



From: Katherine Patterson, Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Presley Trails Governor Reeves in Mississippi by Just One Point; Reeves Unpopular Among Voters, Especially Undecided Voters

Date: October 23, 2023

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds a highly competitive governor's race in Mississippi, with Democratic candidate Brandon Presley trailing Governor Tate Reeves in a head-to-head race by just 1 point (46-45), with 10% of voters still undecided.

Reeves is unpopular among voters, with 51% holding an unfavorable opinion of him and just 33% viewing him favorably. For voters who are still undecided in the governor's race, Reeves is especially unpopular—68% hold an unfavorable opinion of him, while just 2% view him favorably. And regardless of how they feel about him personally, voters overall also disapprove of Reeves' job performance as governor by an 11-point margin (36-47).

Voters generally view Presley favorably, by a 6-point margin (37-31), while nearly a third of voters (32%) are also still unsure of their opinion.

Adding to Reeves' unpopularity, a majority (66%) of Mississippi voters are concerned about the role he may have played in the state welfare scandal where at least \$77 million in federal funds intended for Mississippi's poorest residents were lost or stolen. Other key findings include:

- Among those who say they are concerned about Reeves' potential role in the scandal, a majority (51%) are very concerned.
- Just 12% of voters say they aren't concerned at all.
- Voters across the political spectrum show concern about the scandal, including 88% of Democrats, 70% of key independent voters, and nearly half (49%) of Republicans.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 601 Mississippi voters from October 19-20, 2023. The margin of error is +/- 4.0%. 56% of interviews for the survey were conducted by text message and 46% by telephone.

