



For Immediate Release

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Arkansans Overwhelmingly Support Non-Partisan Redistricting and Open Primaries Ballot Initiatives

*According to a new poll released by the League of Women Voters Of Arkansas,
strong majorities support ballot initiatives supported by the LWV*

Little Rock – The League of Women Voters of Arkansas today released the finding of a recent poll that found that almost two-thirds of all Arkansans support creating a non-partisan commission to oversee redistricting as outlined in a ballot initiative the League is supporting. By a more than two-to-one margin, Arkansas voters also support establishing open primaries and instant runoffs.

“More than just signatures, this clearly demonstrates that Arkansas voters want more voice in the redistricting process and they want to vote for the candidate of their choice—no matter their party affiliation,” said Bonnie Miller of the League of Women Voters of Arkansas. “A dark money group is trying to pressure the Secretary of State to eliminate their voice in the process. Their reasons are abundantly clear: if voters are allowed to have their say, these ballot measures will pass.”

The poll showed that 65% of voters support non-partisan redistricting, compared to 17% who oppose. That includes 72% of men and 57% of republicans. Voters support the open primaries proposal by more than 30 percentage points. Nearly three-fourths (71%) of independent voters support ending partisan primaries by establishing an open primary system where the top four vote-getters for each office advance to the general election.

Surveys were commissioned by the League of Women Voters of Arkansas and conducted by Mercury Analytics, a non-partisan survey research firm. Six hundred Arkansas voters were surveyed online July 16-18, 2020. The margin of error is +/- 4 percentage points.

Earlier in July, ballot question committees supporting non-partisan redistricting and open primaries submitted nearly 100,000 for each ballot initiative. “The broad base of support for these ballot initiatives are a clear sign that these ballot measures need to be approved for the ballot and the people of Arkansas should have their voice heard,” said Miller.

For additional information, please contact Bonnie Miller at info@lwvarwc.org.

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To: Interested Parties
 Re: Arkansas Statewide Voter Survey
 Date: July 22, 2020

Arkansas Voters Support Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, Ranked Choice Voting and Non-Partisan Open Primary Elections

By a wide margin, Arkansas voters support a number of election reforms including:

- Independent citizens redistricting commission (65% support, 17% oppose)
- Allow voters to rank their top four candidates in the general election (60% support, 28% oppose)
- Nonpartisan open primary elections (59% support, 24% oppose)

Polling demonstrates that these election reforms are supported by Republicans, Democrats and independents, women and men, white and Black Arkansas voters, young, middle-aged and senior citizens.

Methodology

600 Arkansas voters were surveyed online July 16-18, 2020. The margin of error is +/- 4 percentage points. Surveys were commissioned by the League of Women Voters of Arkansas and conducted by Mercury Analytics, a non-partisan survey research firm. Respondents are demographically representative of likely 2020 voters.

Demographics of Survey Respondents

Gender	F 55% / M 45%
Race	White 83% / Black 12%
Age	18-29 13% / 30-49 31% / 50-64 30% / 65+ 26%

Survey Results

Total Support / Oppose	All	Party			Gender		Race		Age			
		D	I	R	Men	Women	White	Black	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Require that the election winner receive a majority of the votes cast.	72/18	82/10	72/16	64/27	74/22	71/15	74/18	69/18	72/18	77/13	66/21	74/20
Modernize Arkansas's election process.	70/14	83/6	67/16	66/19	75/14	67/14	72/13	64/13	69/16	77/10	67/15	68/17
Establish an independent citizens commission to oversee the drawing of boundary lines for congressional and state legislative districts instead of allowing politicians to draw their own district lines.	65/17	74/14	67/25	57/25	72/19	60/16	67/16	64/21	59/23	70/14	65/17	65/21

Allow voters to rank their top four candidates when voting in the general election so voters can have more say in their second choice candidate.	60/28	72/18	60/25	47/39	64/30	56/26	57/30	77/14	67/24	68/21	51/32	53/33
Establish a ranked choice voting system in the general election that ensures a winning candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.	59/25	73/10	58/27	48/34	60/32	58/20	59/26	65/15	64/23	67/20	50/31	57/25
End partisan primaries by establishing an open primary system where the top four vote-getters for each office advance to the general election.	59/24	71/15	63/22	47/36	65/27	55/22	61/25	51/24	51/31	69/18	54/26	61/28