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The Arkansas Poll, 2021 Summary Report

Member: American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR)

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Interviews conducted by: Issues & Answers Network, Inc.
 Project sponsored by: The Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society

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	2019	2020	2021
• The economy	29 (28)% ²	23 (23)%	22 (23)%
• Healthcare	9 (10)%	23 (24)%	12 (7)%
• Politicians/politics	8 (9)%	21 (20)%	10 (11)%
• Education	8 (9)%	9 (9)%	4 (4)%
• Drugs	8 (8)%	15 ()%	3 (2)%
• Taxes/Big Government	5 (4)%	6 (7)%	4 (5)%
• Other/don't know/refused	34 (30)%	4 (4)%	45 (40)%

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.

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

Public Figure Approval Ratings/Elections

Do you approve or disapprove of _____ as governor?	Approve	Disapprove	DK/Ref
Mike Huckabee 1999	66%	13%	21%
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)%
2020	69 (70)%	25 (25)%	6 (4)%
2021	57 (60)%	26 (28)%	17 (12)%
Do you approve of _____ as a U.S. Senator?			
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)%
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)%
2021	37 (38)%	32 (35)%	31 (28)%
Do you approve of _____ as a U.S. Senator?			
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)%
2021	49 (51)%	35 (38)%	17 (11)%
Do you approve of _____ as president?			
George W. Bush 2005	38%	56%	7%
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)%
2020	58 (63)%	40 (36)%	2 (1)%
Joe Biden 2021	30 (30)%	63 (65)%	7 (5)%
And do you approve of _____ the state legislature? 2020	54 (56)%	30 (29)%	16 (15)%
2021	40 (41)%	34 (37)%	27 (22)%
And do you approve of _____ the U.S. Congress? 2020	19 (17)%	75 (77)%	7 (6)%
2021	13 (10)%	74 (79)%	13 (11)%
And what about the AR governor's race? Are you likely to vote ...	Republican	Democrat	Oth/DK/R
2021	46 (50)%	21 (23)%	34 (27)%

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)%
2020	45 (50)%	15 (14)%	35 (32)%	7 (5)%
2021	38 (41)%	18 (18)%	29 (29)%	15 (12)%
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 (0)%
2021	26 (26)%	51 (53)%	16 (14)%	7 (7)%
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)%
2021	37 (35)%	16 (17)%	42 (44)%	7 (5)%
Do you support the death penalty as the punishment for people convicted of murder?	Support	Oppose		DK/Ref
2015	71 (73)%	19 (17)%		10 (10)%
2021	64 (68)%	25 (23)%		11 (9)%
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)%
2019	31 (30)%	64 (66)%		6 (5)%
2020	37 (33)%	61 (64)%		2 (2)%
2021	39 (34)%	55 (61)%		6 (5)%

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)%
2020	59 (57)%	18 (19)%	22 (24)%	1 (1)%
2021	64 (60)%	16 (19)%	20 (22)%	10 (5)%

COVID: Arkansas and the Nation

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
Do you personally know someone who has been hospitalized or died as a result of having COVID-19?	69 (73)%	30 (27)%	1 (1)%
And as part of efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus, do you favor or oppose <u>requiring people to wear a mask</u> before being allowed to do each of the following:	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref
Travel by airplane	61 (59)%	34 (36)%	6 (5)%
Go to sporting event or concert	51 (50)%	43 (45)%	6 (5)%
Attend public college and universities in person	51 (49)%	42 (45)%	7 (6)%
Attend K-12 public school	50 (47)%	43 (46)%	7 (7)%
Eat inside of a restaurant	42 (41)%	50 (53)%	7 (6)%
Shop inside stores and businesses	50 (48)%	44 (47)%	6 (5)%
And as part of efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus, would you favor or oppose requiring eligible people to show <u>proof of vaccination</u> before being allowed to do each of the following:			
Travel by airplane	48 (47)%	47 (48)%	5 (5)%
Go to sporting event or concert	39 (39)%	55 (56)%	6 (5)%
Attend public college and universities in person	42 (42)%	51 (52)%	7 (6)%
Attend K-12 public school	39 (38)%	53 (55)%	8 (7)%
Eat inside of a restaurant	35 (34)%	60 (61)%	6 (5)%
Shop inside stores and businesses	33 (32)%	61 (63)%	6 (6)%

Female Politicians

	Agree	Disagree	DK/Ref
Male politicians are typically better at handling most political issues.			
2011	24 (23)%	71 (74)%	5 (4)%
2016	21 (20)%	72 (75)%	6 (5)%
2021	21 (19)%	72 (74)%	7 (6)%
Female politicians often let ... emotions influence their political decisions.			
2011	31 (29)%	62 (65)%	7 (6)%
2016	33 (31)%	61 (64)%	5 (5)%
2021	27 (25)%	66 (69)%	8 (6)%
I have some reservations about electing a female to the presidency.			
2011	31 (29)%	64 (67)%	5 (4)%
2016	32 (30)%	64 (67)%	4 (3)%
2021	28 (26)%	64 (68)%	8 (6)%
Female politicians lack expertise to deal with foreign policy issues/wars.			
2011	21 (21)%	73 (74)%	5 (5)%
2016	21 (20)%	74 (76)%	4 (4)%
2021	18 (17)%	75 (76)%	7 (7)%

Male politicians are generally better communicators			
2011	27 (24)%	68 (71)%	6 (5)%
2016	22 (20)%	71 (72)%	7 (6)%
2021	22 (19)%	70 (73)%	7 (7)%

Life in Arkansas

Do you feel AR is headed in the right or wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/ Ref
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)%
2021	61 (63)%	27 (28)%		12 (9)%
Are you financially better/worse/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)%
2021	22 (23)%	47 (47)%	27 (29)%	4 (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)%
2020	34 (36)%	53 (51)%	6 (5)%	7 (7)%
2021	21 (20)%	45 (46)%	27 (30)%	7 (5)%

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 ³
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)%
2020	40 (44)%	21 (20)%	33 (29)%	6 (6)%	1 (1)%
2021	36 (40)%	20 (22)%	33 (32)%	5 (3)%	6 (3)%
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)%
2021	45 (49)%	27 (26)%	26 (24)%		2 (1)%

³ 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
1999	14 (12)%	38 (40)%	38 (41)%		10 (6)%
2000	16 (16)%	36 (37)%	39 (42)%		9 (5)%
2001	17 (na)%	39 (na)%	38 (na)%		6 (na)%
2002	15 (15)%	39 (39)%	41 (42)%		5 (3)%
2003	17 (17)%	36 (36)%	39 (42)%		7 (5)%
2004	17 (16)%	35 (36)%	42 (43)%		7 (5)%
2005	13 (14)%	40 (41)%	39 (41)%		8 (4)%
2006	16 (16)%	39 (40)%	39 (39)%		7 (4)%
2007	16 (17)%	37 (38)%	39 (40)%		6 (6)%
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)%
2021	17 (16)%	31 (30)%	49 (52)%		4 (2)%
2021	13 (13)%	29 (29)%	47 (51)%		12 (7)%

Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 12th and October 24th, 2021, Issues & Answers Network, Inc. completed 800 telephone interviews among a random sample of adult Arkansans. Thirty-nine 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. The findings in parentheses are for self-identified “very likely voters” only (N=555); the margin of error is +/- 4.2 percentage points for this subsample.⁴

Employing guidelines established by the [American Association for Public Opinion Research](#), the poll’s overall cooperation rate was 18% for landline frame and 14% for wireless frame. This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted.⁵ The sample was provided by Marketing Systems Group.

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.

	2021 Arkansas Poll Sample	State of Arkansas
Average Age (for 18+ pop.)	61	49
Married	55%	49% **
Gender		
Male	50%	49%
Female	50%	51%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduates	92%	87%
College graduates	38%	23%
Median Household Income Category	\$35,001-\$50,000	\$47,597
Race/Ethnicity		
White	75%	79%
Black or African American	8%	16%
Multi-Ethnic	4%	2%
Hispanic	4%	8%*
Native American	3%	1%
Asian	<1%	2%
Something Else, Don’t Know, Refused	7%	-

Sources: The 2021 Arkansas Poll, 2020 U.S. Census Bureau.

*Hispanics are not included in percentages for other groups.

** 2019 American Community Survey 1 Year Estimate.

⁴ An excellent discussion of margin of error can be found here: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/09/08/understanding-the-margin-of-error-in-election-polls/>

⁵ AAPOR Response Rate Calculator 4.0 was used for this computation.