

## **Arkansas Issues Poll**

**Conducted by Hendrix College & Talk Business Research**

**7.19.12**

**585 Respondents**

**Margin of Error +/- 4%**

Q1. Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the individual mandate - a key portion of the Affordable Care Act, President Obama's health care reform plan - is constitutional. Now that the Supreme Court has ruled, should opponents of the law step aside and let the law be implemented, or should they continue trying to block its implementation?

34% Stop blocking implementation  
58% Continue blocking implementation  
8% Don't Know

Q2. One component of the health care reform law involves an expansion of Medicaid to cover medical expenses for individuals living just above the poverty level. The expansion would be fully funded for several years by the federal government with the state incurring up to 10% of the cost later. Under the Supreme Court ruling, Arkansas has the choice whether or not to expand its Medicaid program to include an additional 250,000 Arkansas residents. Should Arkansas expand Medicaid?

42.5% Yes  
46.5% No  
11% Don't Know

Q3. In November, Arkansas voters will consider a proposal that would increase the sales tax by a half-cent in the state. The revenue generated from the tax would be used to pay for a four-lane highway system statewide. If the election were held today, would you vote to raise the sales tax for this purpose?

42% Yes  
49.5% No  
8.5% Don't Know

Q4. A proposal to raise the severance tax on natural gas to 7% may be on the November ballot. The money from the increase would be used for highway and road construction. If the election were held today, would you vote to raise the severance tax for this purpose?

33% Yes  
54.5% No  
12.5% Don't Know

Q5. A proposal to allow the use of medical marijuana may also be on the ballot. It would provide Arkansans the ability to use medical marijuana for serious debilitating medical conditions with a doctor's recommendation, and to allow patients to purchase

their medicine at a regulated not-for-profit dispensary. If the election were held today, would you vote to allow for medical marijuana sales?

47% Yes  
46% No  
7% Don't Know

Q6. A proposal related to casino gambling in Arkansas may also be on the ballot. The proposal would allow Nancy Todd's Poker Palace the right to establish casinos in four Arkansas counties. If the election were today, would you vote for this casino gambling proposal?

28% Yes  
66% No  
6% Don't Know

**Notes on Raw Data/Weighting:**

**Age (weighted according to 2010 statewide vote)**

8% Under the age of 30  
19% Between the ages of 30 and 44  
42% Between the ages of 45 and 64  
32% 65 or older

**Ethnicity (weighted according to 2010 statewide vote)**

11% African American  
1% Asian American  
83% Caucasian or White  
2% Latino  
3% Other

**Party Identification**

34% Independent  
31% Republican  
28% Democratic  
7% Other

**Gender**

42% Male  
58% Female