

Codebook for the 2008 Arkansas Poll
Prepared for the Political Science Department, University of Arkansas
By the Survey Research Center, University of Arkansas
October 20, 2008

59: **PROJECT**
 Project Name

59: **QUEST**
 Questionnaire ID

59: **DIST**
 Congressional District (Calculated from FIPS Code for RDD Sample and from Q6 for Cell Sample)

District One (NE Arkansas) 1
 District Two (Central Arkansas) 2
 District Three (NW Arkansas) 3
 District Four (South Arkansas) 4

59: **CELL**
 Is the record from Cell Phone Sample or RDD Sample?

Cell Phone Sample 1
 RDD Sample 2

59: **Q5**
 I would first like to ask you how many years you have lived in Arkansas, or have you lived here all of your life?

Enter number of years
 Less than one year 96
 All my life 97
 Don't know 98
 Refused 99

60: Q6

In what county do you live?

Don't know	98
Refused	99
Arkansas.....	01
Ashley	47
Baxter.....	02
Benton.....	35
Boone.....	36
Bradley.....	48
Calhoun.....	49
Carrol.....	37
Chicot.....	50
Clark.....	51
Clay.....	03
Cleburne.....	04
Cleveland.....	52
Columbia.....	53
Conway.....	27
Craighead.....	05
Crawford.....	38
Crittenden.....	06
Cross.....	07
Dallas.....	54
Desha.....	55
Drew.....	56
Faulkner.....	28
Franklin.....	39
Fulton.....	08
Garland.....	57
Grant.....	58
Greene.....	09
Hempstead.....	59
Hot Springs.....	60
Howard.....	61
Independent.....	10
Izard.....	11
Jackson.....	12
Jefferson.....	62

Johnson.....	40
Lafayette.....	63
Lawrence.....	13
Lee.....	14
Lincoln.....	64
Little River.....	65
Logan.....	66
Lonoke.....	15
Madison.....	41
Marion.....	42
Miller.....	67
Mississippi.....	16
Monroe.....	17
Montgomery.....	68
Nevada.....	69
Newton.....	43
Ouachita.....	70
Perry.....	29
Philips.....	18
Pike.....	71
Poinsett.....	19
Polk.....	72
Pope.....	44
Prairie.....	20
Pulaski.....	30
Randolph.....	21
Saline.....	31
Scott.....	73
Searcy.....	23
Sebastian.....	45
Sevier.....	74
Sharp.....	24
St. Francis.....	22
Stone.....	25
Union.....	75
Van Buren.....	32
Washington.....	46
White.....	33
Woodruff.....	26
Yell.....	34

61:

Q7

Okay. And which of the following is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today?

(RESPONSES ROTATE)

The economy.....	1
Education	2
Healthcare	3
Crime.....	4
Taxes	5
Immigration.....	6
Don't know	8
Refused	9

62:

COMM1

Thank you. Let's move on to your thoughts on some of the people who are involved in government and politics.

63: ROTATES WITH Q9

Q8

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Beebe is handling his job as governor?

Approve.....	1
Disapprove	2
Don't Know	8
Refused	9

64: ROTATES WITH Q8

Q9

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as president?

Approve.....	1
Disapprove	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

65: ROTATES WITH Q11

Q10

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Blanche Lincoln is handling her job as a U.S. Senator?

Approve.....	1
Disapprove	2
Don't Know	8
Refused	9

66: ROTATES WITH Q10

Q11

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mark Pryor is handling his job as a U.S. Senator?

Approve.....	1
Disapprove.....	2
Don't Know.....	8
Refused.....	9

67: ONLY ONE OF THE Q12'S ASKED BASED ON Q6

Q12A

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Marion Berry is handling his job as a U.S. Representative? (NE AR's Congressman in D.C.)

Approve.....	1	=> /Q13
Disapprove.....	2	=> /Q13
Don't Know.....	8	=> /Q13
Refused.....	9	=> /Q13

68:

Q12B

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Vic Snyder is handling his job as a U.S. Representative? (Central AR's congressman in D.C.)

Approve.....	1	=> /Q13
Disapprove.....	2	=> /Q13
Don't Know.....	8	=> /Q13
Refused.....	9	=> /Q13

69:

Q12C

Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Boozman is handling his job as a U.S. Representative? (NW AR's congressman in D.C.)

Approve.....	1	=> /Q13
Disapprove.....	2	=> /Q13
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q13
Refused.....	9	=> /Q13

70:

Q12D

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Mike Ross is handling his job as a U.S. Representative? (South AR's congressman in D.C.)

Approve.....	1	=> /Q13
Disapprove.....	2	=> /Q13
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q13
Refused.....	9	=> /Q13

71:

Q13

Thank you. Now let's consider the election next month. Suppose the election were held today. Who would you be more likely to vote for:

(RESPONSES ROTATE)

John McCain, the Republican.....	1	=> /Q14
Barack Obama, the Democrat.....	2	=> /Q14
Don't know.....	8	
Refused.....	9	

72:

Q13A

As of today, do you lean more toward:

(RESPONSES ROTATE)

McCain, the Republican.....	1
Obama, the Democrat.....	2
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

73:

Q14

And, would you have voted for Hillary Clinton if she had been a nominee for the Presidency?

Yes.....	1
No.....	2
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

74:

Q15

And, some people find this next question difficult. We are interested in whether racial issues may impact the presidential race. First, what percentage of people you know would NOT vote for a presidential candidate who was black?

Interviewer: ENTER WHOLE NUMBERS ONLY.

String variable.....	
Don't know.....	888
Refused.....	999

76:

Q17

And, as far as you know, what is Barack Obama's religion? Is he a Christian, a Muslim, or something else?

Christian.....	1
Muslim.....	2
Something else.....	3
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

85: RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR USED

Q20A

And proposed Amendment 3 permits the Arkansas legislature to establish a lottery to fund scholarships and grants to college students. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

Favor	1	=> /Q21
Oppose	2	=> /Q21
Don't know	8	=> /Q21
Refused	9	=> /Q21

86: RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR USED

Q20B

And Proposed Amendment 3 has been spearheaded by Arkansas's Lieutenant Governor, Bill Halter. It permits the Arkansas legislature to establish a lottery to fund scholarships and grants to college students. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

Favor	1	=> /Q21
Oppose	2	=> /Q21
Don't know	8	=> /Q21
Refused	9	=> /Q21

87:

Q21

Thank you, There's one more ballot measure we'd like to explore more fully. Proposed Initiated Act 1 would prevent anyone who is cohabitating outside of a valid marriage from adopting or fostering a child. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

Favor	1
Oppose	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

88: Turned Off 10/8/2008

COMM3

Now I'd like to read to you four statements relevant to Initiated Act 1. For each one, please say whether you believe it is true or false.

89: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q23, Q24 AND Q25

Q22

The Arkansas Department of Human Services already prevents unmarried couples from becoming foster parents. (To the best of your knowledge, would you say that the statement is true or false.)

True	1
False	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

90: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q22, Q24 AND Q25 **Q23**

Initiated Act 1 would apply only to gay and lesbian couples. (To the best of your knowledge, would you say that the statement is true or false.)

True	1
False	2
Don't Know	8
Refused	9

91: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q22, Q23 AND Q25 **Q24**

Initiated Act 1 would prevent single people from fostering or adopting children. (To the best of your knowledge, would you say that the statement is true or false.)

True	1
False	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

92: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q22, Q23 AND Q24 **Q25**

A proposal similar to Initiated Act 1 failed in the Arkansas legislature in 2007. (To the best of your knowledge, would you say that the statement is true or false.)

True	1
False	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

93: Turned Off 10/8/2008 **COMM4**

And I am now going to read to you a list of people and organizations. Please tell me to the best of your knowledge whether each one officially supports, opposes, or has taken no position on Initiated Act 1.

94: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q27, Q28 AND Q29 **Q26**

The Arkansas Family Council. (What would be your best guess? Do they support, oppose, or have they taken no position on Initiated Act 1?)

Supports	1
Opposes	2
No position	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

95: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q26, Q28 AND Q29 **Q27**

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. (What would be your best guess? Do they support, oppose, or have they taken no position on Initiated Act 1?)

Supports	1
Opposes	2
No position	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

96: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q26, Q27 AND Q29 **Q28**

Governor Mike Beebe. (What would be your best guess? Do they support, oppose, or have they taken no position on Initiated Act 1?)

Supports	1
Opposes	2
No position	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

97: Turned Off 10/8/2008 ROTATES WITH Q26, Q27 AND Q28 **Q29**

Attorney General Dustin McDaniel. (What would be your best guess? Do they support, oppose, or have they taken no position on Initiated Act 1?)

Supports	1
Opposes	2
No position	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

98: **COMM5**

Thank you. Next, I have a couple of questions about some issues that are often in the news.

99: **Q30**

In general, would you say that you favor stricter gun control, less strict gun control, or should no change be made to the existing gun control laws?

Stricter	1
Less strict	2
No change	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

100: Turned off 10/6/2008

Q31

Do you favor laws that would make it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion, favor laws that would make it easier to get an abortion, or should no change be made to existing abortion laws?

- More difficult 1
- Easier 2
- No change 3
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

101:

Q32

And which of the following approaches for providing health care in the United States would you prefer: replacing the current health care system with a new government run health care system, or maintaining the current system based mostly on private health insurance?

- Replace 1
- Maintain 2
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

102:

COMM6

And now here's a series of statements about race relations in the U.S. For each one, please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each one. Ready?

103: ROTATES WITH Q34, Q35 AND Q36

Q33

Irish, Italians, Jewish, and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors. Do you:

- Strongly agree 1
- Agree 2
- Neither agree nor disagree 3
- Disagree 4
- Strongly disagree 5
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

104: ROTATES WITH Q33, Q35 AND Q36

Q34

Over the past few years blacks have gotten less than they deserve. Do you:

- Strongly agree 1
- Agree 2
- Neither agree nor disagree 3
- Disagree 4
- Strongly disagree 5
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

105: ROTATES WITH Q33, Q34 AND Q36

Q35

It's really a matter of some people not trying hard enough; if blacks would only try harder they could be just as well off as whites. Do you:

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know	8
Refused	9

106: ROTATES WITH Q33, Q34 AND Q35

Q36

Generations of slavery and discrimination have created conditions that make it difficult for blacks to work their way out of the lower class. Do you:

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know	8
Refused	9

107:

Q37

Finally, some say that black leaders have been trying to push too fast. Others feel that they haven't pushed fast enough. What do you think...too fast, not fast enough, or moving at about the right speed?

Too fast	1
Not fast enough	2
About the right speed	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

108:

Q38

Generally speaking, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the President of the United States to meet with the leaders of countries that are considered enemies of the United States?

Good idea	1
Bad idea	3
No opinion	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

110: Turned off 10/6/2008

Q40

Okay, and which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be regarding undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States. Should the government:

(RESPONSES ROTATE)

- Allow undocumented immigrants to remain in the United States to work for a limited amount of time. 1
- Allow undocumented immigrants to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain criteria like learning English and paying their back-taxes. 2
- Deport all undocumented immigrants. 3
- Allow undocumented immigrants to become permanent residents with no requirements. 4
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

111: Turned Off 10/6/2008

Q41

Do you think global warming is an urgent problem requiring immediate attention or a longer-term problem that requires more study before government action is taken?

- Urgent problem 1
- Longer-term problem 2
- Not a problem 3
- Unsure 4
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

114:

Q44

If you had to choose, would you rather see the next president keep the same number of troops in Iraq that are currently stationed there, or would you rather see the next president remove most US troops in Iraq within a few months of taking office?

- Keep same number 1
- Remove most 2
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

120:

Q46

Moving on, some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or never?

- Most of the time 1
- Some of the time 2
- Only now and then 3
- Never 4
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

121:

COMM7

Thank you. I'd like now to ask you some more specific questions about politics and government. Some may be easy for you while others may be more difficult. Please feel free to tell me "I don't know." Are you ready?

122: ROTATES WITH Q48 AND Q49

Q47

Who is the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives? I have a list of names here, is it:
 (RESPONSES ROTATE)

- Harry Reed 1
- Condoleeza Rice 2
- Nancy Pelosi 3
- Newt Gingrich..... 4
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

123: ROTATES WITH Q47 AND Q49

Q48

And what is the term of office of a U.S. senator? Is it:
 (RESPONSES INVERT)

- Two years 1
- Four years 2
- Six years 3
- Eight years 4
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

124: ROTATES WITH Q47 AND Q48

Q49

And who is responsible for nominating judges to federal courts? Is it:
 (RESPONSES ROTATE)

- The President 1
- Congress..... 2
- The Supreme Court 3
- State governors..... 4
- Don't know 8
- Refused 9

126: RANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR USED

Q50A

Okay, now let's return briefly to the presidential election. Some people will vote for Barack Obama this fall and some people will not. Regardless of your overall feelings toward him, please indicate how many of the following five facts about Obama trouble you when you think about choosing the next president. Please note that we are not interested in which ones, only how many. Are you ready?

(RESPONSES ROTATE)

During the primary campaign, he described small-town Pennsylvanians as "bitter" and said that they "cling" to guns and religion	1	=> /COMM8
If elected, he will be the first black president	2	=> /COMM8
He has served in the US senate only since 2005	3	=> /COMM8
He used to be a smoker	4	=> /COMM8
He was a member of Jeremiah Wright's Trinity United Church of Christ for 20 years, before he resigned in May of 2008	5	=> /COMM8
(Silent) None of these bother me	6	=> /COMM8
Don't know	8	=> /COMM8
Refused	9	=> /COMM8

126:

Q50ACOUNT

Count of responses to Q50A selected by respondents

Zero	0
One	1
Two	2
Three	3
Four	4
Five	5
Don't know	8
Refused	9

127:

Q50B

Okay, now let's return briefly to the presidential election. Some people will vote for Barack Obama this fall and some people will not. Regardless of your overall feelings toward him, please indicate how many of the following five facts about Obama trouble you when you think about choosing the next president. Please note that we are not interested in which ones, only how many. Are you ready?

(RESPONSES ROTATE)

During the primary campaign, he described small-town Pennsylvanians as "bitter" and said that they "cling" to guns and religion	1	=> /COMM8
He has two children	2	=> /COMM8
He has served in the US Senate only since 2005	3	=> /COMM8
He used to be a smoker	4	=> /COMM8
He was a member of Jeremiah Wright's Trinity United Church of Christ for 20 years, before he resigned in May of 2008	5	=> /COMM8
(Silent) None of these bother me	6	=> /COMM8
Don't know	8	=> /COMM8
Refused	9	=> /COMM8

126:

Q50BCOUNT

Count of responses to Q50B selected by respondents

Zero	0
One	1
Two	2
Three	3
Four	4
Five	5
Don't know	8
Refused	9

128:

COMM8

Thank you. The next questions are about your general evaluation of the quality of life in our state.

129:

Q51

Overall, do you feel that Arkansas is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

Right.....	1
Wrong	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

130:

Q52

On a more individual level, would you say you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

Better.....	1
Worse	2
About the same	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

131:

Q53

And, looking ahead, do you think that a year from now, you will be better off financially, worse off, or about the same as now?

Better.....	1
Worse	2
About the same	3
Don't know	8
Refused	9

132:

DEMO

Thank you. Finally, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself so that we can be sure we're hearing from a wide range of Arkansans.

133:

Q54

First, do you live in a city, a suburb, a small town or a rural area? Interviewer: If respondent asks for a definition for one of these, tell them, "whatever it means to you".

City.....	1
Suburb.....	2
Small town.....	3
Rural area.....	4
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

134:

Q55

Which of the following education categories best describes your highest level of schooling? I have a list here, so feel free to stop me at any time. Is it:

No high school.....	1
Some high school.....	2
High school graduate or equivalent.....	3
Some college including business or trade schools.....	4
College graduate.....	5
Some graduate school.....	6
Graduate or professional degree.....	7
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

135:

Q56

And, which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic group:

White.....	1
Black or African-American.....	2
Hispanic.....	3
Asian.....	4
Native American.....	5
Multi-Ethnic.....	6
Something Else.....	7
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

136:

Q57

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?

Republican.....	1	=> /Q58A
Democrat.....	2	=> /Q58B
Independent.....	3	=> /Q58C
Other.....	4	=> /Q59
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q59
Refused.....	9	=> /Q59

137: **Q58A**

Would you call yourself a strong Republican, or a not very strong Republican?

Strong Republican.....	1	=> /Q59
Not very strong Republican	2	=> /Q59
Don't know	8	=> /Q59
Refused	9	=> /Q59

138: **Q58B**

Would you call yourself a strong Democrat, or a not very strong Democrat?

Strong Democrat.....	1	=> /Q59
Not very strong Democrat.....	2	=> /Q59
Don't know	8	=> /Q59
Refused	9	=> /Q59

139: **Q58C**

Well, do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?

Closer to Republican.....	1	=> /Q59
Closer to Democrat	2	=> /Q59
Just Independent.....	3	=> /Q59
Don't know	8	=> /Q59
Refused	9	=> /Q59

140: **Q59**

How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as a Liberal, Moderate, or Conservative?

Liberal.....	1	=> /Q60A
Moderate	2	=> /Q61
Conservative	3	=> /Q60B
Don't know	8	=> /Q61
Refused	9	=> /Q61

141: **Q60A**

Would you say you are strongly Liberal or somewhat Liberal?

Strongly Liberal	1	=> /Q61
Somewhat Liberal	2	=> /Q61
Don't know	8	=> /Q61
Refused	9	=> /Q61

142:

Q60B

Would you say that you are strongly Conservative or somewhat Conservative?

Strongly Conservative.....	1	=> /Q61
Somewhat Conservative.....	2	=> /Q61
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q61
Refused.....	9	=> /Q61

143:

Q61

Which of the following income categories best describes your total 2007 household income? I have a list here, so again feel free to stop me at any time. Was it:

\$7500 or less.....	1
\$7501 to \$15,000.....	2
\$15,001 to \$25,000.....	3
\$25,001 to \$35,000.....	4
\$35,001 to \$50,000.....	5
\$50,001 to \$75,000.....	6
\$75,001 to \$100,000.....	7
\$100,001 or over.....	8
Don't know.....	88
Refused.....	99

144:

Q62

About how often do you attend religious services? Is it:

Never.....	1
Once a year.....	2
Several times a year.....	3
About once a month.....	4
2-3 times a month.....	5
Every week.....	6
More than once a week.....	7
Don't know.....	8
Refused.....	9

145:

Q63

Which of the following best describes your current religious preference? Is it: Interviewer: Protestant is pronounced Prah-test-ant. Protestant includes any Christian faith that is not Catholic or Greek Orthodox. Any Christian faith that is not Catholic or Greek Orthodox should be classified as Protestant. Greek Orthodox is classified as "Other".

Protestant.....	1	
Catholic.....	2	
Jewish.....	3	=> /Q64
Something else.....	4	=> /Q64
None.....	5	=> /Q64
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q64
Refused.....	9	=> /Q64

146:

Q63A

Do you consider yourself a born-again or evangelical Christian? Interviewer: If the respondent asks for a definition of either of these terms, tell them, "We want to know how you feel about yourself. Do you identify with either of these labels?"

Yes	1
No.....	2
Don't know	8
Refused	9

147:

Q64

Which of these best describes your present marital status:

Married.....	1
Not married but living together.....	2
Separated or divorced	3
Widowed.....	4
Never married or single	5
Don't know	8
Refused	9

148:

Q65

We're nearly done: How many people, including yourself, live in your household?
 Interviewer: Include children.

Enter response.....	
Don't know	98
Refused	99

149:

Q66

Do you have any school aged children? Interviewer: This includes children in Kindergarten through 12 grade only.
 (SKIPPED IF Q65 = 1)

Yes	1	
No.....	2	=> /Q67
Don't know	8	=> /Q67
Refused	9	=> /Q67

150:

Q66A

How many school aged children do you have?

Enter number.....	
Don't know	98
Refused	99

151: **Q67**
 And what is your current employment status. Is it:

Employed full-time	1
Employed part-time	2
Self-employed	3
Unemployed	4
Don't know	8
Refused	9

152: **Q68**
 Are you a registered voter?

Yes	1	
No	2	=> /Q69
Don't know	8	=> /Q69
Refused	9	=> /Q69

153: **Q68A**
 How long have you been a registered voter?

More than 5 years	1
Less than 5 years	5
Less than 3 years	2
Less than 1 year	3
Less than 6 months	4
Don't know	8
Refused	9

154: **Q68B**
 And, how likely are you to vote in the next elections that take place in November 2008?
 Are you:

Very likely	1
Likely	2
Unlikely	3
Very unlikely	4
Don't know	8
Refused	9

155: **Q69**
 In what year were you born?

Enter response	
Don't know	9998
Refused	9999

156:

Q70

And, I am required to ask you this, are you male or female?

Male	1	=> /INT99
Female	2	=> /INT99
Don't know	8	=> /INT99
Refused	9	=> /INT99

165:

INT99

Thank you very much for helping us with the Arkansas Poll. We plan to release the results in late October. Have a nice day/afternoon/evening.

Complete	CO	=> /END
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