

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Lincoln could be in trouble**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – The second part of Public Policy Polling’s Arkansas survey finds tepid approval ratings for Senator Blanche Lincoln.

45% of voters support the job she’s doing while 40% say they disapprove of her work. Hurting Lincoln’s numbers are poor marks from independents, only 31% of whom say they approve of her performance while 50% rate her negatively. 73% of Democrats but only 22% of Republicans express approval.

Lincoln holds solid, but not spectacular, leads over a couple of folks who have been rumored as possible challengers. She has a 46-38 edge over former US Attorney Tim Griffin and leads state senator Gilbert Baker 48-37.

Baker and Griffin are both largely unknown to the state’s voters and their numbers can probably be viewed as those of the generic Republican opponent to Lincoln. 58% of voters have no opinion about Griffin and 55% say the same about Baker.

“These numbers don’t exactly indicate that Lincoln is in big trouble, but they are somewhat weak for an incumbent,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “You would usually expect someone who’s been in statewide office for more than a decade to hold a double digit lead over a couple of potential opponents with minimal name recognition.”

Most voters who have an opinion about Baker or Griffin hold an unfavorable one, which is likely more a reaction of Democratic voters to their party affiliation than any actual enmity.

PPP surveyed 600 Arkansas voters from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## Arkansas Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Democratic US Senator Blanche Lincoln's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 45%  
*Disapprove*..... 40%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Republican state Senator Gilbert Baker? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 17%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 28%  
*Not Sure*..... 55%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of former Republican US Attorney Tim Griffin? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 17%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 25%  
*Not Sure*..... 58%

**Q4** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Republican Gilbert Baker and Democrat Blanche Lincoln, who would you vote for? If Gilbert Baker, press 1. If Blanche Lincoln, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Gilbert Baker*..... 37%  
*Blanche Lincoln* ..... 48%  
*Undecided*..... 16%

**Q5** If the candidates for US Senate next year were Republican Tim Griffin and Democrat Blanche Lincoln, who would you vote for? If Tim Griffin, press 1. If Blanche Lincoln, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

*Tim Griffin*..... 37%  
*Blanche Lincoln* ..... 46%  
*Undecided*..... 16%

**Q6** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Women* .....51% *Men*.....49%

**Q7** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 41%  
*Republican*..... 31%  
*Other*..... 29%

**Q8** If you are white, press 1. If you are African American, press 2. If you are Hispanic, press 3. If other, press 4.

*White* .....82% *Other*..... 3%  
*African American* ....15%

**Q9** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

*18-29*..... 9% *46-65*.....45%  
*30-45*.....24% *Older than 65*.....21%





**Crosstabs**

|                         | Base | Gender |     |
|-------------------------|------|--------|-----|
|                         |      | Women  | Men |
| <b>Lincoln Approval</b> |      |        |     |
| <b>Approve</b>          | 45%  | 49%    | 42% |
| <b>Disapprove</b>       | 40%  | 34%    | 46% |
| <b>Not Sure</b>         | 15%  | 17%    | 12% |

|                           | Base | Gender |     |
|---------------------------|------|--------|-----|
|                           |      | Women  | Men |
| <b>Baker Favorability</b> |      |        |     |
| <b>Favorable</b>          | 17%  | 18%    | 17% |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>        | 28%  | 25%    | 31% |
| <b>Not Sure</b>           | 55%  | 58%    | 52% |

|                             | Base | Gender |     |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----|
|                             |      | Women  | Men |
| <b>Griffin Favorability</b> |      |        |     |
| <b>Favorable</b>            | 17%  | 16%    | 18% |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>          | 25%  | 23%    | 26% |
| <b>Not Sure</b>             | 58%  | 61%    | 55% |

|                        | Base | Gender |     |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|
|                        |      | Women  | Men |
| <b>Baker/Lincoln</b>   |      |        |     |
| <b>Gilbert Baker</b>   | 37%  | 34%    | 39% |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 48%  | 50%    | 45% |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 16%    | 15% |





**Crosstabs**

|                        | Base | Gender |     |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|
|                        |      | Women  | Men |
| <b>Griffin/Lincoln</b> |      |        |     |
| <b>Tim Griffin</b>     | 38%  | 35%    | 41% |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 46%  | 51%    | 42% |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 15%    | 18% |

|                         | Base | Party    |            |       |
|-------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------|
|                         |      | Democrat | Republican | Other |
| <b>Lincoln Approval</b> |      |          |            |       |
| <b>Approve</b>          | 45%  | 73%      | 22%        | 31%   |
| <b>Disapprove</b>       | 40%  | 13%      | 65%        | 50%   |
| <b>Not Sure</b>         | 15%  | 14%      | 13%        | 19%   |

|                           | Base | Party    |            |       |
|---------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------|
|                           |      | Democrat | Republican | Other |
| <b>Baker Favorability</b> |      |          |            |       |
| <b>Favorable</b>          | 17%  | 9%       | 33%        | 11%   |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>        | 28%  | 42%      | 14%        | 22%   |
| <b>Not Sure</b>           | 55%  | 49%      | 53%        | 67%   |

|                             | Base | Party    |            |       |
|-----------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------|
|                             |      | Democrat | Republican | Other |
| <b>Griffin Favorability</b> |      |          |            |       |
| <b>Favorable</b>            | 17%  | 8%       | 31%        | 14%   |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>          | 25%  | 40%      | 10%        | 19%   |
| <b>Not Sure</b>             | 58%  | 52%      | 59%        | 66%   |





**Crosstabs**

|                        | Base | Party    |            |       |
|------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------|
|                        |      | Democrat | Republican | Other |
| <b>Baker/Lincoln</b>   |      |          |            |       |
| <b>Gilbert Baker</b>   | 37%  | 7%       | 71%        | 41%   |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 48%  | 84%      | 15%        | 32%   |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 9%       | 15%        | 26%   |

|                        | Base | Party    |            |       |
|------------------------|------|----------|------------|-------|
|                        |      | Democrat | Republican | Other |
| <b>Griffin/Lincoln</b> |      |          |            |       |
| <b>Tim Griffin</b>     | 38%  | 8%       | 72%        | 42%   |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 46%  | 82%      | 15%        | 29%   |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 9%       | 13%        | 29%   |

|                         | Base | Race  |                  |       |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                         |      | White | African American | Other |
| <b>Lincoln Approval</b> |      |       |                  |       |
| <b>Approve</b>          | 45%  | 41%   | 68%              | 37%   |
| <b>Disapprove</b>       | 40%  | 45%   | 12%              | 37%   |
| <b>Not Sure</b>         | 15%  | 14%   | 20%              | 26%   |

|                           | Base | Race  |                  |       |
|---------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                           |      | White | African American | Other |
| <b>Baker Favorability</b> |      |       |                  |       |
| <b>Favorable</b>          | 17%  | 18%   | 12%              | 11%   |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>        | 28%  | 25%   | 44%              | 30%   |
| <b>Not Sure</b>           | 55%  | 57%   | 44%              | 59%   |





**Crosstabs**

|                             | Base | Race  |                  |       |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                             |      | White | African American | Other |
| <b>Griffin Favorability</b> |      |       |                  |       |
| <b>Favorable</b>            | 17%  | 18%   | 12%              | 7%    |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>          | 25%  | 22%   | 34%              | 41%   |
| <b>Not Sure</b>             | 58%  | 59%   | 54%              | 52%   |

|                        | Base | Race  |                  |       |
|------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                        |      | White | African American | Other |
| <b>Baker/Lincoln</b>   |      |       |                  |       |
| <b>Gilbert Baker</b>   | 37%  | 42%   | 2%               | 52%   |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 48%  | 42%   | 78%              | 41%   |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 15%   | 20%              | 7%    |

|                        | Base | Race  |                  |       |
|------------------------|------|-------|------------------|-------|
|                        |      | White | African American | Other |
| <b>Griffin/Lincoln</b> |      |       |                  |       |
| <b>Tim Griffin</b>     | 38%  | 43%   | 5%               | 41%   |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 46%  | 42%   | 71%              | 44%   |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 15%   | 24%              | 15%   |

|                         | Base | Age   |       |       |               |
|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
|                         |      | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-65 | Older than 65 |
| <b>Lincoln Approval</b> |      |       |       |       |               |
| <b>Approve</b>          | 45%  | 50%   | 41%   | 43%   | 54%           |
| <b>Disapprove</b>       | 40%  | 36%   | 44%   | 40%   | 35%           |
| <b>Not Sure</b>         | 15%  | 14%   | 16%   | 17%   | 11%           |





**Crosstabs**

|                           | Base | Age   |       |       |               |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
|                           |      | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-65 | Older than 65 |
| <b>Baker Favorability</b> |      |       |       |       |               |
| <b>Favorable</b>          | 17%  | 19%   | 11%   | 18%   | 20%           |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>        | 28%  | 29%   | 32%   | 28%   | 22%           |
| <b>Not Sure</b>           | 55%  | 52%   | 56%   | 54%   | 58%           |

|                             | Base | Age   |       |       |               |
|-----------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
|                             |      | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-65 | Older than 65 |
| <b>Griffin Favorability</b> |      |       |       |       |               |
| <b>Favorable</b>            | 17%  | 12%   | 19%   | 15%   | 21%           |
| <b>Unfavorable</b>          | 25%  | 40%   | 24%   | 24%   | 21%           |
| <b>Not Sure</b>             | 58%  | 48%   | 57%   | 61%   | 58%           |

|                        | Base | Age   |       |       |               |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
|                        |      | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-65 | Older than 65 |
| <b>Baker/Lincoln</b>   |      |       |       |       |               |
| <b>Gilbert Baker</b>   | 37%  | 28%   | 40%   | 36%   | 38%           |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 48%  | 57%   | 42%   | 47%   | 52%           |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 15%   | 18%   | 17%   | 11%           |

|                        | Base | Age   |       |       |               |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|---------------|
|                        |      | 18-29 | 30-45 | 46-65 | Older than 65 |
| <b>Griffin/Lincoln</b> |      |       |       |       |               |
| <b>Tim Griffin</b>     | 38%  | 28%   | 40%   | 38%   | 38%           |
| <b>Blanche Lincoln</b> | 46%  | 53%   | 40%   | 47%   | 50%           |
| <b>Undecided</b>       | 16%  | 19%   | 19%   | 16%   | 13%           |

