

**Codebook for the 2009 Arkansas Poll**  
**Prepared for the Political Science Department, University of Arkansas**  
**By the Survey Research Center, University of Arkansas**  
**October 28, 2009**

**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

**56:** **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

**57: 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

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**58: Q7**

In your opinion, what do you think is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today?

Enter response.....	1	O
Don't know.....	8	=> /COMM1
Refused.....	9	=> /COMM1

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**59:**

**Q7B**

Is there another problem or issue you would like to mention?

Yes, what issue is that?..... 1 O  
No..... 2  
Don't know..... 8  
Refused..... 9

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**60:**

**COMM1**

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

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**61:**

**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

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**62:**

**Q9**

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

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

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**63:**

**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

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**64:**

**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

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**65:**

**Q12**

And, how closely have you followed news about the candidates who are running for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Blanche Lincoln? Have you followed it:

- Very closely ..... 1
- Fairly closely..... 2
- Not too closely ..... 3
- Not at all closely..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused ..... 9

**66:**

**Q13**

Okay, if that election were held TODAY, would you be most likely to vote for the:

- Republican Party's candidate ..... 1
- Democratic Party's candidate ..... 2
- Other (silent) ..... 3
- None (silent) ..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused ..... 9

**67:**

**COMM5**

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

**68:**

**Q14**

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

**69:**

**Q15**

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

<b>70:</b>		<b>Q16</b>
	Do you have some form of health insurance or health care coverage, or not?	
	Yes .....	1
	No.....	2
	Don't know.....	8
	Refused .....	9

<b>71:</b>		<b>Q17</b>
	Just your best guess, if the health care system is changed, do you think the quality of your health care will get better, get worse or remain about the same?	
	Better .....	1
	Worse .....	2
	About the same.....	3
	Don't know.....	8
	Refused .....	9

<b>72:</b>		<b>Q18</b>
	Would you support or oppose having the government create a new health insurance plan to compete with private health insurance plans?	
	Support .....	1
	Oppose.....	2
	Don't know.....	8
	Refused .....	9

<b>73:</b>		<b>Q19</b>
	Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be regarding undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States. Should the government:	
	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

**74:**

**Q20**

Which of the following policy positions most closely resembles your own view regarding relationships between two people of the same sex:

- Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry. .... 1
- Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions or domestic partnerships, but not legally marry. .... 2
- There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship. .... 3
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9

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**75:**

**Q21**

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
- (Silent) Not a problem ..... 3
- Unsure ..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9

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**76:**

**Q22**

And do you think teachers should or should not be permitted to spank children at school?

- Should..... 1
- Should NOT..... 2
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9

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**77:**

**COMM9**

Thank you. Now, we have a series of questions pertaining to crime and punishment.

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**78:**

**Q23**

Do you believe having a death penalty in Arkansas effectively discourages others from committing murder?

- Yes ..... 1
  - No..... 2
  - Don't know..... 8
  - Refused..... 9
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**79:**

**Q24**

Do you believe the death penalty in Arkansas costs less than keeping those convicts in prison for life without parole?

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

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**80:**

**Q25**

Do you believe the execution of a murderer provides a sense of closure to the family members of the murder victim?

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

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**81:**

**COM10**

Thank you. And now, please listen to the following statements closely.

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**82:**

**Q26**

Some states have laws allowing for the death penalty if someone is convicted of premeditated murder. IF you were a member of the jury in a case of premeditated murder, which of the following best represents your beliefs? Would you sentence someone to death if they were found guilty of premeditated murder:

Always ..... 1  
Under almost all circumstances..... 2  
Under only the most extreme circumstances..... 3  
Never ..... 4  
Don't know..... 8  
Refused ..... 9

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**83:**

**Q27**

Some states have laws allowing for the death penalty if someone is convicted of aggravated rape of a child. If you were a member of the jury in a case of aggravated rape of a child which of the following best represents your beliefs? Would you sentence someone to death if they were found guilty of aggravated rape of a child:

Always ..... 1  
Under almost all circumstances..... 2  
Under only the most extreme circumstances..... 3  
Never ..... 4  
Don't know..... 8  
Refused ..... 9

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**85:**

**Q28**

On a different note, how do you think the Supreme Court should interpret the Constitution?  
 Would you say:

- The Court should strictly follow what the Founding Fathers wrote in the Constitution, with little room to interpret its meaning. .... 1
- The Court should treat the Constitution as a complex and changing document, to account for changes that have occurred since it was written. 2
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9

**86:**

**COM11**

Okay, and now please indicate whether you strongly agree, slightly agree, slightly disagree, or strongly disagree with the following items.

**87:**

**Q29**

It's hard for me to see why some things upset people so much:

- Strongly agree..... 1
- Slightly agree..... 2
- Slightly disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9

**88:**

**Q30**

I find it easy to put myself in someone else's shoes:

- Strongly agree..... 1
- Slightly agree..... 2
- Slightly disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9

**89:**

**Q31**

If I say something that someone else is offended by, I think that that's their problem, not mine:

- Strongly agree..... 1
- Slightly agree..... 2
- Slightly disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused..... 9



**90:**

**Q32**

I am quick to spot when someone in a group is feeling awkward or uncomfortable:

- Strongly agree ..... 1
- Slightly agree ..... 2
- Slightly disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused ..... 9

**91:**

**Q33**

If I see a stranger in a group, I think it is up to them to make an effort to join in:

- Strongly agree ..... 1
- Slightly agree ..... 2
- Slightly disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused ..... 9

**92:**

**Q34**

I can usually appreciate another person's viewpoint, even if I don't agree with it:

- Strongly agree ..... 1
- Slightly agree ..... 2
- Slightly disagree..... 3
- Strongly disagree..... 4
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused ..... 9

**93:**

**COM12**

Okay, and although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. I will mention several pairs of desirable qualities. For each pair please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have:

**94:**

**Q35**

(Would you say it's more important for a child to have) Independence or respect for elders?

- Independence ..... 1
- Respect For Elders ..... 2
- Don't know..... 8
- Refused ..... 9

**95:** **Q36**

(Would you say it's more important for a child to have) Obedience or self-reliance?

Obedience .....	1
Self-Reliance.....	2
Don't know.....	8
Refused .....	9

**96:** **Q37**

(Would you say it's more important for a child to have) Curiosity or Good Manners?

Curiosity .....	1
Good Manners.....	2
Don't know.....	8
Refused .....	9

**97:** **Q38**

(Would you say it's more important for a child) Being considerate or well behaved?

Being Considerate .....	1
Well Behaved.....	2
Don't know.....	8
Refused .....	9

**98:** **COMMS**

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

**99:** **Q39**

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

**100:** **Q40**

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

**101:**

**Q41**

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

**102:**

**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.

**103:**

**Q42**

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

**104:**

**Q43**

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

**105:**

**Q44**

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

**106:**

**Q45**

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

Republican .....	1	=> /Q46A
Democrat .....	2	=> /Q46B
Independent.....	3	=> /Q46C
Other.....	4	=> /Q47
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q47
Refused.....	9	=> /Q47

**107:**

**Q46A**

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

Strong Republican .....	1	=> /Q47
Not very strong Republican .....	2	=> /Q47
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q47
Refused.....	9	=> /Q47

**108:**

**Q46B**

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

Strong Democrat .....	1	=> /Q47
Not very strong Democrat.....	2	=> /Q47
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q47
Refused.....	9	=> /Q47

**109:**

**Q46C**

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

Closer to Republican .....	1	=> /Q47
Closer to Democrat.....	2	=> /Q47
Just Independent.....	3	=> /Q47
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q47
Refused.....	9	=> /Q47

**110:**

**Q47**

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

Liberal .....	1	=> /Q48A
Moderate.....	2	=> /Q49
Conservative .....	3	=> /Q48B
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q49
Refused .....	9	=> /Q49

**111:**

**Q48A**

Would you say you are strongly Liberal or somewhat Liberal?

Strongly Liberal .....	1	=> /Q49
Somewhat Liberal .....	2	=> /Q49
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q49
Refused .....	9	=> /Q49

**112:**

**Q48B**

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

Strongly Conservative .....	1	=> /Q49
Somewhat Conservative .....	2	=> /Q49
Don't know.....	8	=> /Q49
Refused .....	9	=> /Q49

**113:**

**Q49**

Which of the following income categories best describes your total 2008 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

**114:** **Q50**

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

**115:** **Q51**

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      => /Q53
- Something else ..... 4      => /Q53
- None ..... 5      => /Q53
- Don't know ..... 8      => /Q53
- Refused ..... 9      => /Q53

**116:** **Q52**

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

**117:** **Q53**

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

**118:** **Q54**

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

Interviewer: Include children.

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

**119:** **Q55**

Do you have any school aged children?

Interviewer: This includes children in Kindergarten through 12 grade only.

Yes ..... 1  
 No..... 2      => /Q56  
 Don't know..... 8      => /Q56  
 Refused..... 9      => /Q56

**120:** **Q55A**

How many school aged children do you have?

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

**121:** **Q56**

And what is your current employment status. Is it:

Interviewer: Select up to two.

Employed full-time..... 1  
 Employed part-time..... 2  
 Self-employed..... 3  
 Unemployed..... 4  
 Retired..... 5  
 Don't know..... 8  
 Refused..... 9

**122:** **Q57**

Are you a registered voter?

Yes ..... 1  
 No..... 2      => /Q59  
 Don't know..... 8      => /Q59  
 Refused..... 9      => /Q59

**123:**

**Q58**

And, how likely are you to vote in the next elections that take place in November 2010?  
 Are you:

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

**124:**

**Q59**

In what year were you born?

- Enter response.....
- Don't know..... 9998
- Refused ..... 9999

**125:**

**Q60**

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

**134:**

**INT99**

Thank you very much for helping us with the Arkansas Poll. Have a nice  
 day/afternoon/evening.

- Complete.....CO      => /END