

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR POLL: GENTNER DRUMMOND DOMINATES THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY FIELD

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Poll conducted February 23-25, 2025 among likely Republican primary voters throughout Oklahoma. Responses were collected via Text-To-Web and Interactive Voice Response.

This poll was commissioned by the Calvin Coolidge Project.

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Executive Summary

With Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt facing term limits, the race to succeed him is in full swing. As a deep red state, **the real battle in Oklahoma is in the Republican primary, not in the general election.** For that reason, our poll focuses exclusively on the 2026 Republican primary for Governor of Oklahoma. In this poll, we study four candidates: Gentner Drummond, Charles McCall, Chip Keating, and Mike Mazzei. At the time I'm writing this, Drummond and McCall have already officially declared their candidacies, while Keating and Mazzei are widely expected to run. Though the primary election is still well over a year away, things have already begun to heat up.

Let's start with the main takeaway: **Drummond is in the lead, and it's not particularly close.** Currently the Attorney General of Oklahoma – and also currently running ads across the state – Drummond has filled the political vacuum as the first serious contender to get his name out to voters. He's amassed 70% Name ID so far, while the other three contenders have each stalled at 33% Name ID or less. This head start has propelled Drummond to his early lead, earning him 37% of the vote. His closest competitor is not close at all: McCall trails by more than thirty points, and the other two candidates are even further behind, with less than 3% of the vote each.

Drummond's lead spans ideologies. **The electorate is comprised mainly of self-described MAGA Republicans and Constitutional Conservatives**, but also has smaller swaths of Traditional Republicans and Moderate Republicans. Drummond leads by more than 20 points among each of these subgroups. McCall makes a splash among Constitutional Conservatives, but that splash is trivial in the grand scheme of things: his 9% support among a category that makes up 27% of the electorate translates to only about 2.5% of the vote. It will take quite a bit more than that to win.

It's still early. Just over half the electorate remains undecided. And with **75% of voters holding a positive opinion of President Donald Trump**, his endorsement could entirely reshape the race. Governor Stitt's endorsement could play a role, too, but it would come with some toxic side effects, as more than a quarter of voters hold a negative opinion of him.

We've got plenty more insights on the next few pages. **Read on to learn more.**

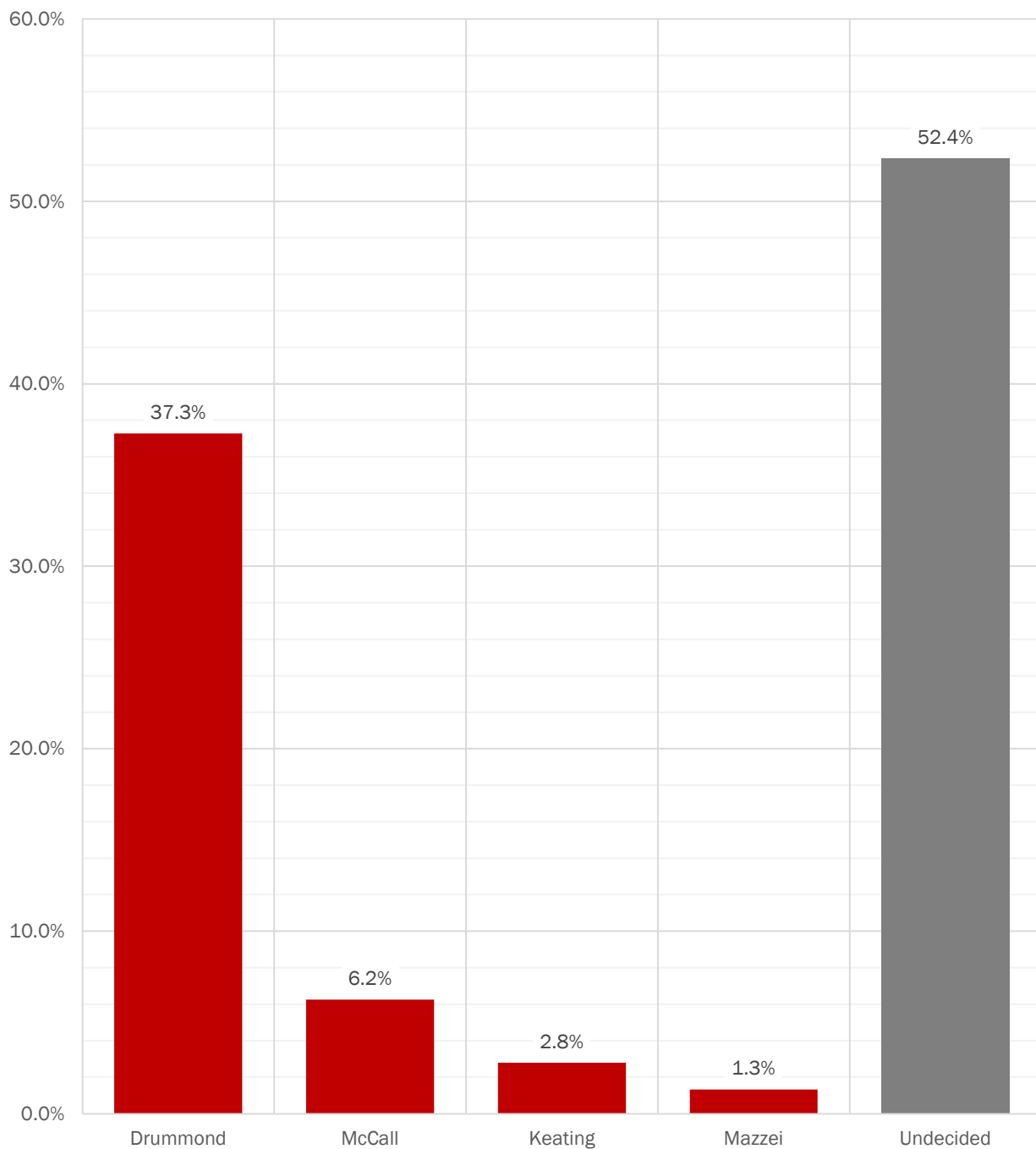
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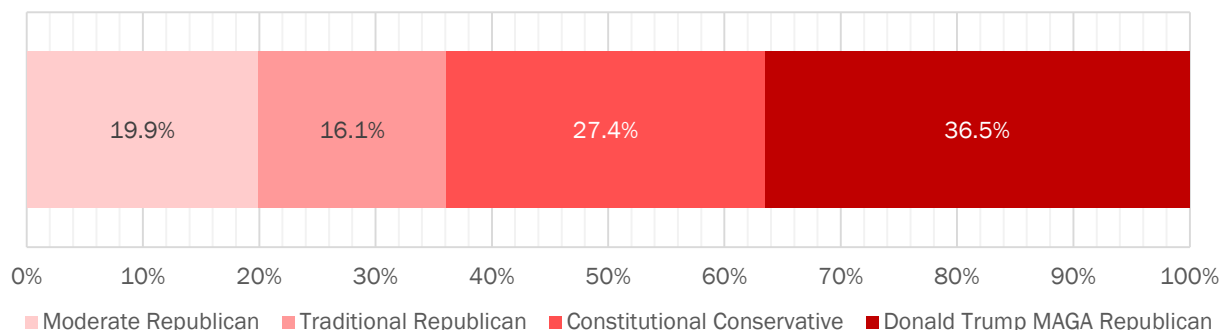
Republican Primary Ballot

In the hypothetical four-way race for Oklahoma Governor, Drummond is the overwhelming leader with 37% of the vote. His closest competitor is McCall with only 6% support. Keating sits in third place with 3% support, while Mazzei earns only 1% of the vote. Still, just over half of the electorate remains undecided, so Drummond's competitors have plenty of room to grow their shares of the vote.



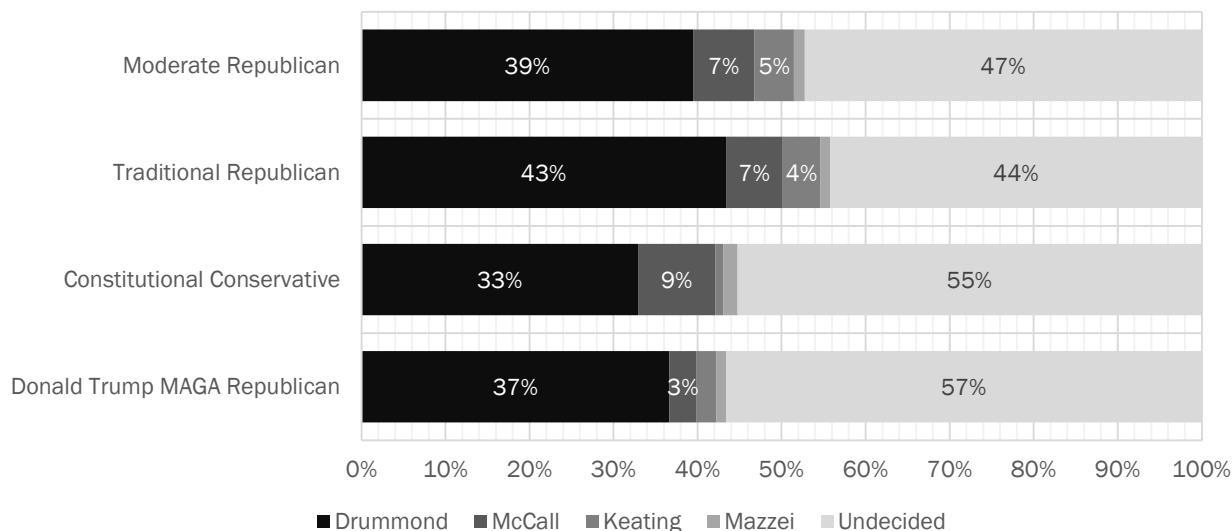
Electorate Ideology

A plurality (36%) of likely Republican primary voters in Oklahoma self-identify as Donald Trump MAGA Republicans, while Constitutional Conservatives (27%) are the next-largest classification. The more “traditional” or “moderate” wing of the party makes up a minority of the electorate (36% combined).



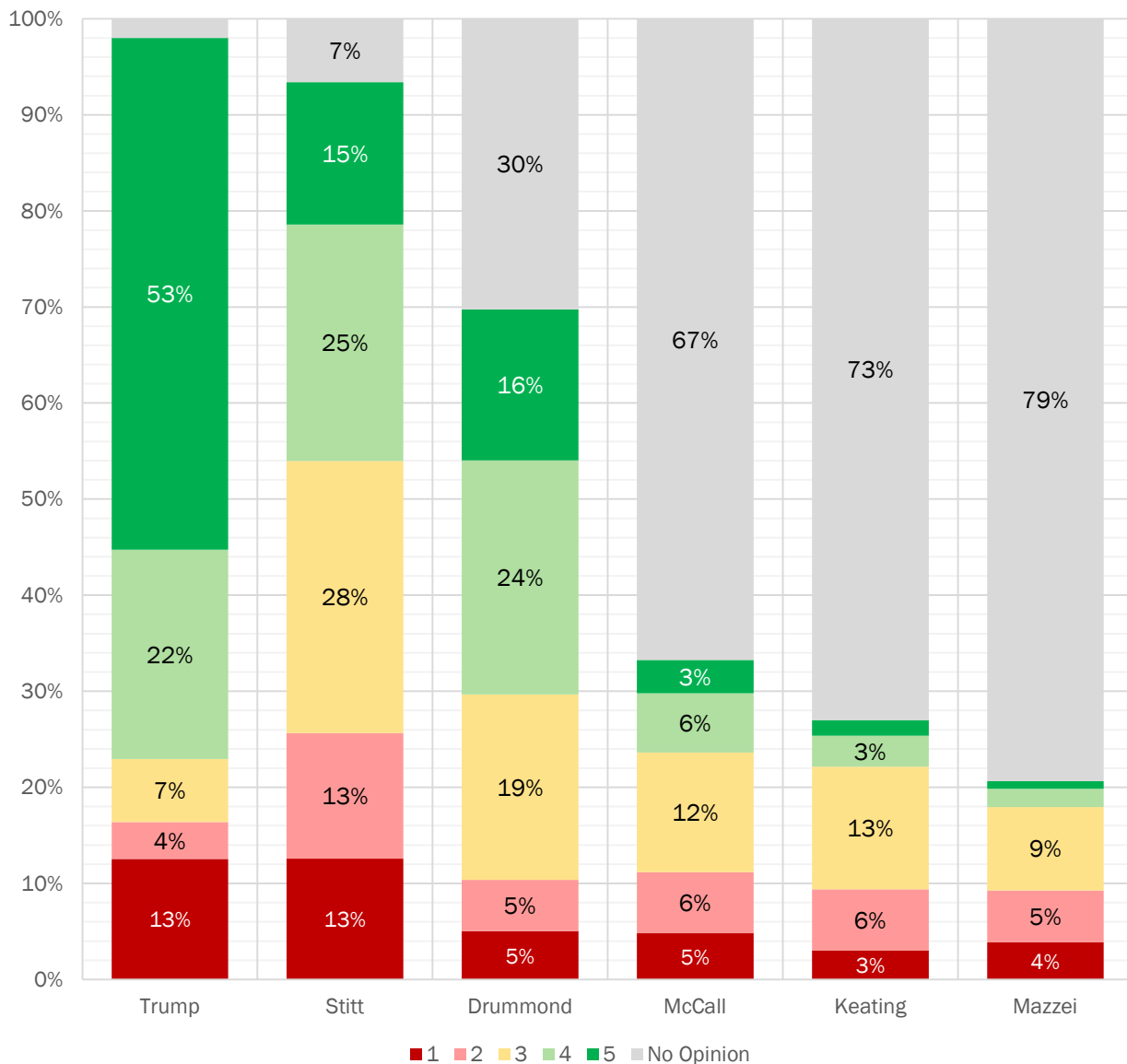
Republican Primary Ballot by Ideology

Drummond is the far and away leader among *all* types of Republicans. Generally, he performs best among the more moderate wing of the party, but that’s also because those voters are less likely to be undecided than MAGA Republicans and Constitutional Conservatives are. To make that point clearer, Drummond’s vote share of 37% among MAGA Republicans is his second-worst value out of the four types of Republicans, but if we narrow down to only decided voters, he gets 84% of the vote, his best showing out of any category. McCall does his best among Constitutional Conservatives, earning 9% of the overall vote and 21% of the decided vote. Still, Drummond more than triples McCall’s vote share among that group of voters.



Overall Favorability

We asked respondents to rate their opinions of the four potential candidates (as well as Trump and Stitt) on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being extremely negative and 5 being extremely positive. Respondents could also indicate that they have no opinion of each public figure. The chart below shows the overall results of these questions, and we'll dive deeper into analyzing them on the following page.



But first, some obvious points stand out. Trump and Stitt have virtually ubiquitous Name ID, while Drummond occupies a middle ground, with 30% of voters having no opinion of him. The other three candidates are largely unknown, each with at least two-thirds of the electorate holding no opinion of them. This tracks with the fact that Drummond dominates the other three candidates in the ballot question.

Favorability Metrics

From voters' ratings of each public figure, we calculated four different metrics which together provide a near-comprehensive explanation of the results. These four metrics, as well as their definitions, are shown in the table below. For each metric, the best result is highlighted in dark green, the second-best in light green, the second-worst in light red, and the worst in dark red. We also broke down each figure's Average Opinionated Rating (AOR) by each type of Republican.

	Trump	Stitt	Drummond	McCall	Keating	Mazzei
Positive Name ID % of respondents who rated the public figure "4" or "5" out of 5	75.0%	39.4%	40.1%	9.6%	4.9%	2.7%
Negative Name ID % of respondents who rated the public figure "1" or "2" out of 5	16.4%	25.7%	10.4%	11.2%	9.4%	9.3%
Total Name ID % of respondents who rated the public figure anything other than "No Opinion"	98.0%	93.4%	69.7%	33.3%	27.0%	20.7%
Avg. Opinionated Rating Average rating (1-5) given to the public figure by those who gave any numerical rating	4.01	3.17	3.58	2.91	2.78	2.53
AOR Among Donald Trump MAGA Republicans	4.82	3.61	3.59	2.90	2.82	2.88
AOR Among Constitutional Conservatives	4.16	3.25	3.52	3.08	2.96	2.48
AOR Among Traditional Republicans	3.42	2.88	3.67	2.97	2.63	2.20
AOR Among Moderate Republicans	2.75	2.57	3.57	2.72	2.66	2.26

Trump is clearly the most well-liked of the crew, with the highest Positive Name ID and AOR by wide margins. Stitt is also well-known, but less broadly admired, posting the highest Negative Name ID and mediocre results in most other metrics. Moderates don't like him; he beats only Mazzei in terms of AOR. Drummond posts impressive numbers across several metrics: he earns higher Positive Name ID and AOR than Stitt, as well as the highest AOR among traditional and moderate Republicans, even outperforming Trump. Meanwhile, McCall posts consistently middle-of-the-pack numbers, ranking third or fourth in every metric. Mazzei and Keating score the lowest in most metrics, but if there's one silver lining for them, it's that they have the lowest Negative Name ID out of all public figures surveyed. The flip side of that coin, of course, is that few people know anything about them at all.



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