GALLOWAY
FOR
GOVERNOR

To: Interested Parties
From: Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group
Date: June 28th, 2020
Subject: Recent Polling of the Presidential and Gubernatorial Races in Missouri

Between June 16-22, 2020, Garin-Hart-Yang conducted a survey among 800 likely general election voters in Missouri. The survey, which was conducted online, has a margin of error of 3.5% and is representative of a November 2020 electorate.

Our survey shows that Vice President Biden narrowly leads Donald Trump in a general election match-up and that State Auditor Nicole Galloway is closing the gap with Governor Mike Parson. The survey finds that the political environment in Missouri has shifted slightly away from Republicans and that voters believe the next governor needs to address an issue agenda that is favorable to Democrats. Governor Parson has become a more partisan and polarizing figure and has negative ratings on the key issues like health care and education that voters rate as their top priorities.

Biden Leads Trump, Galloway Begins to Close Gap with Parson
In the presidential race, Vice President Joe Biden starts with a 2-point lead over Donald Trump. This result is consistent with national polls showing a double-digit Biden lead and state polls showing Biden ahead in other states Donald Trump won in 2016.

Governor Mike Parson has a 7-point lead over State Auditor Nicole Galloway. The governor — who had a 14 point lead over Auditor Galloway in February 2019 — has seen that number cut in half in part because of his declining ratings among independents and Democrats.

	TRIAL HEAT FOR GOVERNOR			TRIAL HEAT FOR PRESIDENT		
	Galloway	Parson	Advantage	Biden	Trump	Advantage
All voters	40%	47%	+7 Parson	48%	46%	+2 Biden
Democrats	83%	7%	+76 Galloway	94%	3%	+91 Biden
Independents	32%	43%	+11 Parson	45%	40%	+5 Biden
Republicans	8%	83%	+75 Parson	8%	87%	+79 Trump

Vice President Biden has a 91- point advantage with Democrats and 5 point advantage with independents while Auditor Galloway has only a 76 point advantage with Democrats and is behind 11 points with independents. The gap suggests that

Auditor Galloway has room to grow as she increases her name recognition and consolidates her own party.

Health Care is Voters' Top Issue
Our survey suggests a slightly more favorable issue agenda for Democrats. When asked to select their top two or three issues they want to see the next governor address, voters choose areas like health care that are broadly favorable to Democrats. Affordable health care, education funding, COVID-19, and the economy are the issues that voters most want to see addressed. Issues like infrastructure — which Governor Parson's campaign has emphasized — are important to voters but not their top priority.

Voters also have doubts about Parson on key issues. Only 18 percent of voters have confidence that Governor Parson is "working for affordable health care" — while 47 percent have doubts about the governor's ability to handle the issue. On improving education — another high priority for voters — only 23 percent have confidence in Governor Parson while 40 percent have doubts.

In addition to Parson's lower ratings on issues like education and health care, our survey finds that Missouri voters see Parson as tied to special interests in Jefferson City — and overwhelmingly doubt his ability to tackle corruption in government. Even on perceived strengths like the economy (which the Parson campaign has emphasized in paid communication) and strong leadership, voters only have confidence in the governor by small margins.

Summary
In summary, Joe Biden is ahead of Donald Trump in Missouri and Mike Parson has seen his lead over Auditor Galloway slashed in half over the past seventeen months. For voters, education and affordable health care have emerged as top issues (along with COVID-19 and the economy) — and they have significant doubts about Governor Parson's handling of their priorities.