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The Arkansas Poll, 2019
Summary Report

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Note: Numbers in parentheses include results for "very likely voters" only. Results for past years are selective in the interest of space. Visit the Arkansas Poll website for more: http://fulbright.uark.edu/departments/political-science/partners/arkansas-poll.php.

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Most Important Problem

What is the most important issue facing people in AR today?[1]	2017	2018	2019
• The economy	28 (29)%	15 (13)%	29 (28)%
• Healthcare	14 (13)%	23 (22)%	9 (10)%
• Education	4 (4)%	16 (17)%	8 (9)%
• Politicians/politics	4 (5)%	13 (13)%	8 (9)%
• Drugs	8 (7)%	21 (22)%	8 (8)%
• Taxes/Big Government	3 (3)%	--	5 (4)%
• Other/don't know/refused	35 (35)%	4 (3)%	34 (30)%

Public Figure Approval Ratings/Elections

Do you approve or disapprove of _____ 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)%
2013	66 (68)%	17 (17)%	18 (14)%
Asa Hutchinson 2015	57 (63)%	18 (17)%	25 (20)%
2016	60 (66)%	17 (18)%	23 (16)%
2017	62 (65)%	16 (16)%	23 (19)%
2018	61 (63)%	23 (25)%	17 (12)%
2019	61 (65)%	19 (21)%	21 (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)%
2013	30 (34)%	28 (29)%	42 (37)%
2015	38 (44)%	18 (18)%	44 (38%)
2017	39 (41)%	22 (25)%	39 (34)%
2018	43 (43)%	32 (37)%	25 (20)%
2019	39 (42)%	24 (27)%	36 (31)%

Do you approve of _____ as a U.S. Senator?			
Mark Pryor 2003	52%	11%	37%
2005	56%	12%	32%
2007	53%	18%	29%
2009	51%	22%	27%
2011	47 (48)%	27 (29)%	27 (21)%
2013	33 (34)%	41 (44)%	26 (23)%
Tom Cotton 2015	45 (51)%	27 (27)%	29 (21)%
2017	48 (51)%	26 (29)%	26 (20)%
2018	46 (48)%	37 (40)%	17 (12)%
2019	45 (51)%	30 (33)%	25 (16)%

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[1] In odd-numbered years, the Arkansas Poll records 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.

Do you approve of _____ as president?			
George W. Bush 2005	38%	56%	7%
2007	30%	65%	6%
Barack Obama 2009	42%	47%	10%
2011	32 (31)%	60 (64)%	8 (5)%
2013	27 (29)%	65 (66)%	8 (5)%
2015	28 (27)%	62 (66)%	11 (7)%
Donald Trump 2017	47 (50)%	40 (41)%	14 (9)%
2018	50 (53)%	46 (44)%	4 (3)%
2019	50 (53)%	45 (44)%	5 (3)%
And what about Sarah Huckabee Sanders? Did you approve /disapprove of _____ as White House Press Secretary?			
2019	50 (54)%	31 (33)%	19 (13)%

Current Issues

Do you favor laws that would make it more difficult/easier to get an abortion, or no change to existing laws?	More Difficult	Easier	No Change	DK/ Ref
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)%
2014	40 (40)%	11 (12)%	37 (38)%	12 (10)%
2015	46 (47)%	12 (12)%	30 (30)%	12 (11)%
2016	46 (48)%	13 (14)%	32 (33)%	10 (5)%
2017	45 (47)%	13 (13)%	25 (24)%	17 (16)%
2018	38 (38)%	20 (21)%	36 (36)%	6 (5)%
2019	41 (41)%	21 (21)%	31 (31)%	8 (8)%
	Yes	No		DK/Ref
Do you support the death penalty as the punishment for people convicted of murder?				
2015	71 (73)%	19 (17)%		10 (10)%
2018	72 (73)%	17 (16)%		11 (11)%
2019	66 (69)%	23 (21)%		11 (10)%
Do you think global warming, or climate change, will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?				
2015	25 (24)%	65 (67)%		10 (9)%
2016	25 (25)%	64 (67)%		11 (7)%
2017	30 (29)%	61 (62)%		10 (9)%
2018	46 (46)%	44 (45)%		11 (9)%
2019	31 (30)%	64 (66)%		6 (5)%
Is the seriousness of global warming, or climate change…	2015	2016	2017	2019
Generally underestimated	22 (20)%	26 (25)%	27 (26)%	32 (31)%
Generally correct	21 (20)%	21 (22)%	17 (15)%	20 (20)%
Generally exaggerated	46 (50)%	41 (45)%	47 (51)%	43 (44)%
Don't know/refused	11 (11)%	13 (9)%	9 (8)%	6 (5)%

Gun Policy: Arkansas and the Nation

Would you say you favor stricter gun control, less strict gun control, or should no change be made to existing laws?	Stricter	Less Strict	No Change	DK/Ref
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)%
2014	32 (31)%	19 (21)%	43 (43)%	6 (5)%
2015	39 (36)%	18 (18)%	36 (38)%	8 (8)%
2016	31 (31)%	14 (14)%	52 (53)%	3 (3)%
2017	38 (37)%	15 (15)%	41 (43)%	6 (5)%
2018	44 (44)%	10 (10)%	43 (44)%	4 (3)%
2019 (Arkansas sample)	44 (44)%	10 (11)%	43 (42)%	3 (3)%
2019 (national sample)[2]	60%	11%	28%	1%

Do you think it is more important to protect gun rights or control gun violence?	Protect Rights	Control Violence	DK/Ref
Arkansas sample	42 (44)%	50 (48)%	8 (8)%
National sample[3]	39 (39)%	55 (56)%	6 (5)%

Do you think **Congress** should pass legislation to…	Should	Should Not	DK/Ref
• Increase funding for mental health screening and treatment			
Arkansas sample	90 (90)%	7 (7)%	2 (3)%
National sample	89 (89)%	9 (9)%	3 (3)%
• Require background checks for gun purchases at gun shows/pvt sales?			
Arkansas sample	85 (85)%	13 (13)%	2 (2)%
National sample	83 (84)%	14 (14)%	3 (2)%
• Create a national red flag law …			
Arkansas sample	76 (74)%	20 (22)%	4 (4)%
National sample	72 (73)%	23 (23)%	5 (4)%
• Require individuals to obtain a license to purchase a gun			
Arkansas sample	67 (65)%	30 (32)%	3 (3)%
National sample	72 (72)%	25 (24)%	3 (4)%
• Ban the purchase of high capacity ammunition magazines			
Arkansas sample	54 (54)%	40 (41)%	6 (6)%
National sample	61 (61)%	34 (34)%	5 (5)%
• Ban the sale of semi-automatic assault guns			
Arkansas sample	56 (56)%	41 (42)%	3 (3)%
National sample	57 (58)%	39 (38)%	3 (4)%
• Create a mandatory buyback program of assault guns			
Arkansas sample	41 (39)%	50 (53)%	9 (9)%
National sample	45 (44)%	46 (47)%	9 (9)%
• Allow schoolteachers to carry guns			
Arkansas sample	52 (54)%	44 (41)%	4 (4)%
National sample	37 (38)%	57 (57)%	5 (5)%

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[2] Pew Research from September 2019; available at: https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FT_19.10.16_GunLaws_Topline.pdf

[3] NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist Poll National, September 5th through September 8th, 2019; available at: http://maristpoll.marist.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NPR_PBS-NewsHour_Marist-Poll-USA-NOS-and-Tables_1909091400.pdf#page=3

And what about the **Arkansas legislature**? Do you approve or disapprove of recent gun-related legislation here including…	Approve	Disapprove	DK/Ref
• Reducing the cost of a concealed-carry handgun license	53 (53)%	41 (41)%	7 (7)%
• Permitting ownership of machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, silencers	22 (23)%	72 (70)%	6 (7)%
• Allowing people with enhanced-carry permits to take concealed handguns onto college campuses	40 (43)%	54 (52)%	5 (6)%
• Allowing people with enhanced-carry permits to take concealed handguns into bars	25 (26)%	72 (71)%	4 (4)%
• Allowing people with enhanced-carry permits to take concealed handguns into church	50 (54)%	48 (43)%	3 (3)%
• Allowing people with enhanced-carry permits to take concealed handguns into most public buildings	52 (56)%	46 (42)%	3 (2)%

Immigration Policy: Arkansas and the Nation

Do you favor or oppose…	Favor	Oppose	DK/ Ref
… allowing immigrants living in the U.S. illegally the chance to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain requirements over a period of time?			
Arkansas sample	79 (79)%	19 (19)%	2 (2)%
National sample[4]	81%	18%	
… hiring significantly more border patrol agents?			
Arkansas sample	73 (76)%	20 (18)%	7 (6)%
National sample	75%	24%	1%
… significantly expanding the construction of walls along the U.S.-Mexico border?			
Arkansas sample	55 (55)%	42 (41)%	4 (3)%
National sample	40%	60%	1%
… deporting all immigrants who are living in the U.S. illegally back to their home country?			
Arkansas sample	48 (48)%	44 (44)%	8 (8)%
National sample	37%	61%	2%

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[4] From Gallup, January 2019; available at: https://news.gallup.com/file/poll/246464/20190204Immigration.pdf

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/ Refused[5]
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)%
2014	28 (31)%	31 (33)%	33 (33)%	3 (3)%	5 (1)%
2015	27 (32)%	32 (32)%	32 (31)%	3 (3)%	6 (3)%
2016	29 (34)%	25 (26)%	37 (36)%	3 (2)%	7 (3)%
2017	29 (32)%	24 (25)%	35 (35)%	5 (5)%	7 (4)%
2018	32 (34)%	28 (27)%	32 (32)%	6 (6)%	3 (3)%
2019	35 (38)%	23 (25)%	31 (29)%	9 (7)%	2 (1)%

Independents only:	Closer to Rs	Closer to Ds	Just Indep't		DK/Ref
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)%
2014	38 (43)%	25 (23)%	30 (28%)		8 (6)%
2015	42(52)%	23 (20)%	30 (25)%		5 (3)%
2016	37 (45)%	18 (19)%	40 (35)%		5 (2)%
2017	37 (38)%	26 (26)%	32 (31)%		5 (5)%
2018	39 (43)%	25 (25)%	35 (32)%		2 (1)%
2019	40 (43)%	27 (31)%	31 (27)%		2 (0)%

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

Do you think of yourself as …?	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative		DK/Ref
2008	14 (14)%	35 (36)%	43 (44)%		8 (6)%
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)%
2014	14 (14)%	30 (31)%	44 (49)%		12 (6)%
2015	14 (13)%	31 (32)%	46 (50)%		10 (6)%
2016	13 (14)%	29 (30)%	45 (49)%		14 (7)%
2017	16 (14)%	27 (27)%	46 (52)%		11 (6)%
2018	20 (21)%	28 (27)%	47 (48)%		6 (3)%
2019	14 (14)%	34 (34)%	46 (47)%		7 (5)%

Life in Arkansas

Do you feel AR is headed in the right or wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/ Ref[6]
2008	71 (73)%	19 (18)%		10 (9)%
2010	67 (68)%	22 (21)%		11 (11)%
2012	73 (74)%	17 (17)%		10 (9)%
2014	57 (60)%	25 (27)%		18 (14)%
2016	57 (63)%	26 (27%)		17 (11)%
2017	64 (65)%	20 (20)%		17 (15)%
2018	69 (68)%	24 (25)%		8 (7)%
2019	71 (73)%	20 (20)%		9 (7)%
Financially better/worse/about same compared to last year?	Better	Same	Worse	DK/Ref
2008	20 (20)%	38 (38)%	41 (41)%	1 (1)%
2010	19 (18)%	46 (47)%	34 (35)%	1 (0)%
2012	23 (24)%	49 (50)%	27 (26)%	0 (1)%
2014	22 (22)%	50 (52)%	24 (25)%	5 (1)%
2016	21 (20)%	55 (56)%	22 (23)%	3 (1)%
2017	28 (28)%	54 (57)%	16 (14)%	2 (1)%
2018	35 (38)%	52 (50)%	12 (12)%	1 (0)%
2019	34 (35)%	52 (51)%	13 (13)%	1 (1)%
A year from now, will you be better/worse/same financially?	Better	Same	Worse	DK/Ref
2008	35 (35)%	39 (40)%	18 (18)%	8 (8)%
2010	28 (25)%	46 (45)%	20 (23)%	7 (7)%
2012	26 (27)%	48 (46)%	13 (13)%	13 (14)%
2014	26 (26)%	51 (54)%	13 (14)%	10 (7)%
2016	27 (26)%	46 (50)%	13 (12)%	15 (13)%
2017	32 (33)%	50 (51)%	11 (10)%	8 (6)%
2018	40 (41)%	50 (49)%	9 (9)%	2 (2)%
2019	35 (35)%	52 (53)%	8 (8)%	4 (4)%
How many days in the past week did you read a daily newspaper?	Zero	Seven	1-6	DK/Ref
2014	27 (25)%	36 (41)%	31 (31)%	7 (3)%
2016	41 (37)%	30 (33)%	25 (29)%	4 (1)%
2017	44 (40)%	28 (32)%	26 (27)%	2 (1)%
2018	43 (41)%	27 (28)%	24 (24)%	7 (6)%
2019	53 (49)%	20 (23)%	26 (27)%	2 (1)%

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

Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 12th and October 24th, 2019, Issues & Answers Network, Inc. completed 811 telephone interviews among a random sample of adult Arkansans. Forty percent of all respondents interviewed 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 44% This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted.[7] As in past years, the sample was provided by Dynata.

To assess the representativeness of the sample drawn for the poll, the Arkansas Poll team publishes what many 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.

	2019 Arkansas Poll Sample	State of Arkansas
Average Age Category (for 18+ pop.)	51	48.6
Married	51%	49%**
Gender		
Male	49%	49%
Female	51%	51%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduates	94%	85%
College graduates	36%	22%
Median Household Income Category	$35,001-$50,000	$42,336
Race/Ethnicity		
White	77%	73%
Black or African American	12%	16%
Multi-Ethnic	4%	2%
Hispanic	2%	8%*
Native American	2%	1%
Asian	<1%	2%
Something Else, Don't Know, Refused	2%	-

Sources: The 2019 Arkansas Poll, U.S. Census Bureau 2016/2017 estimates.

Hispanics are not included in percentages for other groups.
** *Imputed by dividing number of husband-wife households by total households.*

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[7] AAPOR Response Rate Calculator 4.0 was used for this computation.