks before a scheduled election.	24%	251	22%	212	39	35%
Yes, in addition to regular Election Day voting, voting by mail should be allowed up to two weeks before a scheduled election.	24%	257	23%	221	36	32%
No Responses	3%	36	4%	33	3	3%
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	113	100%

EARLY VOTING

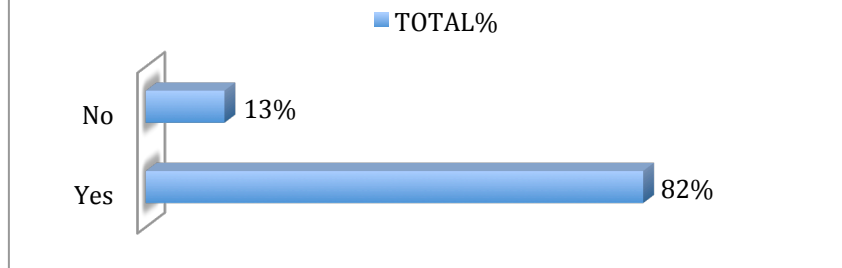


9. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

In 1994, 73.9 percent of Missouri voters approved a ballot measure imposing limits on the amount of money individual donors could give to candidates for public office per election. On the last day of the 2008 legislative session, the General Assembly repealed those limits, which had been \$1,350 for a candidate for statewide office, \$675 for a Senate candidate and \$350 for a House candidate. As a result, during the 2008 and 2010 general elections, donors were free to give unlimited amounts to candidates. Many donors gave individual candidates in excess of \$100,000, with at least one donation topping the \$1 million mark. Should the legislature reinstate campaign contribution limits?

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Yes	82%	873	82%	779	83%	94
No	13%	138	14%	129	8%	9
No opinion	2%	24	2%	17	6%	7
No Responses	3%	29	3%	26	3%	3
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

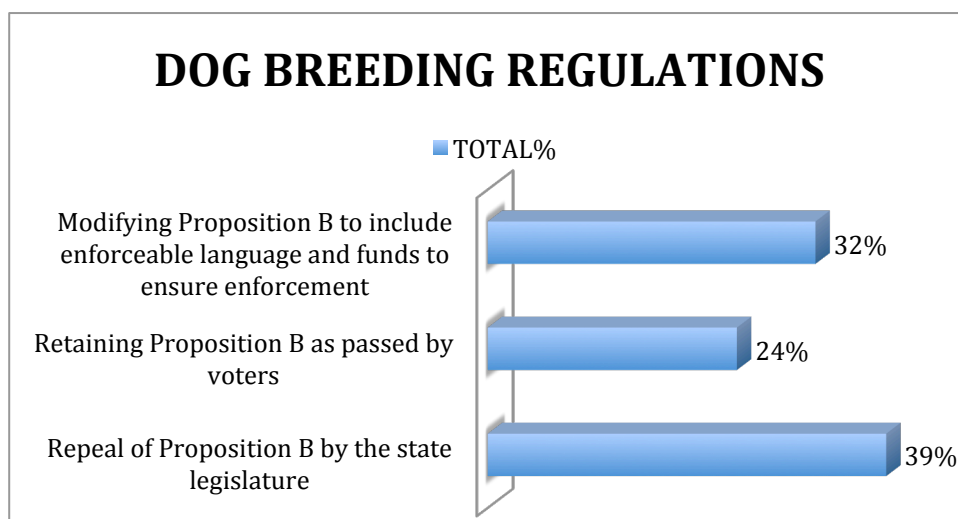


10. DOG BREEDING REGULATIONS

With 51.6 percent support, Missouri voters in November 2010 passed Proposition B, which imposes new regulations on commercial dog breeders and is intended to combat Missouri's reputation as a haven for so-called "puppy mills" that inhumanely treat animals. Although Proposition B failed in nearly every outstate

county, it passed statewide on the strength of overwhelming support by urban and suburban voters. Some rural lawmakers have already filed legislation to repeal Proposition B. The measure’s supporters argue that the will of Missouri voters should be respected, while still others argue that Proposition B should be modified so that the language is enforceable and funding for enforcement is included. With respect to dog breeding regulation, do you favor: (Check one)

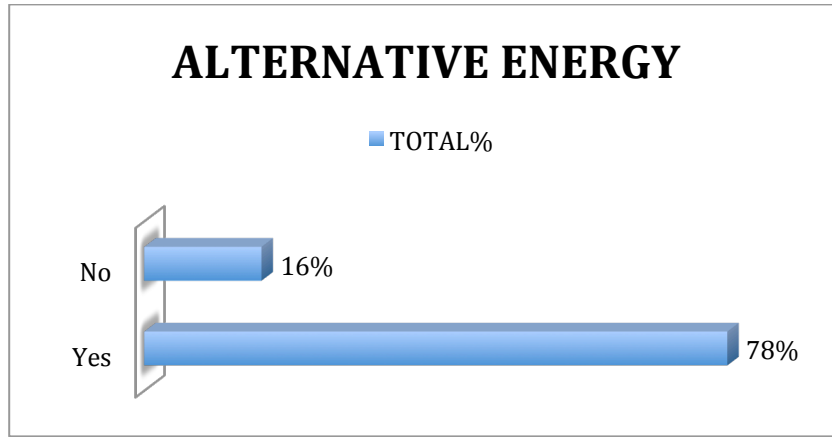
	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Repeal of Proposition B by the state legislature	39%	411	40%	384	24%	27
Retaining Proposition B as passed by voters	24%	257	24%	227	27%	30
Modifying Proposition B to include enforceable language and funds to ensure enforcement	32%	338	31%	290	42%	48
No Responses	5%	58	5%	50	7%	8
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113



11. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

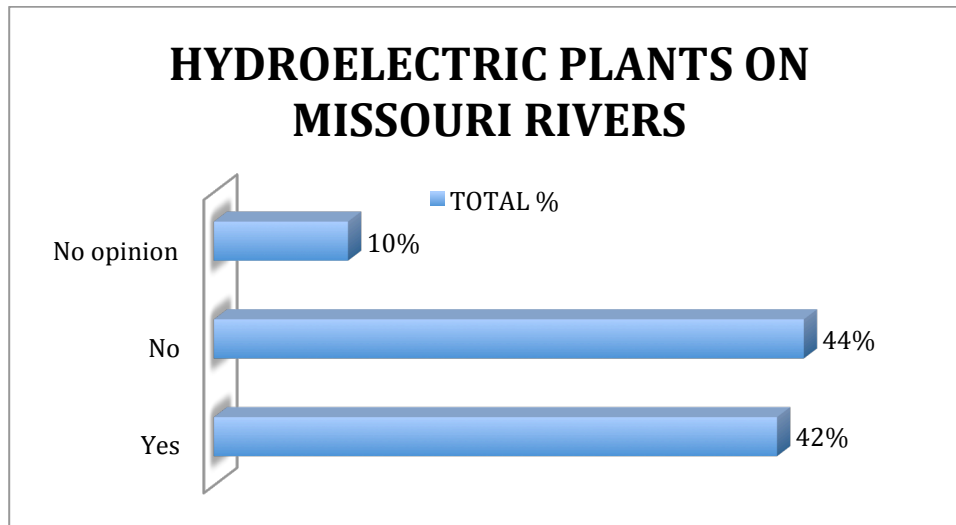
In November 2008, Missourians voted to require utility companies in Missouri to gradually increase the percentage of electricity they produce from alternative energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower. The Missouri Clean Energy Initiative requires the three investor-owned utilities—Ameren Missouri, Empire and Kansas City Power and Light—to get 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2021. With this, Missouri joins more than 25 other states that already have such requirements. Missouri currently obtains approximately 80 percent of its electricity from coal-fired plants, and supporters of the initiative point to the new requirements as an important step toward lessening Missouri’s dependence on coal. Additionally, building a new nuclear reactor in the center of the state has been proposed. Should Missouri make it easier for alternative energy projects, such as wind farms and hydroelectric plants, to be constructed?

	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Yes	78%	761	78%	668	82%	93
No	16%	153	17%	144	8%	9
No opinion	5%	46	4%	37	8%	9
No Responses	2%	15	2%	13	2%	2
Total	100%	975	100%	862	100%	113



12. Should Missouri invest additional dollars to study building hydroelectric plants along Missouri rivers even if it may require a tax increase to do so?

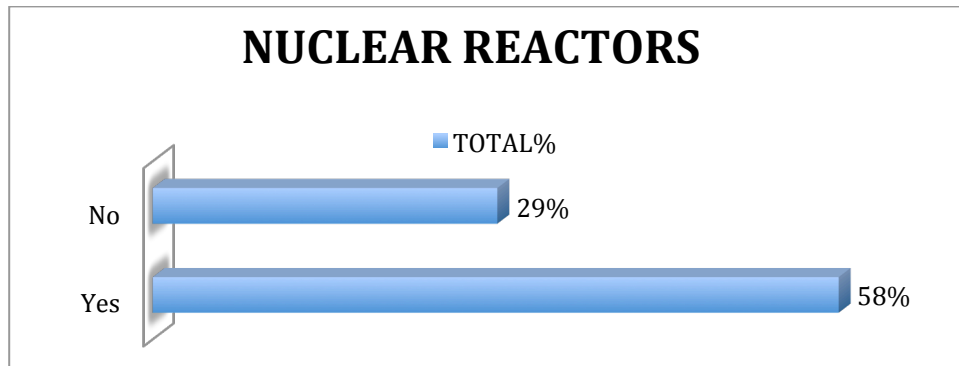
	TOTAL %	TOTAL #	Mail %	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Yes	42%	442	41%	385	50%	57
No	44%	465	46%	436	26%	29
No opinion	10%	104	9%	85	17%	19
No Responses	5%	53	5%	45	7%	8
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113



13. Should Missouri allow additional nuclear reactors to be built even if doing so would result in a rate increase?

	TOTAL%	TOTAL#	Mail%	Mail #	Email %	Email #
Yes	58%	621	58%	551	62%	70
No	29%	312	30%	284	25%	28
No opinion	8%	86	8%	75	10%	11
No Responses	4%	45	4%	41	4%	4
Total	100%	1064	100%	951	100%	113

NUCLEAR REACTORS



14. Demographic Questions

Answering the following questions will help us analyze survey responses.

Where do you live?

	Email %	Email #
Within Columbia city limits	71%	80
Within Ashland city limits	4%	5
Within Rocheport city limits	0%	0
Within Hartsburg city limits	0%	0
Elsewhere in the county	22%	25
I don't live in Boone County, but I'd like to share my opinions with you	2%	2
No Responses	<1%	1
Total	100%	113

15. What is your age category?

	Email %	Email #
Under 30	<1%	1
30-44	14%	16
45-59	35%	40
60 or over	49%	55
No Responses	<1%	1
Total	100%	113

16. Did you vote in the November 2010 General Election?

	Email %	Email #
Yes	97%	110
No	<1%	1
No Responses	2%	2
Total	100%	113