



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JIM HOBART

RE: KEY FINDINGS FROM A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS IN MISSOURI

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Public Opinion Strategies conducted a statewide survey of N=500 likely Republican primary voters in Missouri. The survey was conducted January 5-8 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.38% in 95 out of 100 cases. Sixty percent (60%) of interviews were conducted with cell phone respondents and 40% of interviews were conducted with landline respondents.

Key Findings

1. *Republican primary voters oppose allowing video lottery terminal slot machines in any gas station, convenience store, bar, or tavern in Missouri.*

Just 32% of Republican primary voters favor allowing video lottery terminals (VLTs) in gas stations, convenience stores, bars, and taverns, compared to 58% who oppose.

The intensity gap is even larger, with only 8% of GOP primary voters strongly favoring VLT expansion, while 40% of GOP primary voters strongly oppose.

This large of an intensity gap on a policy issue is a clear indication that there are ardent and likely to be vocal opponents of VLT expansion.

2. *Opposition to VLT expansion is even stronger among key Republican primary subgroups.*

The voters who decide Republican primaries tend to be very conservative voters and seniors (voters age 65+). These key groups are especially opposed to VLT expansion, with very conservative voters sitting at 23% favor/69% oppose, and seniors at a very similar 21% favor/70% oppose.

The Bottom Line

Allowing VLTs in any gas station, convenience store, bar, or tavern is a political non-starter with Republican primary voters. It is decidedly opposed by a clear majority, and opposition is even stronger with key Republican primary subgroups. Any Republican legislator who chooses to support VLT expansion is placing their own political career in peril.