

CONTACTS: Janine Parry, Poll Director, 479-575-6439 or 479-409-0968, parry@uark.edu
Rodney L. Engen, Arkansas Poll collaborative researcher, Sociology, 479-575-7037, rengen@uark.edu
Amy Schlesing, Science and Research Communication Officer, 479-575-2683, amys@uark.edu

The Arkansas Poll, 2015 Summary Report

Dr. Janine A. Parry
Poll Director, Professor of Political Science

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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Arkansas Poll Website: <http://fulbright.uark.edu/departments/political-science/partners/arkansas-poll.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	2013	2014	2015
• the economy	44 (44)%	32 (34)%	43 (47)%
• healthcare	12 (12)%	18 (21)%	8 (10)%
• politicians/politics	7 (8)%	18 (21)%	5 (6)%
• taxes	7 (7)%	5 (4)%	4 (4)%
• education	5 (5)%	10 (10)%	5 (4)%
• crime	1 (1)%	--	4 (3)%
• other/don't know/refused	26 (23)%	7 (6)%	31 (27)%

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)%
2012	71 (72)%	14 (15)%	15 (14)%
2013	66 (68)%	17 (17)%	18 (14)%
2014	67 (70)%	18 (18)%	16 (12)%
Asa Hutchinson 2015	57 (63)%	18 (17%)	25 (20)%
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)%
2014	38 (41)%	21 (23)%	42 (38)%
2015	38 (44)%	18 (18)%	44 (38%)
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)%
2012	51 (53)%	20 (21)%	29 (26)%
2013	33 (34)%	41 (44)%	26 (23)%
2014	32 (33)%	50 (54)%	18 (13)%
Tom Cotton 2015	45 (51)%	27 (27)%	29 (21)%

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.

Do you approve of _____ 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)%
	2014	27 (27)%	66 (68)%	8 (5)%
	2015	28 (27)%	62 (66)%	11 (7)%

	Republican	Democrat	DK/Ref
(presidential race) As of today, are you more likely to vote for...?	42 (50)%	32 (31)%	26 (19%)

State Services

Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the...	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied	DK/Ref
Present condition of roads and highways in our state	40 (41)%	6 (6)%	52 (52)%	2 (1)%
	2015	43%	n/a	57%
	2003			1%
Parks and recreation facilities in our state	78 (80)%	3 (3)%	12 (11)%	8 (5)%
	2015	87%	n/a	10%
	2003			3%
Colleges and universities in our state	71 (72)%	5 (6)%	12 (12)%	12 (10)%
	2015	79%	n/a	11%
	2003			10%
Public welfare system in our state	27 (24)%	7 (6)%	50 (53)%	17 (17)%
	2015	30%	n/a	50%
	2003			20%
The K through 12 th grade public schools in our state	54 (55)%	5 (5)%	27 (26)%	14 (13)%
	2015	50%	n/a	41%
	2003			9%
The quality of state and local government service for the taxes you pay	50 (53)%	6 (5)%	38 (38)%	6 (4)%
	2015	52%	n/a	44%
	2003			4%

Current Issues

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
	45%	14%	32%	9%
1999				
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)%

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)%
2014	32 (31)%	19 (21)%	43 (43)%	6 (5)%
2015	39 (36)%	18 (18)%	36 (38)%	8 (8)%

	Support/Yes	Oppose/No	DK/Ref
Generally speaking, do you support or oppose an 'open carry' law?	51 (52)%	40 (39)%	9 (9)%
Do you think same-sex marriages should be recognized?	29 (27)%	63 (64)%	8 (8)%
Do you think gays and lesbians should have equal rights ... housing?	72 (72)%	19 (19)%	9 (10)%
Do you think gays and lesbians should have equal rights ... jobs?	79 (80)%	13 (12)%	8 (8)%
Do you support the death penalty ... for people convicted of murder?	71 (73)%	19 (17)%	10 (10)%
Do you favor allowing patients to use marijuana for medical purposes if supported by their medical doctor?			
(ballot measure) 2012	44 (43)%	52 (53)%	5 (5)%
2015	68 (68)%	26 (27)%	6 (6)%
Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of it?		2014	2015
Favorable	27 (28)%	28 (27)%	
Unfavorable	55 (58)%	51 (53)%	
Don't Know/Refused	19 (15)%	22 (20)%	
Thinking about what is said in the news, in your view is the seriousness of global warming, or climate change...			
Generally underestimated	--	22 (20)%	
Generally correct	--	21 (20)%	
Generally exaggerated	--	46 (50)%	
Don't Know/Refused	--	11 (11)%	
Do you think global warming, or climate change, will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?			
Yes	--	25 (24)%	
No	--	65 (67)%	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	--	10 (9)%	
Do you believe increases to the Earth's temperature ... are due more to...?			
Human activities	--	39 (37)%	
Natural causes	--	45 (48)%	
Don't Know/Refused	--	16 (15)%	
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?	2006		
Urgent problem	44 (46)%	--	
Longer-term problem	46 (46)%	--	
Don't Know/Refused/Other	10 (9)%	--	

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?	2011	8 (8)%
	2013	9 (9)%
	2015	6 (7)%
• allow them to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain criteria like learning English and paying their back-taxes?	2011	56 (57)%
	2013	59 (59)%
	2015	60 (59)%
• deport all?	2011	27 (28)%
	2013	21 (21)%
	2015	25 (26)%
• allow them to become permanent residents with no requirements?	2011	3 (2)%
	2013	2 (2)%
	2015	4 (3)%
• don't know/refused	2011	6 (6)%
	2013	9 (8)%
	2015	6 (%)%

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 ²
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)%

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

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)%
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%
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)%
2014	14 (14)%	30 (31)%	44 (49)%		12 (6)%
2015	14 (13)%	31 (32)%	46 (50)%		10 (6)%

Life in Arkansas

Overall, do you feel that Arkansas is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/Refused ³
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)%
2014	57 (60)%	25 (27)%		18 (14)%
2015	65 (69)%	21 (20)%		15 (12)%

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

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)%
2014	22 (22)%	50 (52)%	24 (25)%	5 (1)%
2015	18 (18)%	54 (55)%	26 (27)%	1 (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)%
2014	26 (26)%	51 (54)%	13 (14)%	10 (7)%
2015	22 (20)%	55 (58)%	18 (19)%	5 (4)%

Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 19th and October 25th Issues & Answers Network, Inc. completed 800 telephone surveys among a random sample of adult Arkansans. Twenty-five percent of all respondents interviewed (n=200) use their cell phones for all or most of their calls.

The survey's margin of error for the full sample 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. The margin of error for self-identified "very likely voters" only is

Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll's overall cooperation rate was 28% (30% for landline calls and 24% 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.

	2015 Arkansas Poll Sample	State of Arkansas
Average Age Category (for 18+ pop.)	55-64	45-54
Married	51%	51%
Gender		
Male	44%	49%
Female	56%	51%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduates	89%	84%
College graduates	36%	19%
Median Household Income	\$35,001-\$50,000	\$38,307
Race/Ethnicity		
White	81%	77%
Black or African American	10%	15%
Multi-Ethnic	3%	2%
Hispanic	1%	6%*
Native American	2%	1%
Asian	0.3%	1%
Something Else, Don't Know, Refused	4%	-

Sources: The 2015 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.