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# The Arkansas Poll, 2007

## Summary Report

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\*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

### Most Important Problem

What is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today? <sup>1</sup>	Percent
• the economy/jobs/wages	29
• education	15
• healthcare (including insurance)	12
• crime (including drugs and violence)	6
• government/taxes/politics	6
• immigration	4
• other (single mentions or categories composing less than 4% of total responses)	28

### 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%
2000	69%	14%	17%
2001	70%	17%	13%
2002	50%	35%	15%
2003	47%	38%	16%
2004	58%	29%	12%
2005	58%	27%	15%
2006	55%	32%	13%
Mike Beebe 2007	70%	9%	21%
Do you ... Blanche Lincoln ... as a U.S. Senator?			
1999	46%	17%	37%
2001	51%	13%	36%
2002	50%	16%	35%
2003	55%	10%	35%
2004	55%	19%	26%
2005	55%	17%	28%
2006	49%	23%	28%
2007	50%	24%	26%
Do you ... Mark Pryor ... as a U.S. Senator?			
2003	52%	11%	37%
2004	50%	18%	32%
2005	56%	12%	32%
2006	50%	21%	29%
2007	53%	18%	29%
Do you ... George Bush ... as president?			
2001	87%	9%	3%
2002	61%	32%	7%
2003	47%	46%	7%
2004	50%	45%	5%
2005	38%	56%	7%
2006	36%	58%	6%
2007	30%	65%	6%

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 2008 Presidential Election

If the 2008 election for president were held today, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate?				
• Republican Party's candidate	31%			
• Democratic Party's candidate	49%			
• other/None (volunteered)	7%			
• don't know/refused	13%			
How closely have you followed news about the candidates who are running for president?				
• very closely	18%			
• fairly closely	47%			
• not too closely	25%			
• not at all closely	10%			
• don't know/refused	0%			
How much thought have you given to the coming 2008 presidential election – quite a lot or only a little?				
• quite a lot	55%			
• some (volunteered)	6%			
• little	35%			
• none (volunteered)	3%			
• don't know/refused	1%			
If the 2008 presidential election were held today, who would you vote for for president? Just tell me the name.				
• Hillary Clinton	35%			
• Rudy Giuliani	8%			
• Mike Huckabee	8%			
• Fred Thompson	5%			
• Barak Obama	5%			
• Other	11%			
• don't know/refused	28%			
Given the people who now say they are running for president in 2008, how satisfied are you with your choices? Would you say you are ...?				
• very satisfied	19%			
• satisfied	50%			
• not satisfied	27%			
• don't know/refused	4%			
Now I'm going to read some statements about some of the Democratic/Republican candidates for president. I'd like to know whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement <b>(Democrats asked of Democrats only; Republicans asked of Republicans only).</b>				
	SA	A	D	SD
• Clinton can win the nomination	42%	51%	6%	2%
• Clinton can be elected.	35%	54%	8%	3%
• Obama can win the nomination.	7%	42%	43%	8%
• Obama can be elected.	8%	33%	50%	9%
• Edwards can win the nomination.	4%	34%	51%	11%
• Edwards can be elected.	6%	31%	51%	12%
• Richardson can win the nomination.	1%	12%	70%	17%
• Richardson can be elected.	1%	12%	64%	23%

	SA	A	D	SD
• Giuliani can win the nomination.	13%	50%	28%	8%
• Giuliani can be elected.	13%	43%	35%	9%
• Huckabee can win the nomination	10%	39%	44%	8%
• Huckabee can be elected.	8%	36%	50%	8%
• Thompson can win the nomination.	10%	40%	41%	9%
• Thompson can be elected.	9%	36%	44%	11%
• McCain can win the nomination.	5%	28%	55%	13%
• McCain can be elected.	5%	27%	56%	13%
• Romney can win the nomination.	2%	31%	54%	13%
• Romney can be elected.	2%	26%	56%	16%

### Current Issues

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?		<b>More Difficult</b>	<b>Easier</b>	<b>No Change</b>	<b>DK/ Refused</b>
1999		45%	14%	32%	9%
2000		43%	11%	40%	6%
2001		46%	13%	35%	7%
2002		43%	13%	38%	6%
2003		47%	13%	33%	7%
2004		42%	10%	40%	7%
2005		44%	9%	39%	8%
2006		44%	16%	34%	6%
2007		41%	13%	36%	9%

Do you approve or disapprove of gays and lesbians serving as foster parents?	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>		<b>DK/ Refused</b>
2006	28%	66%		6%
Do you approve or disapprove of a law that would prevent gays and lesbians from serving as foster parents?	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>		<b>DK/ Refused</b>
2006	46%	48%		6%
Do you favor laws that prohibit foster parenting by gays and lesbians?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>DK/ Refused</b>
2007	53%	42%		5%
Do you favor laws that prohibit the adoption of a child by a lesbian or gay man?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>DK/ Refused</b>
2007	53%	42%		5%
Which of the following policy positions most closely resembles your own view regarding relationships between two people of the same sex?				
• Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry				
2005				15%
2006				15%
2007				16%
• Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions or domestic partnerships, but not legally marry				
2005				22%
2006				26%
2007				27%
• There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship				
2005				54%
2006				54%
2007				51%
• don't know/refused				
2005				9%
2006				5%
2007				6%

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 undocumented immigrants to remain in the United States to work for a limited amount of time?	9%
• allow undocumented immigrants to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain criteria like learning English and paying their back-taxes?	55%
• deport all undocumented immigrants?	27%
• allow undocumented immigrants to become permanent residents with no requirements?	2%
• don't know/refused	5%
Which one of the following is most responsible for the immigration situation we have today:	
• the undocumented immigrants who come across our borders?	19%
• employers who hire undocumented immigrants?	39%
• immigration policies established by the federal government?	32%
• don't know/refused	9%

And you may know that an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution has been debated across the country for decades. It reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Do you favor or oppose the addition of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution?"	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>DK/ Refused</b>
2007	73%	18%	8%

How convinced are you that global warming or the greenhouse effect is actually happening? Are you...	2006	2007
• completely convinced	32%	29%
• mostly convinced	30%	28%
• not so convinced	20%	21%
• not at all convinced	13%	17%
• don't know/refused	7%	3%
Do you think global warming is an urgent problem requiring immediate attention or a longer-term problem that requires more study before government action is taken?	2006	2007
• Urgent problem	44%	44%
• Longer-term problem	46%	44%
• Not a problem (only if volunteered)	3%	5%
• Unsure (only if volunteered)	3%	4%
• Don't Know/Refused	4%	3%
What should Arkansas's global warming policies be relative to other states in the Union?	2006	2007
• Arkansas should be on the leading edge creating policies to combat global warming relative to other states.	NA	27%
• Arkansas should adopt global warming policies that have been shown to be effective and sensible in other states.	NA	47%
• Arkansas should resist the temptation to join the global warming bandwagon.	NA	16%
• don't know/refused	NA	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
1999	23%	35%	31%	4%	7%
2001	27%	33%	32%	5%	3%
2003	24%	38%	31%	4%	3%
2005	23%	36%	33%	4%	4%
2007	24%	39%	30%	3%	2%
Independents only: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?	Closer to Republican	Closer to Democrat	Just Indep't		DK/Refused
1999	33%	29%	34%		4%
2001	29%	36%	31%		4%
2003	33%	34%	33%		2%
2005	30%	35%	32%		4%
2007	34%	37%	29%		1%
How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?	Liberal	Moderate	Conserv'e		DK/Refused
1999	14%	38%	38%		10%
2001	17%	39%	38%		6%
2003	17%	36%	39%		7%
2005	13%	40%	39%		8%
2007	16%	37%	39%		6%

### Life in Arkansas

Overall, do you feel that Arkansas is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?	Right	Wrong		DK/Refused
1999	73%	15%		12%
2001	78%	14%		8%
2003	63%	26%		11%
2005	73%	18%		9%
2007	69%	21%		8%
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
1999	37%	47%	16%	1%
2001	41%	39%	19%	1%
2003	27%	45%	28%	1%
2005	28%	49%	22%	1%
2007	30%	48%	20%	1%
And, looking ahead, do you think a year from now, you will be ... as now?	Better	About the Same	Worse	DK/Refused
1999	43%	46%	6%	1%
2001	41%	39%	19%	1%
2003	35%	49%	12%	5%
2005	34%	46%	15%	5%
2007	38%	45%	12%	3%

## Methodology and Sample Information

Between October 7th and October 18th, the Survey Research Center at the University of Arkansas completed 754 telephone surveys among a random sample of adult Arkansans<sup>2</sup>. Employing guidelines established by the American Association for Public Opinion Research, the poll's cooperation rate was 43%. This figure reflects completed surveys as a percentage of all eligible individuals contacted. The survey's margin of error 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.

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.

	<b>2007 Arkansas Poll Sample</b>	<b>State of Arkansas</b>
Median Age Category (for 18+ pop.)	55-64 years of age (mean=55)	35-44 years of age
Average # persons per household	2.5	2.5
Marital Status	61% married	58% married
Gender	45% male	49% male
Educational Attainment		
high school graduates	90%	89%
college graduates	33%	17%
Median household income	\$35,001-\$50,000	\$32,182
Race/Ethnicity		
White	81.6%	80.0%
Black or African American	11.4%	15.7%
Multi-Ethnic	2.3%	1.3%
Hispanic	1.2%	3.2% <sup>3</sup>
Native American	2.1%	0.7%
Asian	0.4%	0.8%
Something Else, Don't Know, Refused	1.6%	0.0%

Source: All data from the Arkansas Poll, Current Population Survey, or the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Eight, or 1%, of the 754 interviews were conducted in Spanish.

<sup>3</sup> Hispanics may be of any race, so these identifiers also are included in applicable race categories.