CONTACTS: Janine Parry, Poll Director, 479-575-6439 or 479-409-0968, parry@uark.edu
Bob Whitby, Science and Research Writer/Editor, 479-575-4737, whitby@uark.edu
Jacquelyn Wiersma-Mosely, 479-575-4688, jwiersma@uark.edu (intercultural comfort/competency)

The Arkansas Poll, 2020
Summary Report

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

Member: American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR)

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.

Table of Contents

Most Important Problem

What is the most important issue facing people in AR today?[1]	2017	2018	2019	2020
• Healthcare	14 (13)%	23 (22)%	9 (10)%	23 (24)%
• The economy	28 (29)%	15 (13)%	29 (28)%	23 (23)%
• Politicians/politics	4 (5)%	13 (13)%	8 (9)%	21 (20)%
• Drugs	8 (7)%	21 (22)%	8 (8)%	15 ()%
• Education	4 (4)%	16 (17)%	8 (9)%	9 (9)%
• Taxes/Big Government	3 (3)%	--	5 (4)%	6 (7)%
• Other/don't know/refused	35 (35)%	4 (3)%	34 (30)%	4 (4)%

---

[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.

Public Figure Approval Ratings/Elections

Do you approve or disapprove of _____ as governor?	Approve	Disapprove	DK/Ref
Mike Huckabee 2004	58%	29%	12%
2005	58%	27%	15%
2006	55%	32%	13%
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)%
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)%
2020	69 (70)%	25 (25)%	6 (4)%
Do you approve of _____ as a U.S. Senator?			
Blanche Lincoln 2009	43%	34%	23%
2010	30 (31)%	53 (59)%	17 (11)%
John Boozman 2011	40 (44)%	24 (26)%	36 (30)%
2013	30 (34)%	28 (29)%	42 (37)%
2015	38 (44)%	18 (18)%	44 (38%)
2016	35 (38)%	25 (29)%	40 (33)%
2017	39 (41)%	22 (25)%	39 (34)%
2018	43 (43)%	32 (37)%	25 (20)%
2019	39 (42)%	24 (27)%	36 (31)%
2020	50 (52)%	27 (26)%	23 (22)%
Do you approve of _____ as a U.S. Senator?			
Mark Pryor 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)%
2016	45 (50)%	27 (29)%	28 (21)%
2017	48 (51)%	26 (29)%	26 (20)%
2018	46 (48)%	37 (40)%	17 (12)%
2019	45 (51)%	30 (33)%	25 (16)%
2020	58 (62)%	32 (31)%	10 (7)%
Do you approve of _____ as president?			
George W. Bush 2008	27%	67%	7%
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)%
2016	37 (36)%	56 (60)%	8 (4)%
Donald Trump 2017	47 (50)%	40 (41)%	14 (9)%
2018	50 (53)%	46 (44)%	4 (3)%
2019	50 (53)%	45 (44)%	5 (3)%
2020	58 (63)%	40 (36)%	2 (1)%

Statewide Ballot Measures[2]	Favor	Oppose	
Referred Am. 1 – ½ percent sales tax for roads and highways	62%	38%	
Referred Am. 2 – amending term limits	60%	40%	
Referred Am. 3 – amending direct democracy process	41%	59%	
Arkansas presidential preference 2020[3]	**Trump (R)**	**Biden (D)**	**Other**
At this point, are you more likely to vote for …?	65%	32%	3%
Arkansas U.S. Senate preference 2020[4]	**Cotton (R)**	**Harrington (L)**	**Other**
At this point, are you more likely to vote for …?	75%	20%	5%

Current Issues

And how would you rate the job each of the following is doing responding to the coronavirus outbreak?	Excellent	Good	Only Fair	Poor	DK/Ref
President Trump	32 (37)%	22 (22)%	9 (7)%	36 (33)%	0 (0)%
State elected officials	12 (14)%	39 (40)%	28 (27)%	18 (17)%	3 (3)%
Your local elected officials	14 (16)%	44 (44)%	23 (22)%	16 (15)%	4 (3)%
Hospitals and medical centers in your area	33 (34)%	44 (44)%	13 (13)%	6 (5)%	4 (4)%

From what you've read and heard, how do you feel about the Black Lives Matter Movement? Do you….			
Strongly support	23 (23)%		
Somewhat support	23 (21)%		
Somewhat oppose	13 (12)%		
Strongly oppose	35 (40)%		
Don't know/refused	5 (3)%		

---

[2] Total ample for these items only 405 (making the margin of error +/- 4.8 points). Respondents offering "don't know" or who refused to answer are removed from the analysis on these items; very likely voters only.
[3] Respondents offering "don't know" or who refused to answer are removed from the analysis on this item; very likely voters only.
[4] Respondents offering "don't know" or who refused to answer are removed from the analysis on this item; very likely voters only.

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)%
2020	45 (50)%	15 (14)%	35 (32)%	7 (5)%

Do you think abortions should be legal/illegal under any circumstances, or legal only under certain circumstances?	Illegal	Depends	Legal	DK/Ref
2017	18 (18)%	61 (63)%	13 (13)%	8 (5)%
2018	17 (16)%	58 (57)%	21 (23)%	5 (5)%
2020	23 (24)%	59 (60)%	16 (14)%	2 ()%

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	44 (44)%	10 (11)%	43 (42)%	3 (3)%
2020	32 (30)%	17 (17)%	49 (51)%	2 (1)%

Do you think global warming, or climate change, will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?	Yes/Do	No/Don't	DK/Ref
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)%
2020	37 (33)%	61 (64)%	2 (2)%

Please tell me if you do, or do not, _____ to help protect the environment:			
East less meat	39 (37)%	59 (61)%	2 (1)%
Drive less/carpool	55 (52)%	43 (46)%	2 (2)%
Reduce your feed waste	81 (81)%	18 (18)%	1 (1)%
Use fewer single-use plastics (e.g., plastic bags, straws, etc.)	65 (64)%	33 (34)%	3 (3)%
Reduce the amount of water you use	63 (61)%	36 (37)%	2 (2)%
Recycle	73 (73)%	27 (27)%	0 (0)%

Intercultural Comfort[5]

Level of Intercultural Comfort/"Competence"	Low	High
Education		
No High School	75%	25%
Some High School	77%	23%
High School Graduate	59%	41%
Some College or Associates Degree	43%	57%
College Graduate	36%	64%
Graduate School	44%	56%
Income		
$7,500 or less	53%	47%
$7,501 to $15,000	60%	40%
$15,001 to $25,000	54%	46%
$25,001 to $35,000	51%	49%
$35,001 to $50,000	49%	51%
$50,001 to $75,000	46%	54%
$75,001 to $100,000	41%	59%
$100,000 or over	35%	65%
Ideology		
Conservative	54%	46%
Moderate	47%	53%
Liberal	36%	63%
Black Lives Matter Movement		
Strongly Oppose	54%	46%
Somewhat Oppose	60%	49%
Somewhat Support	46%	54%
Strongly Support	32%	68%

Battery of items used (strongly disagree to strongly agree):
1. I think people from other cultures are narrow-minded.
2. I am pretty sure of myself in interacting with people from different cultures.
3. I find it very hard to talk in front of people from different cultures.
4. I always know what to say when interacting with people from different cultures.
5. I can be as sociable as I want to be when interacting with people from different cultures.
6. I don't like to be with people from different cultures.
7. I respect the values of people from different cultures.
8. I feel confident when interacting with people from different cultures.
9. I respect the ways people from different cultures behave.
10. I would not accept the opinions of people from different cultures.
11. I think my culture is better than other cultures.

---

[5] Some categories contain a small number of respondents; margin of error increases as the number of respondents decreases.

Political Party and Ideology

Do you think of yourself as …?	Republican	Democrat	Indep't	Other	DK/Ref[6]
1999	23 (26)%	35 (39%)	31 (29)%	4 (4)%	7 (3)%
2000	23 (25)%	36 (38)%	35 (34)%	0 (0)%	6 (2)%
2001	27 (na)%	33% (na)%	32 (na)%	5 (na)%	3 (na)%
2002	28 (30)%	33 (35)%	33 (31)%	3 (2)%	3 (2)%
2003	24 (27)%	38 (38)%	31 (30)%	4 (3)%	3 (2)%
2004	30 (32)%	35 (36)%	28 (27)%	3 (3)%	4 (2)%
2005	23 (25)%	36 (38)%	33 (32)%	4 (3)%	4 (2)%
2006	23 (25)%	36 (37)%	33 (33)%	3 (3)%	4 (3)%
2007	24 27)%	39 (39)%	30 (29)%	3 (3)%	2 (2)%
2008	24 (27)%	35 (34)%	33 (33)%	7 (5)%	2 (1)%
2009	24 (26)%	33 (33)%	34 (34)%	7 (5)%	3 (1)%
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)%
2020	40 (44)%	21 (20)%	33 (29)%	6 (6)%	1 (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)%
2020	45 (52)%	32 (30)%	19 (15)%		4 (4)%

---

[6] 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)%
2020	17 (16)%	31 (30)%	49 (52)%		4 (2)%

Life in Arkansas

Do you feel AR is headed in the right or wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/ Ref[7]
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)%
2020	77 (79)%	19 (17)%		4 (4)%
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)%
2020	34 (38)%	48 (46)%	18 (16)%	0 (0)%
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)%
2020	34 (36)%	53 (51)%	6 (5)%	7 (7)%

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

Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 9th and October 21st, 2020, Issues & Answers Network, Inc. completed 804 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.

Unless otherwise noted, the margin of error is +/- 3.4 percentage points, meaning we are 95 percent confident that the actual result lies within 3.4 percentage points (in either direction) of the result our sample produced. The findings in parentheses are for self-identified "very likely voters" only (N=591); the margin of error is +/- 3.9 percentage points.

Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll's overall cooperation rate was 46% This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted.[8] As in past years, the sample was provided by MSG (Marketing Systems Group).

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.

	2020 Arkansas Poll Sample	State of Arkansas
Average Age Category (for 18+ pop.)	64	49
Married	55%	49%**
Gender		
Male	45%	49%
Female	55%	51%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduates	93%	85%
College graduates	32%	22%
Median Household Income Category	$35,001-$50,000	$42,336
Race/Ethnicity		
White	81%	73%
Black or African American	9%	16%
Multi-Ethnic	4%	2%
Hispanic	2%	8%*
Native American	2%	1%
Asian	<1%	2%
Something Else, Don't Know, Refused	2%	-

Sources: The 2020 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.

---

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