HAS FERGUSON DAMAGED NIXON’S POLITICAL FUTURE?

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Until 16 days ago, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon was a post-racial politi-
cal leader.

— portrayed an eff ective and empa-
tic leader.

termath of the Joplin tornado in 2011

persona that plays well in middle

total state credit rating, a scandal-

free personal résumé and a folksy

Republican. But Nixon is reluctant to embrace a biracial persona.

leaving state, he could tout a stel-

lar state credit rating, a scandal-

If he decides to seek another term, he can use his state’s sta-

re him in the middle, along with a middle-of-the-road résumé.

turmanship is not an asset in a state that is growing more racially divid-

e. Nixon says he has a plan to improve race relations in Missouri, and he

to address a major issue in his re-election campaign.

President Barack Obama, who spoke in Ferguson last week, could help

his public opinion numbers. But that would be a dicey proposition.

Until now, Nixon has had the advantage of being able to distance

himself from the turmoil in Ferguson.

And if Nixon’s political future is in danger, he is not alone.

But Nixon’s advantage may disappear if he decides to seek another term in 2016.