



**From: Katherine Patterson, Public Policy Polling**

**To: Interested Parties**

**Subject: Mississippi Senate Race Within Single Digits; Medicaid Expansion Popular Among Mississippi Voters**

**Date: May 29, 2020**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds the Senate race in Mississippi within single digits between incumbent Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith and her Democratic challenger Mike Espy. Senator Hyde-Smith leads Espy by 8 points (49-41), but is earning less than 50% of the vote among Mississippians overall, and fewer than half (44%) approve of her job performance. Meanwhile, Espy has potential for growth where Hyde-Smith performs poorly, especially among African American voters and women.

- 78% of African American voters support Espy and 64% hold a favorable opinion of him, while just 15% support Hyde-Smith. She is also underwater on approval by 35 points (54-19).
- Espy leads among women by 4 points (46-42) and a plurality (43-32) hold a favorable opinion of him.

Other key findings in the survey include:

- A majority of voters (57%) support expanding Medicaid in their state to provide health care coverage to 200,000 Mississippians, while just 22% are opposed.
- Medicaid expansion is popular among majorities of Democrats (91-4), women (64-16), and African American voters (86-8), and a plurality of independents (47-22).
- President Trump's approval rating in Mississippi is just 52%.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 871 Mississippi voters from May 27-28, 2020. The margin of error is +/- 3.3%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone, and 50% by text message.





## Mississippi Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of President Donald Trump’s job performance?

*Approve* ..... 52%  
*Disapprove*..... 41%  
*Not sure* ..... 7%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith’s job performance?

*Approve* ..... 44%  
*Disapprove*..... 31%  
*Not sure* ..... 24%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Espy?

*Favorable* ..... 38%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 36%  
*Not sure* ..... 26%

**Q4** If the election for US Senate were held today, and the candidates were Democrat Mike Espy and Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith, who would you vote for?

*Mike Espy* ..... 41%  
*Cindy Hyde-Smith* ..... 49%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q5** Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid in Mississippi, which would provide health care coverage to 200,000 Mississippians?

*Support* ..... 57%  
*Oppose* ..... 22%  
*Not sure* ..... 21%

**Q6** In the 2016 election for President, did you vote for Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Hillary Clinton, someone else, or did you not vote in the election?

*Donald Trump* ..... 55%  
*Hillary Clinton*..... 39%  
*Someone else / Did not vote* ..... 6%

**Q7** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q8** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent, press 3.

*Democrat* ..... 39%  
*Republican* ..... 43%  
*Independent* ..... 17%

**Q9** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 60%  
*African-American* ..... 35%  
*Other*..... 5%

**Q10** If you are 18-29 years old, press 1. If 30-45, press 2. If 46-65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

*18 to 29* ..... 13%  
*30 to 45*..... 24%  
*46 to 65*..... 35%  
*Older than 65* ..... 28%

**Q11** What is the highest level of education you have received: high school graduate or less, some college but did not finish, 2-year college degree, 4-year college degree, or post-graduate degree?

*High school graduate or less* ..... 44%  
*Some college but did not finish* ..... 24%  
*2-year college degree* ..... 10%  
*4-year college degree* ..... 12%  
*Post-graduate degree* ..... 9%

**Q12** Mode

*Landline* ..... 50%  
*Text* ..... 50%



**Q13 Media Market**

<i>Biloxi</i> .....	10%
<i>Columbus</i> .....	17%
<i>Greenwood</i> .....	6%
<i>Hattiesburg</i> .....	10%
<i>Jackson</i> .....	32%
<i>Memphis</i> .....	14%
<i>Meridian</i> .....	5%
<i>Other</i> .....	6%