



LITTLE ROCK | BATON ROUGE | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Arkansas Statewide Eyecare Poll
502 Likely Voters
Conducted January 7 - 9, 2019
Live Phone Interviews
MoE = +/- 4.37%

Commssioned by the Arkansas Medical Society

QUESTION 1:

First, are you registered to vote in the county where you live?

1=Yes	[CONTINUE]	502	100.00
2=No	[THANK AND TERMINATE]	0	0.00
3=Unsure	[THANK AND TERMINATE]	0	0.00
4=Refused	[THANK AND TERMINATE]	0	0.00
		502	100.00

QUESTION 2:

Although it is a long way off, how likely are you to vote in the 2020 General Election - Would you say you are: [READ CHOICES]

1=Very Likely;	[CONTINUE]	485	96.61
2=Somewhat Likely; or	[CONTINUE]	17	3.39
3=Not Too Likely?	[THANK AND TERMINATE]	0	0.00
4=Undecided/Refused	[THANK AND TERMINATE]	0	0.00
		502	100.00

QUESTION 3:

Overall, thinking about healthcare for you and your family, would you say that the physician care you need is readily available to you?

1=Yes		449	89.44
2=No		49	9.76
3=Don't Know/Refused		4	0.80
		502	100.00

QUESTION 4:

When it comes to the eye care needs for you and your family, would you say that the access to eyecare services you need are readily available?

1=Yes	441	87.85
2=No	50	9.96
3=Don't Know/Refused	11	2.19
	502	100.00

QUESTION 5:

Do you or does anyone in your household wear glasses or contact lenses?

1=Yes	461	91.83
2=No	40	7.97
3=Don't Know/Refused	1	0.20
	502	100.00

QUESTION 6:

In the past, have you seen an optometrist, an ophthalmologist, or both for your eye care needs?

1=Optometrist	143	28.49
2=Ophthalmologist	40	7.97
3=Both	267	53.19
4=Neither	35	6.97
5=Don't Know/Refused	17	3.39
	502	100.00

QUESTION 7:

In the upcoming Arkansas legislative session, there may be legislation to allow optometrists to perform more than a hundred eye surgeries using lasers and scalpels that they currently are not authorized to perform.

Optometrists support this legislation, saying that new technology has made eye surgery less complex, that they are qualified to perform such surgeries, and allowing them to perform these procedures will improve patient access.

Ophthalmologists oppose this legislation, arguing that any surgery that involves cutting human tissue on or close to the eye with a laser, scalpel, or other surgical instrument should only be performed by a trained medical doctor, and allowing non-medically trained healthcare professionals to perform eye surgeries would threaten patient safety.

Knowing this information, do you support or oppose legislation that would allow optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels?

And is that Strongly or Somewhat [SUPPORT/OPPOSE]?

1=Strongly Support	54	10.76	↑	19.13%
2=Somewhat Support	42	8.37		
3=Somewhat Oppose	83	16.53	↓	64.94%
4=Strongly Oppose	243	48.41		
5=Don't Know/Refused	80	15.94		
	502	100.00		

QUESTION 8:

When it comes to eye care professionals, many people confuse ophthalmologists and optometrists. (ROTATE)

- Ophthalmologists are medical doctors and surgeons who specialize in the treatment of eye diseases and eye surgery. They must complete 4 years of medical school, a 1-year hospital internship, and a 3-year surgical residency before practicing on their own.

- Optometrists are not medical doctors. They complete a four-year optometry school program studying eye care, but they do not attend medical school.

Now, knowing this information, do you support or oppose legislation that would allow optometrists to perform surgery on and near the eye with lasers, scalpels and other surgical instruments?

And is that Strongly or Somewhat [SUPPORT/OPPOSE]?

1=Strongly Support	31	6.18	↑	13.15%
2=Somewhat Support	35	6.97		
3=Somewhat Oppose	91	18.13	↓	79.48%
4=Strongly Oppose	308	61.35		
5=Don't Know/Refused	37	7.37		
	502	100.00		

Now I'm going to read you a few statements regarding this issue. For each I would like for you to tell me if it would make you More Likely or Less Likely to support legislation allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels.

QUESTION 9:

First: Currently only three states allow optometrists to conduct eye and eyelid surgeries with both lasers and scalpels. Does that make you More Likely or Less Likely to support legislation allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels?

[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:] And is that Much or Somewhat [MORE/LESS] Likely?

1=Much More Likely	25	4.98	↑	12.35%
2=Somewhat More Likely	37	7.37		
3=Somewhat Less Likely	110	21.91	↓	65.54%
4=Much Less Likely	219	43.63		
5=Makes No Difference	92	18.33		
6=Don't Know/Refused	19	3.78		
	502	100.00		

QUESTION 10:

Next: In a recent study, patients who had laser surgery for glaucoma performed by an optometrist were almost 3 times more likely to require repeat surgery than those who had the same procedure done by an ophthalmologist. Does that make you More Likely or Less Likely to support legislation allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels?

[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:] And is that Much or Somewhat [MORE/LESS] Likely?

1=Much More Likely	24	4.78	↑	9.36%
2=Somewhat More Likely	23	4.58		
3=Somewhat Less Likely	90	17.93	↓	82.67%
4=Much Less Likely	325	64.74		
5=Makes No Difference	27	5.38		
6=Don't Know/Refused	13	2.59		
	502	100.00		

QUESTION 11:

Next: Under the proposed legislation, optometrists could possibly be certified to perform surgery on or near the eye with lasers, scalpels, and other surgical instruments after only attending a 32-hour weekend training course instead of going through medical school and residency. Does that make you More Likely or Less Likely to support legislation allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels?

[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:] And is that Much or Somewhat [MORE/LESS] Likely?

1=Much More Likely	19	3.78	↑	9.16%
2=Somewhat More Likely	27	5.38		
3=Somewhat Less Likely	66	13.15	↓	84.66%
4=Much Less Likely	359	71.51		
5=Makes No Difference	23	4.58		
6=Don't Know/Refused	8	1.59		
	502	100.00		

QUESTION 12:

Next: Under the proposed legislation, optometrists performing laser and scalpel eye and eyelid surgeries would not be licensed or regulated by the Arkansas State Medical Board. Does that make you More Likely or Less Likely to support legislation allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels?

[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:] And is that Much or Somewhat [MORE/LESS] Likely?

1=Much More Likely	13	2.59	↑	4.38%
2=Somewhat More Likely	9	1.79		
3=Somewhat Less Likely	73	14.54	↓	89.64%
4=Much Less Likely	377	75.10		
5=Makes No Difference	23	4.58		
6=Don't Know/Refused	7	1.39		
	502	100.00		

QUESTION 13:

If you were having surgery on or near your eye, which would be more important to you:
(ROTATE)

- that the surgical procedure was performed by a licensed medical doctor trained in eye surgery, OR

- that the surgical procedure was performed at a more convenient location, but not by a medical doctor or trained surgeon

1=Performed by a Licensed Medical Doctor	468	93.23
2=Performed at a More Convenient Location	16	3.19
3=Don't Know/Refused	18	3.59
	502	100.00

QUESTION 14:

Optometrists in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Tennessee are allowed to perform various types of eye and eyelid surgeries. Does that make you More Likely or Less Likely to support legislation allowing optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers and scalpels?

[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK:] And is that Much or Somewhat [MORE/LESS] Likely?

1=Much More Likely	21	4.18	↑	10.16%
2=Somewhat More Likely	30	5.98		
3=Somewhat Less Likely	83	16.53	↓	67.33%
4=Much Less Likely	255	50.80		
5=Makes No Difference	106	21.12		
6=Don't Know/Refused	7	1.39		
	502	100.00		

QUESTION 15:

Thinking more about state legislation related to eye and eyelid surgery, which of the following statements comes closer to your view on the issue? (ROTATE)

1=Arkansas should adopt legislation similar to neighboring states that would allow optometrists to perform surgery on or near the eye with lasers, scalpels, and other surgical instruments in order to make these procedures more convenient and accessible to patients.	49	9.76
2=Arkansas should reject legislation that would lower our state's medical safety standards and put patients at greater risk for surgical errors and complications, and instead continue to require that eye and eyelid surgeries are only performed by properly trained medical doctors and surgeons.	427	85.06
3=Don't Know/Refused	26	5.18
	502	100.00

QUESTION 16:

Now just a few questions for statistical purposes:

Please stop me when I read the correct category for your age group: [READ]

1=18 to 34	32	6.37
2=35 to 49	104	20.72
3=50 to 64	189	37.65
4=65 and Over	177	35.26
5=Refused	0	0.00
	502	100.00

QUESTION 17:

Other than being an American, would you describe your ethnic or racial heritage as mainly (READ CHOICE ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE):

1=White	406	80.88
2=Hispanic or Latino	7	1.39
3=African-American or Black	53	10.56
4=Asian American	0	0.00
5=Native American	14	2.79
6=Other	11	2.19
7=Don't Know/Refused	11	2.19
	502	100.00

QUESTION 18:

Do you consider yourself Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

[IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, ASK:] Would you call yourself VERY (Conservative/Liberal) or SOMEWHAT (Conservative/Liberal)?

1=Very Conservative	172	34.26
2=Somewhat Conservative	120	23.90
3=Moderate	119	23.71
4=Somewhat Liberal	28	5.58
5=Very Liberal	34	6.77
6=Don't Know/Refused	29	5.78
	502	100.00

QUESTION 19:

What would you say your total yearly household income is? [READ CHOICES]

1=\$0 to \$25,000	44	8.76
2=\$26,000 to \$50,000	81	16.14
3=\$51,000 to \$75,000	101	20.12
4=\$76,000 to \$100,000	70	13.94
5=More than \$100,000	111	22.11
6=Don't Know/Refused	95	18.92
	502	100.00

QUESTION 20:

What is the highest level of education you have completed? [READ IF NEEDED]

1=Did Not Complete High School	11	2.19
2=High School Graduate or GED	111	22.11
3=Some College	93	18.53
4=Technical or 2-Year Degree	61	12.15
5=Bachelor's Degree	119	23.71
6=Master's or Professional Degree	77	15.34
7=Advanced Graduate Work or Ph.D	25	4.98
8=Don't Know/Refused	5	1.00
	502	100.00

QUESTION 21:

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: [ROTATE]
a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else

1=Republican	220	43.82
2=Democrat	120	23.90
3=Independent	108	21.51
4=Something Else	41	8.17
5=Don't Know/Refused	13	2.59
	502	100.00

QUESTION 22:

Did you vote in the most recent General Elections held on November 6th, 2018?

1=Yes	472	94.02
2=No	27	5.38
3=Don't Know/Refused	3	0.60
	502	100.00

QUESTION 23:

[Gender: By Observation Only]

1=Male	247	49.20
2=Female	255	50.80
	502	100.00

QUESTION 24:

Phone: [FROM FILE]

1=Landline	289	57.57
2=Cell	213	42.43
	502	100.00

QUESTION 25:

CD: [FROM FILE]

1=CD 1	126	25.10
2=CD 2	126	25.10
3=CD 3	122	24.30
4=CD 4	128	25.50
	502	100.00