



April 29, 2021

TO: Southern Progress Fund
FROM: Nancy Zdunkewicz, Senior Survey Data Analyst
RE: Voters frustrated with GOP blind focus on culture war issues

A new survey of Arkansas voters conducted by Change Research April 23-26, 2021 finds a majority believes that the politicians in Arkansas are totally focused on divisive issues that divide us to distract from how they are working to enrich themselves and their wealthy donors instead of delivering higher wages, better schools and safer communities.

In a state that Trump carried with over 60% of the vote, 57% majorities believe the Republican majority in the state legislature is 'putting corporate special interests and donors before working people' and are concerned that these politicians are 'putting themselves in between individuals and their right to vote and their freedom to make medical choices for themselves and their children [which is] an unnecessary government intrusion by unqualified politicians and could be a slippery slope to eliminating even more freedoms.'

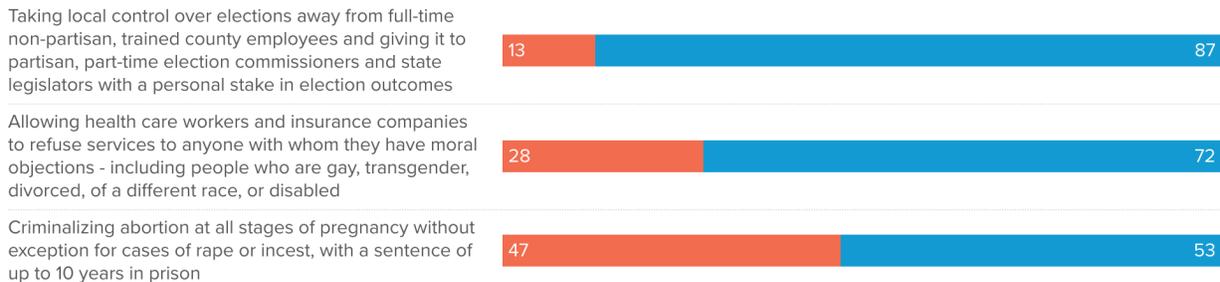
Majorities oppose the Republican legislation aimed at changing local administration of elections (87% oppose) and providing a religious justification for discrimination against other Arkansas voters including transgender individuals (72% oppose). The egregious laws criminalizing abortion at all stages of pregnancy (53% oppose) and the trans medical bill (51% agree with Hutchinson/Democrats) are not popular policies in this ruby red state.

Opposition to Divisive GOP Policies

CHANGE RESEARCH

Below are some recent proposals that were considered by Republican leaders in Arkansas. Do you support or oppose each of the following:

Total support Total oppose



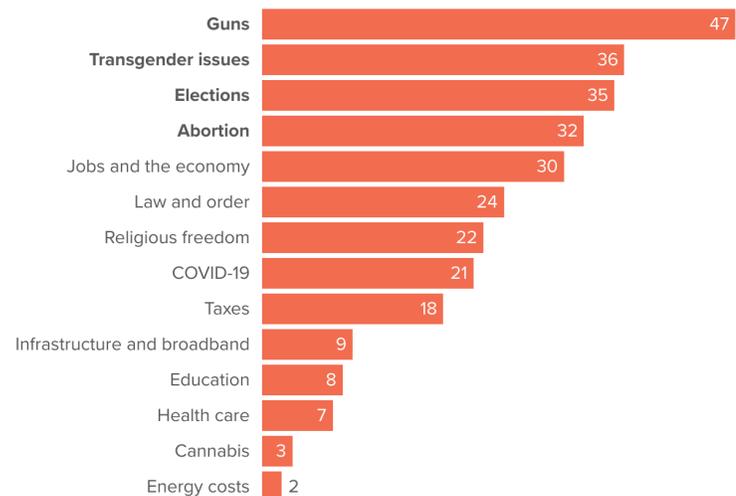
1 On behalf of the Southern Progress Fund, Change Research conducted an online poll of 1,303 Arkansas voters April 23-26, 2021. Voters were recruited into an online survey instrument via Dynamic Online Sampling. Post-stratification was performed on region, gender, age, ethnicity, education, and past vote. The modeled margin of error\* for this survey is 2.9%, which uses effective sample sizes that adjust for the design effect of weighting.

This poll also finds opinions of the trans athlete legislation is shifting: 64% of voters support ‘requiring transgender girls at public schools to participate on sports teams according to their sex assigned at birth, and not the gender they identify as now’, but nearly half come to support repealing this law when they learn it may jeopardize the state’s ability to host NCAA tournaments (49% support repeal).

After a devastating year of health and economic strife, voters are aware that such divisive social issues are the primary focus of the GOP majority in Little Rock, correctly identifying guns, transgender issues, elections, and abortion as their primary focus. But only 11% of voters select issues around transgender individuals as one of their own top three priorities from a list of 15 issues, and only 10% select abortion. Incredibly, these are not even priorities for Republican voters: only 5% want the state to focus on transgender issues and only 1% want to focus on abortion policies. Far more important to Republican voters are issues like bringing businesses and jobs here (40%) and taxes (32%).

### Perceptions of GOP Agenda in AR CHANGE RESEARCH™

Thinking about Republican leaders in Arkansas and the policies they are pursuing in the state legislature, which THREE of the following issues do you think they are prioritizing most?



No wonder 63% of voters agree that “Politicians in Arkansas are totally focused on culture war issues. They are trying to divide us to distract from how they are working to enrich themselves and their wealthy donors instead of delivering higher wages, better schools and safer communities for the rest of us.” Overwhelming 72% majorities would prefer a different approach to living their values, agreeing with the Governor that ‘Arkansas can respect religious freedom and live our values without these nasty bills that insert politicians into private family and medical decisions’ (50% strongly agree) and that ‘Arkansas has an opportunity to attract businesses by showing we are an inclusive state where everyone has a chance to live up to their potential.’

### Statements about GOP Approach CHANGE RESEARCH™

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

● Total agree ● Total disagree

