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The Arkansas Poll, 2023 – 25th Year!

Summary Report

Member: American Association of Public Opinion Researchers (AAPOR)

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Interviews conducted by: Logit US
 Project sponsored by: The Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society

Note: Values in parentheses reflect responses of 658 self-identified “very likely voters” only. Results for past years are selective to conserve space. Visit the Arkansas Poll [website](#) for details (including our [track record](#)).

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Most Important Problem

What is the most important issue facing people in AR today? ¹	2021	2022	2023
• The economy	22 (23)%	39 (41)%	36 (36)%
• Politicians/politics	10 (11)%	19 (19)%	14 (15)%
• Education	4 (4)%	8 (9)%	5 (5)%
• Healthcare	12 (7)%	7 (6)%	4 (4)%
• Taxes/big government	4 (5)%	7 (7)%	3 (3)%
• Drugs	3 (2)%	10 (10)%	3 (2)%
• Other/don't know/refused	45 (40)%	10 (10)%	35 (35)%

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 1999	66%	13%	21%
	2000	69%	14%	17%
	2001	70%	17%	13%
	2002	50 (50)%	35 (40)%	15 (10)%
	2003	47 (49)%	38 (40)%	16 (12)%
	2004	58 (59)%	29 (31)%	12 (10)%
	2005	58 (59)%	27 (31)%	15 (10)%
	2006	55 (57)%	32 (34)%	13 (9)%
	Mike Beebe 2007	70 (74)%	9 (8)%	21 (18)%
	2008	74 (76)%	9 (9)%	18 (15)%
	2009	70 (76)%	9 (8)%	20 (16)%
	2010	70 (74)%	14 (14)%	16 (12)%
	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)%
	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)%
	2022	59 (61)%	24 (25)%	18 (14)%
	Sarah Huckabee Sanders 2023	48 (51)%	39 (40)%	13 (9)%
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)%
	2022	45 (47)%	34 (36)%	21 (17)%
	2023	40 (42)%	38 (40)%	22 (18)%
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)%
	2022	48 (51)%	40 (40)%	12 (9)%
	2023	42 (46)%	44 (46)%	14 (10)%
Do you approve of _____ as president?				
Barack Obama	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)%
Joe Biden	2021	30 (30)%	63 (65)%	7 (5)%
	2022	31 (32)%	64 (65)%	5 (3)%
	2023	33 (34)%	63 (64)%	4 (3)%
And do you approve of _____ the state legislature?	2020	54 (56)%	30 (29)%	16 (15)%
	2021	40 (41)%	34 (37)%	27 (22)%
	2022	40 (41)%	37 (38)%	24 (21)%
	2023	43 (45)%	39 (41)%	18 (15)%

Satisfaction with Government Services

Now I'm going to mention some features or services in Arkansas. Please rate each one telling me if you are:		Very Satisfied/ Satisfied	Unsatisfied/ Very Unsatisfied	DK/ Refused
• Police protection	1999	82%	17%	1%
	2023	78 (78)%	20 (20)%	2 (2)%
• Health care and hospital services	1999	69%	29%	3%
	2023	64 (66)%	33 (33)%	3 (2)%
• Public libraries	1999	76%	11%	14%
	2023	83 (83)%	12 (12)%	6 (6)%
• Parks and recreation	2003	87 (88)%	10 (9)%	3 (4)%
	2023	83 (84)%	12 (12)%	5 (4)%
• Colleges and universities	2003	79 (81)%	11 (11)%	10 (8)%
	2023	78 (76)%	15 (16)%	7 (8)%
• The public welfare system	2003	30 (30)%	50 (51)%	20 (20)%
	2023	33 (32)%	53 (54)%	14 (14)%
• The K through 12th grade public schools	2003	50 (49)%	41 (43)%	9 (8)%
	2023	45 (44)%	47 (49)%	8 (7)%

Current Issues

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
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)%
2022	41 (42)%	14 (15)%	41 (39)%	5 (4)%
2023	40 (39)%	19 (20)%	39 (39)%	2 (2)%
Do you think global warming, or climate change, will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?	Yes	No		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)%
2022	41 (39)%	51 (53)%		9 (7)%
2023	41 (42)%	55 (56)%		2 (3)%
Do you think teachers should or should not be permitted to spank children at school?	Should	Should Not		DK/Ref
2009	60 (64)%	35 (32)%		5 (4)%
2022	50 (51)%	44 (44)%		6 (5)%
2023	43 (44)%	52 (51)%		5 (5)%
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/Ref
2003	47%	13%	33%	7%
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)%
2022	29 (28)%	33 (33)%	28 (29)%	10 (11)%
2023	29 (30)%	38 (39)%	25 (24)%	8 (7)%

If I had a mental health concern, seeking help from a mental health professional would be...	Extremely/Slightly (positive)	Neither	Extremely/Slightly (negative)	DK/Re
Useful	86 (87)%	3 (3)%	8 (8)%	2 (2)%
Important	91 (90)%	2 (2)%	6 (7)%	1 (1)%
Healthy	86 (87)%	4 (4)%	6 (6)%	3 (4)%
Effective	81 (83)%	5 (5)%	7 (8)%	6 (6)%
Good	82 (84)%	11 (10)%	5 (5)%	3 (2)%
Healing	75 (75)%	9 (10)%	7 (7)%	8 (8)%
Empowering	68 (68)%	17 (18)%	7 (7)%	7 (7)%
Satisfying	74 (74)%	14 (14)%	6 (6)%	6 (6)%
Desirable	75 (75)%	11 (13)%	8 (7)%	4 (4)%

Life in Arkansas

Do you feel AR is headed in the right or wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/ Ref
1999	73%	15%		12%
2001	78%	14%		8%
2003	63%	26%		11%
2005	73%	18%		9%
2007	69%	21%		8%
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)%
2022	55 (58)%	32 (31)%		13 (11)%
2023	61 (62)%	33 (33)%		6 (5)%
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)%
2022	15 (13)%	37 (37)%	46 (49)%	2 (1)%
2023	18 (16)%	45 (46)%	36 (37)%	1 (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)%
2021	21 (20)%	45 (46)%	27 (30)%	7 (5)%
2022	21 (20)%	42 (42)%	25 (29)%	11 (10)%
2023	18 (17)%	53 (52)%	25 (27)%	4 (4)%

Political Party and Ideology

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?	Republican	Democrat	Independ'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)%
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)%
2022	34 (37)%	23 (24)%	32 (32)%	5 (4)%	6 (3)%
2023	33 (36)%	25 (26)%	34 (32)%	5 (4)%	3 (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)%

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

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)%
2022	49 (53)%	23 (22)%	19 (17)%	9 (8)%
2023	44 (46)%	34 (35)%	17 (16)%	5 (3)%
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)%
2009	14 (15)%	37 (37)%	42 (45)%	7 (4)%
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)%
2021	13 (13)%	29 (29)%	47 (51)%	12 (7)%
2022	14 (14)%	30 (31)%	48 (50)%	8 (6)%
2023	17 (18)%	29 (28)%	47 (50)%	7 (4)%

Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 4th and October 22nd, Logit US completed 801 telephone interviews among a random sample of adult Arkansans. Forty-three percent of all respondents interviewed use cell phones for all or most of their calls.

The survey’s margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points, meaning we are 95 percent confident that the actual result lies within 3.5 percentage points (in either direction) of the result our sample produced. For the sub-sample of 658 self-identified “very likely voters” only, the margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points.

Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll’s overall cooperation rate was 5% for landline frame and 6% for wireless frame. This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted.³ The sample was provided by Marketing Systems Group and 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.

	2023 Arkansas Poll Sample	State of Arkansas
Average Age (for 18+ pop.)	65	Unknown
Married	49%	49%
Gender		
Male	47%	49%
Female	53%	51%
Educational Attainment		
High school graduates	95%	87%
College graduates	45%	25%
Median Household Income Category	\$35,001-\$50,000	\$52,528
Race/Ethnicity		
White	82%	79%
Black or African American	8%	16%
Multi-Ethnic	3%	2%
Hispanic	1%	8% ⁽¹⁾
Native American	2%	1%
Asian	<1%	2%
Something Else, Don’t Know, Refused	4%	-

Sources: The 2023 Arkansas Poll, U.S. Census Bureau.

^(a) Hispanics may be of any race, so are also included in applicable race categories.

³ AAPOR Response Rate Calculator 5.1 (March 2023) was used for this computation.