

1. Hello, my name is ----- and I'm calling from the University of Arkansas's Survey Research Center. The Political Science Department is conducting the Arkansas Poll to learn about important issues in politics. May I speak with the person at home who is 18 or over and has most recently celebrated a birthday?

Yes, No

2. I'm not trying to sell anything and it's really important that we hear from a diverse group of people. Could you please help us out by answering some important questions?

Yes, No

3. Great! Thanks for your help. I just want to confirm that you are at least 18 years old and of those who are currently home, you were the last person to celebrate a birthday. Is that correct?

Yes, No

4. Before we begin, I want to let you know that all your answers will be kept completely confidential. The survey takes about 15 minutes. Your participation is voluntary and if you feel you can't answer some questions, please let me know. May I begin?

Yes, No

5. Great. First, how many years have you lived in Arkansas, or have you lived here all of your life?

Record # of Years, Less than 1 year, All my life, Don 't know, Refused

14. Okay. I would like to now ask you which of the following is the most important problem or issue facing people in Arkansas today. The issues are [READ LIST WITH ROTATION]. Which of these do you think is most important?

The economy, terrorism, education, morality, health insurance, or drugs, don't know, refused

Let's move on now to your thoughts on some of the people who are involved in government and politics. **(rotated)**

15. (First) do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Huckabee is handling his job as governor?

Approve, Disapprove, Don't Know, Refused

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Blanche Lincoln is handling her job as a U.S. Senator?

Approve, Disapprove, Don't Know, Refused

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Tim Hutchinson is handling his job as a U.S. Senator?

Approve, Disapprove, Don't Know, Refused

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as president?

Approve, Disapprove, Don't Know, Refused

Moving from people to issues, you may be aware that in addition to voting on candidates this November, Arkansans will be asked to decide several issues. Please listen carefully to each summary, then tell me whether you favor or oppose each one. Are you ready? (**rotated**)

20. Okay. Amendment 1 revises the part of the Arkansas constitution that deals with the executive branch of government. Mainly, it spells out that the governor retains all normal powers and duties even if he or she is temporarily outside the state. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

favor, oppose, don't know, refused

21. Amendment 2 ensures the secrecy of individual votes in all Arkansas elections. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

favor, oppose, don't know, refused

22. Amendment 3 eliminates sales tax on food and medicine in Arkansas. It will result in a loss of revenue for state, county, and city governments, as well as school districts, which means that a reduction in services may be required. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

favor, oppose, don't know, refused

23. (Finally,) Initiated Act 1 increases the legal penalties for certain forms of animal cruelty. Primarily, it provides that when a person knowingly tortures an animal he or she may be charged with a felony. The measure provides exemptions for lawful hunting, fishing, veterinary, livestock and other practices. Given this description, do you favor or oppose this measure?

favor, oppose, don't know, refused

Okay. Next, I have a couple of questions about some issues that have been prominent in the news.

24. 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, don't know, refused

25. 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, don't know, refused

26. Suppose a candidate running for Congress, Senate or Governor favored tougher laws to limit immigration into the United States or into Arkansas, would you be more or less likely to vote for that candidate?

More likely, less likely, don't know, refused

Okay, thank you. Now let's focus on the economy in your local community. Please tell me if you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

27. I can have a significant effect in shaping local growth and economic development policy. Do you ...?

strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, refused

28. I favor spending a larger share of our public funds on roads and highways.

strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, refused

29. Continued growth and development in our area will hurt our quality of life.

strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, refused

30. Government regulation of growth and development usually does more harm than good.

strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, refused

31. Protecting the environment should be given the priority, even at the risk of slowing down economic growth.

strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, refused

32. Local governments should charge "impact fees" to developers to help pay for the public sewer, water, roads, and other services that will be needed for new private businesses or residential areas.

strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know, refused

Okay. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about yourself so that we can be sure we're hearing from a wide range of Arkansans. First, do you live in a city, a suburb, a small town or a rural area?

City, Suburb, small town, rural area, don't know, refused

7. In what county do you live?

should be 75 options, plus don't know, refused

8. Which of the following education categories best describes your level of schooling? Is it --- and I have a list here, so please feel free to stop me at any time.

No high school, Some high school, High school graduate or equivalent, Some college including business or trade schools, College graduate, Some graduate school, Graduate or professional degree, Don't know, Refused

9. Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic group:

White, Black or African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Multi-ethnic, Something else, Don't know, Refused

10. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what? **(See next options, last year's programming)**

A. Would you call yourself a strong Republican, or a not a very strong Republican?

(strong, not very strong, don't know/ref)

B. Strong Democrat, or a not very strong Democrat?

(strong, not very strong, don't know, ref)

- C. (If Independent) Well, do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?
Closer to Republican, Closer to Democratic, Just Independent, Don't know, Refused

11. How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally, do you think of yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? (see next options, last year's programming)

- A. Would you say you are Strongly Liberal or Somewhat Liberal, *don't know/refused*
B. Strongly Conservative, or Somewhat Conservative?, *don't know/refused*

12. Okay, and when you were growing up, did your father (or stepfather if appropriate) think of himself mostly as a Democrat, as a Republican, or what?

1. Democrat
2. Independent (or shifted around)
3. Republican
4. Other; minor party; apolitical; never voted; didn't get into politics; parents refused to say; father not a U.S. citizen
9. Don't Know
0. NA; INAP; Respondent didn't have father

13. Similarly, when you were growing up, did your mother (or stepmother if appropriate) think of herself mostly as a Democrat, as a Republican, or what?

1. Democrat
2. Independent (or shifted around)
3. Republican
4. Other; minor party; apolitical; never voted; didn't get into politics; parents refused to say; mother not a U.S. citizen
9. Don't Know
0. NA; INAP; Respondent didn't have mother

Okay, thank you, and please now tell me how satisfied you are with ...

33. Your neighborhood as a place to live ... are you very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, or very unsatisfied?

very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, very unsatisfied, don't know, refused

34. And how about housing affordability. Are you...?

very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, very unsatisfied, don't know, refused

35. Local job opportunities?

very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, very unsatisfied, don't know, refused

36. The overall quality of life in my your community?

very satisfied, satisfied, unsatisfied, very unsatisfied, don't know, refused

Thank you. Let's talk a bit about public education. First, there has been a lot said about how to improve Arkansas schools. Please tell me if you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the following ideas for improving K-12 education in Arkansas. (**rotate**)

37. Increasing teachers' salaries ... do you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove?

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

38. Using merit pay to award bonuses to teachers whose students perform well on state exams

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

39. Expanding access to state-funded pre-school education programs

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

40. Establishing more charter schools

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

41. Requiring additional testing for a student to advance to the next grade

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

42. Establishing larger "regional" high schools with a curriculum that exceeds the minimum required of regular high schools

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

43. Improving school facilities ... including upgraded computers, better buildings and laboratories, for example.

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

44. Increasing vocational or career-oriented education opportunities

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

Okay. Thank you. It has been estimated that reforming Arkansas's education system may cost as much as 700 million additional dollars each year. This may require cutbacks in other government services, increased taxes, and/or new sources of revenue. Please tell me if you strongly approve, approve, disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the following methods of funding reforms in Arkansas schools. (**rotate**)

45. increasing property taxes

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

46. increasing sales taxes

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

47. increasing income taxes

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

48. adopting a state lottery

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

49. cutting back in other government services

strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused

50. consolidating small school districts into larger districts *strongly approve, approve, disapprove, strongly disapprove, don't know, refused*

Okay, let's do something a little different. I'm going to read you (three/four) things that sometimes make people angry or upset. After I read all (three/four), just tell me HOW MANY of them upset you. I don't want to know which ones, just how many, okay? **NOTE: non-african-american respondents ONLY; There are three versions and the respondent is randomly assigned one of the groups.**

54a. Version 1: (Basic three items)

- (1) "the federal government increasing the tax on gasoline;"
- (2) "professional athletes getting million-dollar-plus salaries;"
- (3) "large corporations polluting the environment."

How many, if any, of these things upset you?

zero, one, two, three, don't know, refused

54b. Version 2: (Add black family)

- (1) "the federal government increasing the tax on gasoline;"
- (2) "professional athletes getting million-dollar-plus salaries;"
- (3) "large corporations polluting the environment;"
- (4) "a black family moving next door to you."

How many, if any, of these things upset you?

zero, one, two, three, four, don't know, refused

54c. Version 3: (Add black leaders)

- (1) "the federal government increasing the tax on gasoline;"
- (2) "professional athletes getting million-dollar-plus salaries;"
- (3) "large corporations polluting the environment;"
- (4) "black leaders asking the government for affirmative action."

How many, if any, of these things upset you?

zero, one, two, three, don't know, refused

Okay, thank you. The next questions are about your general evaluation of the quality of life in our state.

55. Overall, do you feel that Arkansas is generally headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

right, wrong, don't know, refused

56. On a more individual level, would you say you are better off financially, worse off, or about the same compared to a year ago?

better, worse, about the same, don't know, refused

57. And, looking ahead, do you think that a year from now, you will be better off financially, worse off, or about the same as now?

better, worse, about the same, don't know, refused

All right; we're nearly done. I have just a few more questions so we can be sure we've talked to a wide variety of people.

58. First, which of the following income categories best describes your total 2001 household income? Was it - and I have a list here ... please feel free to stop me at any time:

\$7,500 or less

\$7,501 to \$15,000

\$15,001 to \$25,000

\$25,001 to \$35,000

\$35,001 to \$50,000

\$50,001 to \$75,000

\$75,001 to \$100,000

\$100,001 or over?

Don't know/Refused

59. About how often do you attend religious services: (have we been reading list in past?)

Never 1

Once a year or less 2

Several times a year 3

About once a month 4

2-3 times a month 5

Every week 6

More than once a week 7

Don't Know 8

Refused 9

60. Which of the following best describes your current religious preference. Is it:

Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, or Something Else, None, Don't know, Refused

61. Which of the following best describes your present marital status:

Married, Not married but living together, Separated or divorced, Widowed, Never married/single, Don't know, Refused

62. How many people, including yourself, live in your household?

record number, don't know, refused

63. Are you currently registered to vote or not?

Yes, no, no - I am not a U.S. citizen, don't know, refused

63a. (If 43 = yes) How likely are you to vote in the next elections that will take place in November 2002? Are you very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?
Very likely, Somewhat likely, Not very likely, Not at all likely, don't know, refused

64. In what year were you born?
enter year, don't know, refused

65. And, I am required to ask you this, are you male or female?
male, female, don't know, refused

Thank you very much for helping us with the Arkansas Poll. We plan to release our results in late October. Have a nice day/afternoon/evening.