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**The Arkansas Poll, 2013**

# Summary Report

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Interviews conducted by: Issues & Answers Network, Inc.

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Dean Todd Shields, Director

Arkansas Poll Website: <http://plsc.uark.edu/7129.php>

#### ***Table of Contents***

***Most Important Problem/Public Figure Approval/Upcoming Elections……………………………. p. 2-3***

***Politics and Elections/Current Issues………………………………….……………………..……… p. 3-5***

***Political Party/Ideology……………………………………………………………………………… p. 5-6***

***Life in Arkansas…………………………………………………………………………………..…. p. 6***

***Methodology and Sample Details ……….. p. 7***

\*Values in parentheses include the “very likely voters” only; may not total 100 due to rounding.

# Most Important Problem

nt

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today?[[1]](#footnote-1) | 2011 | 2012 | **2013** |
| * the economy
 | 67 (70)%[[2]](#footnote-2) | 47 (48)% | 44 (44)% |
| * healthcare
 | 3 (3)% | 15 (15)% | 12 (12)% |
| * politicians/politics
 | -- | -- | 7 (8)% |
| * taxes
 | 3 (2)% | 6 (5)% | 7 (7)% |
| * education
 | 5 (4)% | 11 (12)% | 5 (5)% |
| * drugs
 | 3 (3)% | 12 (11)% | 3 (2)% |
| * other/don’t know/refused
 | 17 (17)% | 5 (4)% | 24 (22)% |

# Public Figure Approval Ratings

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Do you approve or disapprove of the way \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is handling his job 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% |
| 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)% |
| Do you … Mark Pryor … as a U.S. Senator? |  |  |  |
| 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)% |
| Do you … \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ … 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)% |

# Politics and Elections

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Suppose the election were held today. (M)ore likely to vote for…? | R | D | Other/DK/Ref |
| U.S. Senate (Cotton/Pryor/Other) | 32 (37)% | 34 (36)% | 34 (27)% |
| Arkansas Governor (Hutchinson/Ross/Other) | 32 (35)% | 30 (31)% | 38 (34)% |
| U.S. House (generic) | 32 (38)% | 31 (31)% | 37 (31)% |
| State legislative elections (generic) | 36 (41)% | 33 (33)% | 31 (26)% |
| President 2016 (Hillary Clinton or Republican nominee) | 44 (42)% | 39 (44)% | 17 (14)% |
| Who do you blame most for the government shutdown? |  |
| President Obama and the Democrats | 37 (39)% |
| Republicans in Congress | 26 (27)% |
| Both (silent) | 37 (34)% |
| Have you been personally affected by the government shutdown? |  |
| Yes | 20 (20)% |
| No | 79 (79)% |
| Don’t know/refused | 2 (1)% |

# Current Issues

|  |
| --- |
| According to the Affordable Care Act, starting in January 2014, most Americans will be required to have health insurance or pay a fine. Were you aware of this before now, or not? |
| Aware | 89 (92)% |
| Not aware | 9 (7)% |
| Don’t Know/Refused | 1 (1)% |
| And will you have insurance at that time, or do you think you’ll choose to pay the fine? |  |
| Will have health insurance | 88 (92)% |
| Will pay the fine | 5 (4)% |
| Don’t know/Refused | 7 (5)% |
| …. How familiar are you with these health insurance exchanges? Would you say you’re… |  |
| Very familiar | 12 (12)% |
| Somewhat familiar | 27 (30)% |
| Not too familiar | 26 (26)% |
| Not at all familiar | 31 (29)% |
| Don’t know/Refused | 4 (3)% |
| First, 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)% |
| 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** |
| 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)% |
| Which of the following policy positions most closely resembles your own view regarding relationships between two people of the same sex?[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| * Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry
 |  |
| 2005 | 15% |
| 2007 | 16% |
| 2009 | 18% |
| 2011 | 23 (22)% |
| 2013 | 23 (24)% |
| * Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions or domestic partnerships, but not marry
 |  |
| 2005 | 22% |
| 2007 | 27% |
| 2009 | 22% |
| 2011 | 20 (22)% |
| 2013 | 21 (23)% |
| * There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple’s relationship
 |  |
| 2005 | 54% |
| 2007 | 51% |
| 2009 | 54% |
| 2011 | 50 (51)% |
| 2013 | 46 (46)% |
| * don’t know/refused
 |  |
| 2005 | 9% |
| 2007 | 6% |
| 2009 | 6% |
| 2011 | 7 (6)% |
| 2013 | 9 (7)% |
| 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?
 |  |
| 2009 | 9% |
| 2011 | 8 (8)% |
| 2013 | 9 (9)% |
| * allow them to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain criteria like learning English and paying their back-taxes?
 |  |
| 2009 | 57% |
| 2011 | 56 (57)% |
| 2013 | 59 (59)% |
| * deport all?
 |  |
| 2009 | 27% |
| 2011 | 27 (28)% |
| 2012 | 26 (25)% |
| 2013 | 21 (21)% |
| * allow them to become permanent residents with no requirements?
 |  |
| 2009 | 2% |
| 2011 | 3 (2)% |
| 2013 | 2 (2)% |
| * don’t know/refused
 |  |
| 2009 | 5% |
| 2011 | 6 (6)% |
| 2013 | 9 (8)% |
| Do you approve … of individuals who graduate from an AR high school but are in the U.S. illegally having access to in-state tuition …? | **Approve** | **Disapprove** | **DK/Refused** |
| 2013 | 35 (36)% | 52 (54)% | 13 (10)% |
| (D)o you think gays and lesbians should … have equal rights in terms of job opportunities? | **Should** | **Shouldn’t** | **DK/Refused** |
| 2013 | 78 (81)% | 12 (11)% | 9 (9)% |

**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[[4]](#footnote-4)** |
| 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)% |
| Independents only: Do you think of yourself …? | **Closer to Republican** | **Closer to Democrat** | **Just Indep’t** |  | **DK/****Refused** |
| 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)% |
| 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)% |

# Life in Arkansas

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Overall, do you feel that Arkansas is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction? | **Right** | **Wrong** |  | **DK/ Refused[[5]](#footnote-5)** |
| 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)% |
| 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)% |
| 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)% |

Between October 10th and October 17th Issues & Answers Network, Inc. completed 800 telephone surveys among a random sample of adult Arkansans. Twenty percent of all respondents interviewed (n=160) use their cell phones for all or most of their calls.

## Methodology and Sample Information

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.

Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll’s overall cooperation rate was 27% (29% for landline calls and 22% 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2013 Arkansas Poll Sample | State of Arkansas |
| Average Age Category (for 18+ pop.)  | 55-64 | 45-54 |
| Married | 58% | 51% |
| Gender  |  |  |
| Male | 40% | 49% |
| Female | 60% | 51% |
| Educational Attainment  |  |  |
| High school graduates  | 88% | 84% |
| College graduates  | 35% | 19% |
| Median Household Income  | $35,001-$50,000 | $38,307 |
| Race/Ethnicity  |  |  |
| White  | 83% | 77% |
| Black or African American  | 9% | 15% |
| Multi-Ethnic  | 1% | 2% |
| Hispanic  | 1% | 6%\* |
| Native American  | 2% | 1% |
| Asian  | 1% | 1% |
| Something Else, Don’t Know, Refused  | 8% | - |

Sources: The 2013 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.*

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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Values in parentheses include “very likely voters” only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Values in parentheses include “very likely voters” only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Values in parentheses include “very likely voters” only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Values in parentheses include “very likely voters” only; percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)