



SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION

MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATIVE BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Poll shows passenger rail and rail safety a priority for Missouri voters

Jefferson City, MO – Today, the SMART Transportation Division’s Missouri State Legislative Board released the results of a survey that shows 76% of Missouri residents strongly support the continued funding for Amtrak. Missourians also support trains being operated with a minimum of two crew members on all trains, with no exceptions.

A majority of Missourians have a desire for additional passenger rail service. Fifty-Five percent of those questioned said that they would like to see passenger rail extended to other communities throughout the state.

The two-person crew question is similar to one that was polled in March of this year, in an effort to get a better, more accurate feel of how Missourians view the safety of trains. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) recently released a proposed rule which would require most trains to operate with a minimum of two crew members, except for where the FRA believes a single operator does not pose a significant safety risk for rail employees, the public, or the environment. When asked which best fits their views on rail safety, a clear majority (70 percent) of Missouri likely voters favor ‘no exceptions’ from requiring all trains have a minimum of two crew members operating in Missouri. Only five percent believe the FRA should not regulate crew size.

“The serious safety risks posed by single-person freight train operations became tragically clear during the summer of 2013 when a runaway oil train barreled into Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, destroying half the town and killing 47 people,” said Jason Hayden, Director of the SMART TD Missouri State Legislative Board. “Missourians have consistently shown that they understand the risk of single-person operators on freight and passenger trains, and want to make safety a top priority by requiring all trains in the state to be operated by a crew of at least two people, with no exceptions,” added Hayden.

The poll was conducted October 27th – November 1st, 2016 of 508 random likely 2016 general election voters using both cell phones and landlines by DFM research of St. Paul, MN. The Transportation Division of SMART (International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers) represents freight and passenger rail operating employees in Missouri and across the country.

Missouri Survey

2016 Election & Rail Questions



DFM Research

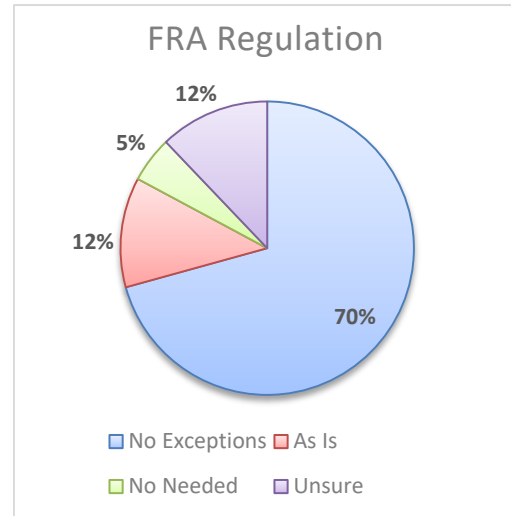
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Executive Summary

Missouri voters, regardless of who they support for president, strongly support a federal regulation requiring a crew of two on all freight trains. Currently the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is in the final stages of promulgating a two-person crew regulation. Missouri voters are strongly (70 percent) in favor of a rail regulation that has ‘no exceptions’ when it comes to crew size; only five percent believe no regulation is needed. The survey was conducted between October 27 – November 1 consisting of 508 random Missouri likely voters using both landline and cell phones.

Support level for a ‘no exceptions’ FRA regulation requiring a crew of two on all freight trains has strong widespread support among all key demographic groupings:

- No difference on gender, both men and women support ‘no exceptions’ at 70 percent.
- Very little difference on age, ranging from 68 percent ‘no exceptions’ for under age 40, to 71 percent between the age of 40-64.
- Voters with a high school education are slightly more likely to support ‘no exceptions’ than college educated (72 and 68 percent).



The data also clearly shows that crew size, which impacts the safety of rail employees, the public and the environment, is not a partisan issue.

- Only seven percent of self-identified Republicans, and nine percent of Donald Trump voters believe the FRA should not regulate crew size, and that no regulation is needed. This compares favorably to five percent of Democrats and two percent of Hillary Clinton voters who believe no regulation is needed.
- Democrats are generally more supportive of the ‘no exceptions’ rule; yet 68 percent of Independents and 63 percent of Republicans also favor the ‘no exceptions’ rule. This strong level of support across party lines shows that when it comes to rail safety, Missouri voters agree that it makes good sense to have at least a crew of two on all freight trains.

In addition to the key question regarding the FRA regulation, the survey also shows strong support to expand or maintain Missouri Amtrak service and to support current levels of national Amtrak funding.

Topline

<u>Interviews:</u>	508 likely Missouri voters by live caller, cellphone and landline
<u>Margin of Error:</u>	± 4.4 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence
<u>Interview Dates:</u>	October 27 - November 1
<u>Sample:</u>	Landline and cell phone sample. Random digit numbers provided by Survey Sample International (SSI) of Fairfield, CT. SSI provided Stone Research with 7,000 residential random phone numbers from a pool of listed and unlisted numbers in the boundary area and 3,000 cell phone numbers, which then were stratified into five distinct geographical regions. Sample weighted by: gender, age, education level and race.
<u>Survey Sponsor:</u>	SMART Transportation Division's Missouri State Legislative Board

Q1: Generally speaking, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or is the country off on the wrong track?

Right Direction	22%
Wrong Track	68
(VOL) Unsure	10

Q2: And generally speaking, do you think Missouri is moving in the right direction, or is Missouri off on the wrong track?

Right Direction	32%
Wrong Track	49
(VOL) Unsure	19

Q3: I'm now going to read you some names of public figures. For each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion, and if you never heard of them before, just let me know.

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Neutral (VOL)</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>
A – Barack Obama	43%	55	3	0
B – Hillary Clinton	34	61	5	0
C – Donald Trump	43	52	5	0
E – Roy Blunt	35	51	13	2
F – Jason Kander	35	33	24	7
G – Chris Koster	38	34	21	7
H – Eric Greitens	34	31	23	12
I – Jay Nixon	36	41	19	4

Q4: Now let's look ahead to the upcoming General Election. If the election was held today for President of the United States, would you vote for Hillary Clinton the Democrat, Donald Trump the Republican, Gary Johnson the Libertarian or Jill Stein of the Green Party?

Hillary Clinton	38%
Donald Trump	47
Gary Johnson	3
Jill Stein	1
(VOL) Unsure	11

Q5: In the race for U.S. Senator. If the election was held today, for whom would you vote: Jason Kander the Democrat, Roy Blunt the Republican or another candidate?

Jason Kander	41%
Roy Blunt	41
Other candidate	9
(VOL) Unsure	9

Q6: And in the race for Missouri Governor. If the election was held today, for whom would you vote: Chris Koster the Democrat, Eric Greitens the Republican or another candidate?

Chris Koster	45%
Eric Greitens	39
Other candidate	10
(VOL) Unsure	6

Q7: And in the race for Missouri Lieutenant Governor. If the election was held today, for whom would you vote: Russ Carnahan the Democrat, Mike Parson the Republican or Steve Hedrick the Libertarian?

Russ Carnahan	39%
Mike Parson	36
Steve Hedrick	6
(VOL) Unsure	19

I now want to ask you a few questions about transportation here in Missouri. Currently most freight trains in Missouri operate with a crew of two people; but there are efforts by some railroads to reduce the crew to just one person on some trains.

Q8: The Federal Railroad Administration, known as the FRA, proposed a rule that would require most trains to operate with a minimum of two crew members, except for where the FRA believes a single operator does not pose a significant safety risk for rail employees, the public or the environment. Generally speaking, which best fits your view:

The proposed rule should have 2 person on all trains, no exceptions ...	70%
The proposed rule by the FRA should be put into law, as is....	12
The FRA should not regulate crew size, no rule needed.....	5
(VOL) Unsure	12

Q9: Now a question on passenger rail. Currently Amtrak has two daily trains with service between Kansas City and St. Louis. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Missouri, which best fits your view?

I would like to see passenger rail service to other communities.....	55%
We have about the right amount of passenger rail service	23
Passenger rail service should be eliminated in MO.....	3
(VOL) Unsure	18

Q10: Critics of Amtrak point out that the federal government spends over \$1 billion dollars per year to subsidize passenger rail service – about 25 percent of its total budget -- and that as a nation we can no longer afford Amtrak and its national rail network.

One amendment that had been proposed last year is to eliminate ALL Amtrak funding, which would likely mean no passenger rail service here in Missouri and most of America. Suppose you could vote on this bill, would you?

Support the amendment, eliminating ALL Amtrak funding ...	9%
Oppose the amendment, keeping Amtrak funded at current levels	76
(VOL) Unsure	14

Key Demographic Crosstab Questions:

D1: When it comes to political parties, do you consider yourself a:

Democrat	31%
an Independent/Unaffiliated	35
Republican	34

Key Crosstabs

Q8: The Federal Railroad Administration, known as the FRA, proposed a rule that would require most trains to operate with a minimum of two crew members, except for where the FRA believes a single operator does not pose a significant safety risk for rail employees, the public or the environment. Generally speaking, which best fits your view:

The proposed rule should have 2 person on all trains, no exceptions ... **70%**
 The proposed rule by the FRA should be put into law, as is.... **12**
 The FRA should not regulate crew size, no rule needed **5**
 (VOL) Unsure **12**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>No Exceptions</u>	<u>As Is</u>	<u>No Rule</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	70%	13	7	11
Women	70	11	5	14
 <u>Age</u>				
18-39	68	17	6	8
40-64	71	9	6	14
65 plus	69	11	4	16
 <u>Education</u>				
High School	72	9	7	13
Some College	70	11	7	12
College Degree	68	16	4	12
 <u>Party Identification</u>				
Democrat	79	6	5	11
Independent	68	13	6	13
Republican	63	16	7	13
 <u>Presidential Vote</u>				
Hillary Clinton	75	11	2	12
Donald Trump	66	13	9	11
Other / Undecided	69	12	3	16

Q9: Now a question on passenger rail. Currently Amtrak has two daily trains with service between Kansas City and St. Louis. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Missouri, which best fits your view?

I would like to see passenger rail service to other communities..... **55%**
 We have about the right amount of passenger rail service **23**
 Passenger rail service should be eliminated in MO..... **3**
 (VOL) Unsure **18**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>More Service</u>	<u>Right Amount</u>	<u>Eliminated</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	53%	25	5	17
Women	56	20	2	22
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	52	32	3	13
40-64	60	19	3	19
65 plus	50	15	5	30
<u>Education</u>				
High School	49	17	3	31
Some College	54	24	2	20
College Degree	62	26	4	8
<u>Party Identification</u>				
Democrat	66	17	3	14
Independent	54	24	3	19
Republican	45	25	4	26
<u>Presidential Vote</u>				
Hillary Clinton	65	16	2	16
Donald Trump	46	26	5	23
Other / Undecided	57	24	0	19

Q10: Critics of Amtrak point out that the federal government spends over \$1 billion dollars per year to subsidize passenger rail service – about 25 percent of its total budget -- and that as a nation we can no longer afford Amtrak and its national rail network.

One amendment that had been proposed last year is to eliminate ALL Amtrak funding, which would likely mean no passenger rail service here in Missouri and most of America. Suppose you could vote on this bill, would you?

Support the amendment, eliminating ALL Amtrak funding ... **9%**
 Oppose the amendment, keeping Amtrak funded at current levels **76**
 (VOL) Unsure **14**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Eliminate</u>	<u>Current Levels</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	13%	74	13
Women	6	77	17
<u>Age</u>			
18-39	5	81	14
40-64	11	72	16
65 plus	10	76	14
<u>Education</u>			
High School	11	70	18
Some College	8	76	16
College Degree	7	80	12
<u>Party Identification</u>			
Democrat	2	86	12
Independent	9	72	20
Republican	15	70	15
<u>Presidential Vote</u>			
Hillary Clinton	3	84	13
Donald Trump	13	70	17
Other / Undecided	11	74	15