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The Arkansas Poll, 2013 Summary Report

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Arkansas Poll Website: <http://plsc.uark.edu/7129.php>

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*Values in parentheses include the “very likely voters” only; may not total 100 due to rounding.

Most Important Problem

What is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today? ¹	2011	2012	2013
• the economy	67 (70)% ²	47 (48)%	44 (44)%
• healthcare	3 (3)%	15 (15)%	12 (12)%
• politicians/politics	--	--	7 (8)%
• taxes	3 (2)%	6 (5)%	7 (7)%
• education	5 (4)%	11 (12)%	5 (5)%
• drugs	3 (3)%	12 (11)%	3 (2)%
• other/don't know/refused	17 (17)%	5 (4)%	24 (22)%

Public Figure Approval Ratings

Do you approve or disapprove of the way _____ is handling his job as governor?	Approve	Disapprove	DK/Ref
Mike Huckabee 1999	66%	13%	21%
2001	70%	17%	13%
2003	47%	38%	16%
2005	58%	27%	15%
Mike Beebe 2007	70%	9%	21%
2009	70%	9%	20%
2011	72 (74)%	13 (14)%	15 (12)%
2012	71 (72)%	14 (15)%	15 (14)%
2013	66 (68)%	17 (17)%	18 (14)%
Do you approve of _____ as a U.S. Senator?			
Blanche Lincoln 2001	51%	13%	36%
2003	55%	10%	35%
2005	55%	17%	28%
2007	50%	24%	26%
2009	43%	34%	23%
John Boozman 2011	40 (44)%	24 (26)%	36 (30)%
2012	42 (45)%	17 (18)%	41 (35)%
2013	30 (34)%	28 (29)%	42 (37)%
Do you ... Mark Pryor ... as a U.S. Senator?			
2003	52%	11%	37%
2005	56%	12%	32%
2007	53%	18%	29%
2009	51%	22%	27%
2011	47 (48)%	27 (29)%	27 (21)%
2012	51 (53)%	20 (21)%	29 (26)%
2013	33 (34)%	41 (44)%	26 (23)%
Do you ... _____ ... as president?			
George W. Bush 2005	38%	56%	7%
2007	30%	65%	6%
Barack Obama 2009	42%	47%	10%
2010	35 (31)%	57 (62)%	9 (7)%
2011	32 (31)%	60 (64)%	8 (5)%
2012	34 (31)%	59 (62)%	8 (6)%
2013	27 (29)%	65 (66)%	8 (5)%

¹ In odd-numbered years, the Arkansas Poll records and codes the open-ended answers of respondents. In even-numbered years, respondents are asked to choose from the most frequently mentioned issues of the previous year.

² Values in parentheses include "very likely voters" only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Politics and Elections

Suppose the election were held today. (M)ore likely to vote for...?	R	D	Other/DK/Ref
U.S. Senate (Cotton/Pryor/Other)	32 (37)%	34 (36)%	34 (27)%
Arkansas Governor (Hutchinson/Ross/Other)	32 (35)%	30 (31)%	38 (34)%
U.S. House (generic)	32 (38)%	31 (31)%	37 (31)%
State legislative elections (generic)	36 (41)%	33 (33)%	31 (26)%
President 2016 (Hillary Clinton or Republican nominee)	44 (42)%	39 (44)%	17 (14)%
Who do you blame most for the government shutdown?			
President Obama and the Democrats			37 (39)%
Republicans in Congress			26 (27)%
Both (silent)			37 (34)%
Have you been personally affected by the government shutdown?			
Yes			20 (20)%
No			79 (79)%
Don't know/refused			2 (1)%

Current Issues

According to the Affordable Care Act, starting in January 2014, most Americans will be required to have health insurance or pay a fine. Were you aware of this before now, or not?				
Aware			89 (92)%	
Not aware			9 (7)%	
Don't Know/Refused			1 (1)%	
And will you have insurance at that time, or do you think you'll choose to pay the fine?				
Will have health insurance			88 (92)%	
Will pay the fine			5 (4)%	
Don't know/Refused			7 (5)%	
.... How familiar are you with these health insurance exchanges? Would you say you're...				
Very familiar			12 (12)%	
Somewhat familiar			27 (30)%	
Not too familiar			26 (26)%	
Not at all familiar			31 (29)%	
Don't know/Refused			4 (3)%	
First, in general, would you say you favor stricter gun control, less strict gun control, or should no change be made to existing gun control laws?	Stricter	Less Strict	No Change	DK/Refused
2000	39%	15%	42%	4%
2002	36%	15%	45%	4%
2004	38%	12%	45%	5%
2006	37%	11%	47%	5%
2008	29%	13%	54%	4%
2009	24%	20%	52%	4%
2013	33 (33)%	15 (15)%	47 (48)%	6 (4)%
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	Easier	No Change	DK/Refused
1999	45%	14%	32%	9%
2001	46%	13%	35%	7%
2003	47%	13%	33%	7%
2005	44%	9%	39%	8%
2007	41%	13%	36%	9%
2009	43%	11%	38%	8%
2013	44 (44)%	11 (11)%	34 (35)%	11 (10)%

Which of the following policy positions most closely resembles your own view regarding relationships between two people of the same sex? ³		
• Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry		
	2005	15%
	2007	16%
	2009	18%
	2011	23 (22)%
	2013	23 (24)%
• Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions or domestic partnerships, but not marry		
	2005	22%
	2007	27%
	2009	22%
	2011	20 (22)%
	2013	21 (23)%
• There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship		
	2005	54%
	2007	51%
	2009	54%
	2011	50 (51)%
	2013	46 (46)%
• don't know/refused		
	2005	9%
	2007	6%
	2009	6%
	2011	7 (6)%
	2013	9 (7)%
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:		
• allow them to remain in the United States to work for a limited amount of time?		
	2009	9%
	2011	8 (8)%
	2013	9 (9)%
• allow them to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain criteria like learning English and paying their back-taxes?		
	2009	57%
	2011	56 (57)%
	2013	59 (59)%
• deport all?		
	2009	27%
	2011	27 (28)%
	2012	26 (25)%
	2013	21 (21)%
• allow them to become permanent residents with no requirements?		
	2009	2%
	2011	3 (2)%
	2013	2 (2)%
• don't know/refused		
	2009	5%
	2011	6 (6)%
	2013	9 (8)%

³ Values in parentheses include "very likely voters" only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Do you approve ... of individuals who graduate from an AR high school but are in the U.S. illegally having access to in-state tuition ...?	Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused
2013	35 (36)%	52 (54)%	13 (10)%
(D) Do you think gays and lesbians should ... have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?	Should	Shouldn't	DK/Refused
2013	78 (81)%	12 (11)%	9 (9)%

Political Party and Ideology

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?	Republican	Democrat	Indep't	Other	DK/Refused⁴
1999	23%	35%	31%	4%	7%
2000	23 (25)%	36 (38)%	35 (34)%	0%	6 (2)%
2001	27%	33%	32%	5%	3%
2002	28 (30)%	33 (35)%	33 (31)%	3 (2)%	3 (2)%
2003	24%	38%	31%	4%	3%
2004	30 (32)%	35 (36)%	28 (27)%	3 (3)%	4 (2)%
2005	23%	36%	33%	4%	4%
2006	23 (25)%	36 (37)%	33 (33)%	3 (3)%	4 (3)%
2007	24%	39%	30%	3%	2%
2008	24 (27)%	35 (34)%	33 (33)%	7 (5)%	2 (1)%
2009	24%	33%	34%	7%	3%
2010	21 (25)%	28 (27)%	42 (41)%	7 (6)%	3 (1)%
2011	26 (29)%	31 (33)%	34 (31)%	6 (5)%	4 (2)%
2012	29 (32)%	31 (30)%	33 (32)%	3 (3)%	4 (3)%
2013	24 (27)%	30 (31)%	37 (36)%	4 (3)%	5 (3)%
Independents only: Do you think of yourself ...?	Closer to Republican	Closer to Democrat	Just Indep't		DK/Refused
1999	33%	29%	34%		4%
2000	35 (39)%	25 (26)%	35 (30)%		5 (2)%
2001	29%	36%	31%		4%
2002	30 (31)%	32 (34)%	33 (33)%		4 (3)%
2003	33%	34%	33%		2%
2004	39 (41)%	31 (32)%	30 (26)%		0 (1)%
2005	30%	35%	32%		4%
2006	33 (35)%	34 (34)%	30 (23)%		2 (3)%
2007	34%	37%	29%		1%
2008	35 (38)%	30 (29)%	33 (31)%		3 (3)%
2009	39%	32%	27%		2%
2010	44 (50)%	21 (16)%	33 (33)%		2 (2)%
2011	42 (48)%	29 (28)%	26 (22)%		3 (2)%
2012	41 (46)%	26 (22)%	28 (27)%		6 (5)%
2013	43 (51)%	21 (22)%	31 (22)%		6 (6)%
Do you think of yourself as ...?	Liberal	Moderate	Conserv'e		DK/Ref
1999	14%	38%	38%		10%
2000	16%	36%	39%		9%
2001	17%	39%	38%		6%
2002	15%	39%	41%		5%
2003	17%	36%	39%		7%

⁴ Values in parentheses include "very likely voters" only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

2004	17%	35%	42%		7%
2005	13%	40%	39%		8%
2006	16%	39%	39%		7%
2007	16%	37%	39%		6%
2008	14%	35%	43%		8%
2009	14%	37%	42%		7%
2010	14 (12)%	35 (36)%	44 (48)%		8 (4)%
2011	16 (16)%	34 (34)%	45 (47)%		5 (3)%
2012	13 (12)%	32 (32)%	46 (51)%		9 (6)%
2013	14 (14)%	31 (31)%	44 (48)%		11 (7)%

Life in Arkansas

Overall, do you feel that Arkansas is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/ Refused ⁵
2003	63%	26%		11%
2005	73%	18%		9%
2007	69%	21%		8%
2008	71%	19%		10%
2009	72%	16%		12%
2010	67 (68)%	22 (21)%		11 (11)%
2011	74 (76)%	20 (19)%		7 (6)%
2012	73 (74)%	17 (17)%		10 (9)%
2013	63 (66)%	20 (20)%		16 (14)%
Would you say you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?	Better	About the Same	Worse	DK/ Refused
2003	27%	45%	28%	1%
2005	28%	49%	22%	1%
2007	30%	48%	20%	1%
2008	20%	38%	41%	1%
2009	22%	46%	31%	2%
2010	19 (18)%	46 (47)%	34 (35)%	1 (0)%
2011	19 (19)%	49 (49)%	31 (32)%	1 (1)%
2012	23 (24)%	49 (50)%	27 (26)%	0 (1)%
2013	14 (14)%	58 (58)%	26 (26)%	2 (1)%
And, looking ahead, do you think a year from now, you will be ... as now?	Better	About the Same	Worse	DK/ Refused
2003	35%	49%	12%	5%
2005	34%	46%	15%	5%
2007	38%	45%	12%	3%
2008	35%	39%	18%	8%
2009	32%	48%	17%	4%
2010	28 (25)%	46 (45)%	20 (23)%	7 (7)%
2011	25 (21)%	52 (56)%	18 (20)%	4 (4)%
2012	26 (27)%	48 (46)%	13 (13)%	13 (14)%
2013	18 (18)%	47 (49)%	24 (25)%	11 (8)%

⁵ Values in parentheses include “very likely voters” only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 10th and October 17th Issues & Answers Network, Inc. completed 800 telephone surveys among a random sample of adult Arkansans. Twenty percent of all respondents interviewed (n=160) use their cell phones for all or most of their calls.

The survey's margin of error statewide is +/- 3.5 percentage points, meaning that we are 95 percent confident that the actual result lies within 3.5 percentage points (in either direction) of the result our sample produced.

Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll's overall cooperation rate was 27% (29% for landline calls and 22% for cell phone calls). This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted.

To assess the representativeness of the sample drawn for the poll, the Arkansas Poll team publishes what most polling organizations do not: a comparison of survey respondents' key demographic characteristics to those of the state as a whole. This information is reported in the table below.

	2013 Arkansas Poll Sample	State of Arkansas
Average Age Category (for 18+ pop.)	55-64	45-54
Married	58%	51%
Gender		
Male	40%	49%
Female	60%	51%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduates	88%	84%
College graduates	35%	19%
Median Household Income	\$35,001-\$50,000	\$38,307
Race/Ethnicity		
White	83%	77%
Black or African American	9%	15%
Multi-Ethnic	1%	2%
Hispanic	1%	6%*
Native American	2%	1%
Asian	1%	1%
Something Else, Don't Know, Refused	8%	-

Sources: The 2013 Arkansas Poll, 2011 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census.

**Hispanics may be of any race, so these respondents also are included in applicable race categories.*