



*behavior research center's*

# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

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LEGISLATURE THOUGHT TOO COZY WITH DEVELOPERS  
AND BIG BUSINESS... WHILE IGNORING MENTAL HEALTH,  
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SMALL BUSINESS

Phoenix, Arizona, March 2, 2001. According to seven of ten taxpayers in the Phoenix area, the state legislature pays too little attention to the needs of mental health providers, public schools and small business.

Additionally, 50 to 60 percent think the legislature neglects the needs of the health care industry, minority groups, the state's farming and ranching industry and community arts and cultural groups.

On the other hand, taxpayers are strongly of the opinion that state legislators pay more attention than they should to the needs of the real estate industry, developers and big business. Further, this view is both lopsided and bi-partisan: thus, 64 percent of Independents, 56 percent of Democrats and 41 percent of Republicans think the legislature is too cozy with big business. Similarly 62 percent of Democrats, 56 percent of Independents and 45 percent of Republicans believe the legislature is too attentive to the needs of the real estate industry and developers. Among Republicans, generally the most inclined to be "pro-business," only 16 percent opine that legislators are inattentive to big business and not even ten percent say that of the real estate and development industries.

Even though only 13 to 15 percent of taxpayers harbor the view that the legislature neglects the interests of big business, not all "big businesses" are viewed the same. For example, and as already noted, by a four to one ratio, taxpayers believe realtors and developers are pampered by the

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legislature, but views are much more evenly split as to whether the insurance industry receives the attention it needs. Further, by nearly two to one, the view is that electric and gas utilities should be given more attention.

Another interesting aspect of the poll results is the distinction taxpayers seem to be making between how they see the legislature handling the needs of business compared to the needs of advocacy, consumer and public service groups, including other governments in the state. In nearly every case tested (except small business, health care and agriculture) the legislature is seen as favoring the needs of business while for every advocacy, consumer, educational or governmental group we asked about, the legislature is thought of as paying too little attention to their needs. This disparity suggests that taxpayers here are adopting a more “populist” view of how the legislature should be performing than may have existed in the past. The recent reported growth in people registering to vote as independents may also be a reflection of this change in the electorate.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 608 residents of Maricopa County conducted in February by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center’s independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. For more information you may visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com).

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**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2001-I-12), is based on 608 interviews with adult heads of household throughout the metropolitan Phoenix area between February 9 and 12 of 2001. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.05 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**ENCLOSED:** Statistical tables.

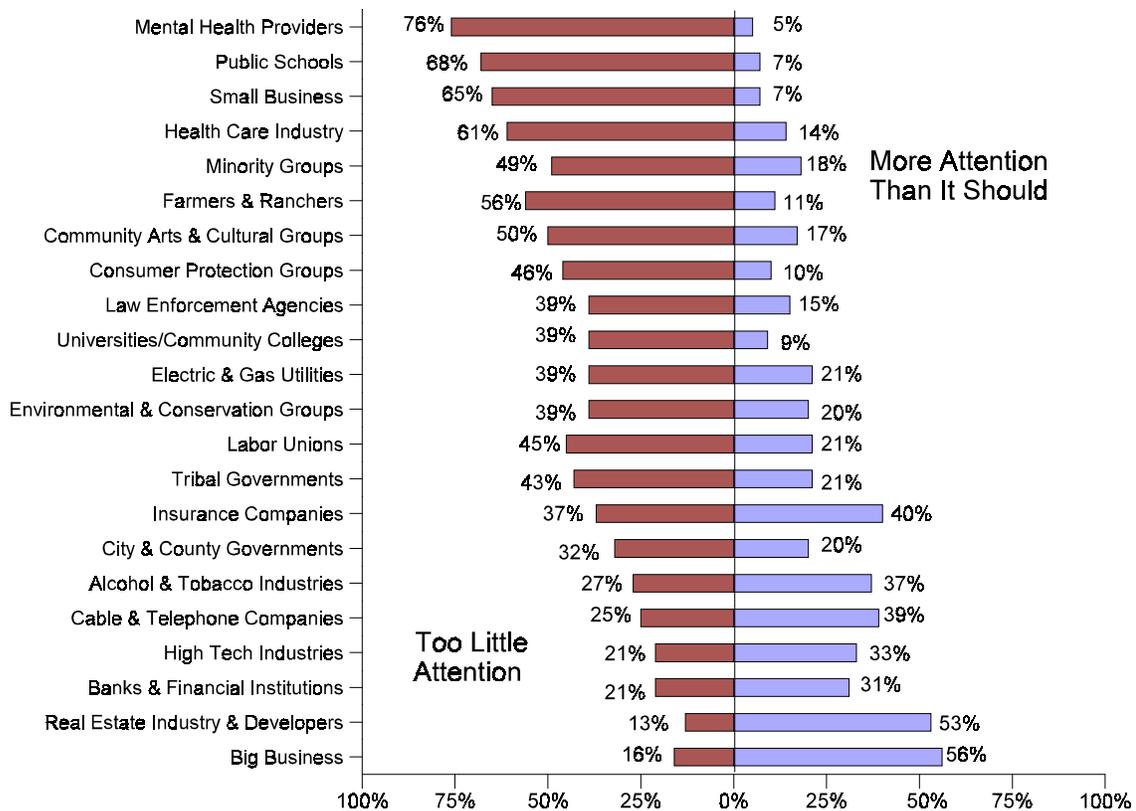
STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
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*“As you may be aware, various organizations, advocacy groups, governments and businesses lobby the Arizona state legislature each year to pass laws that they want. From what you have read or heard, does the legislature pay more attention than it should, about the right amount of attention, or does it pay too little attention to the needs of each of the following groups?”*

ATTENTION GIVEN EACH GROUP BY LEGISLATURE

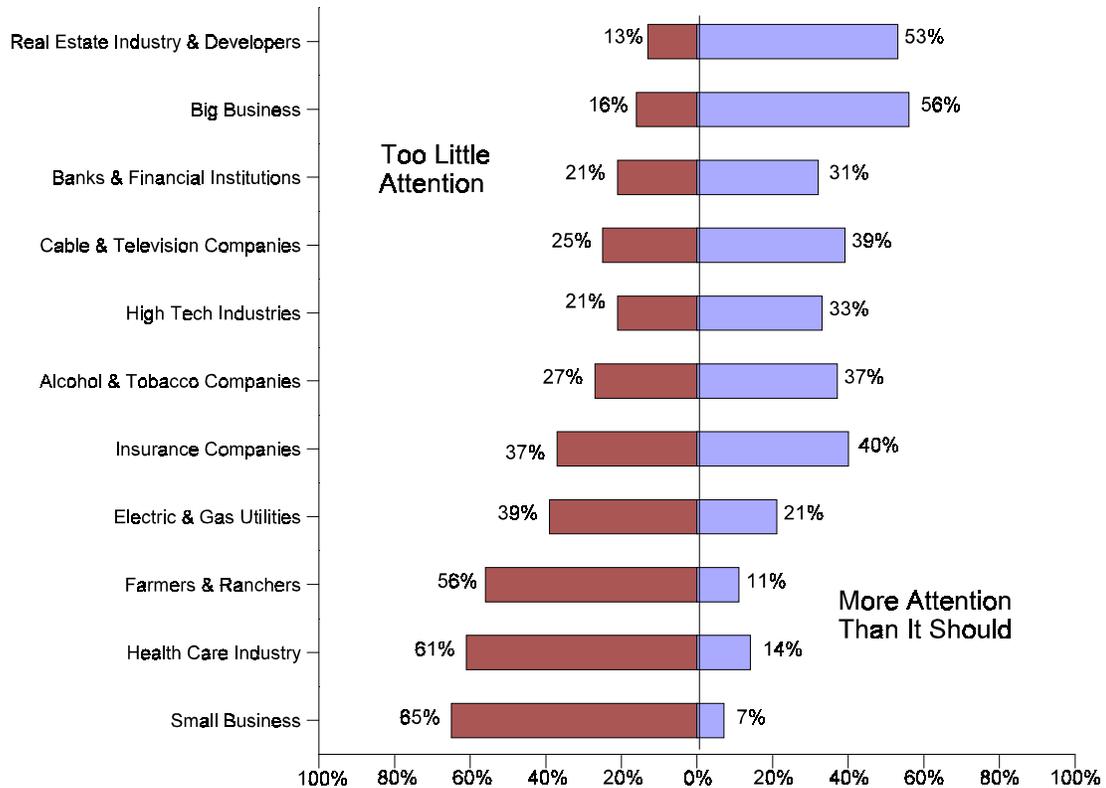


**STATISTICAL DATA**

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**BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS**

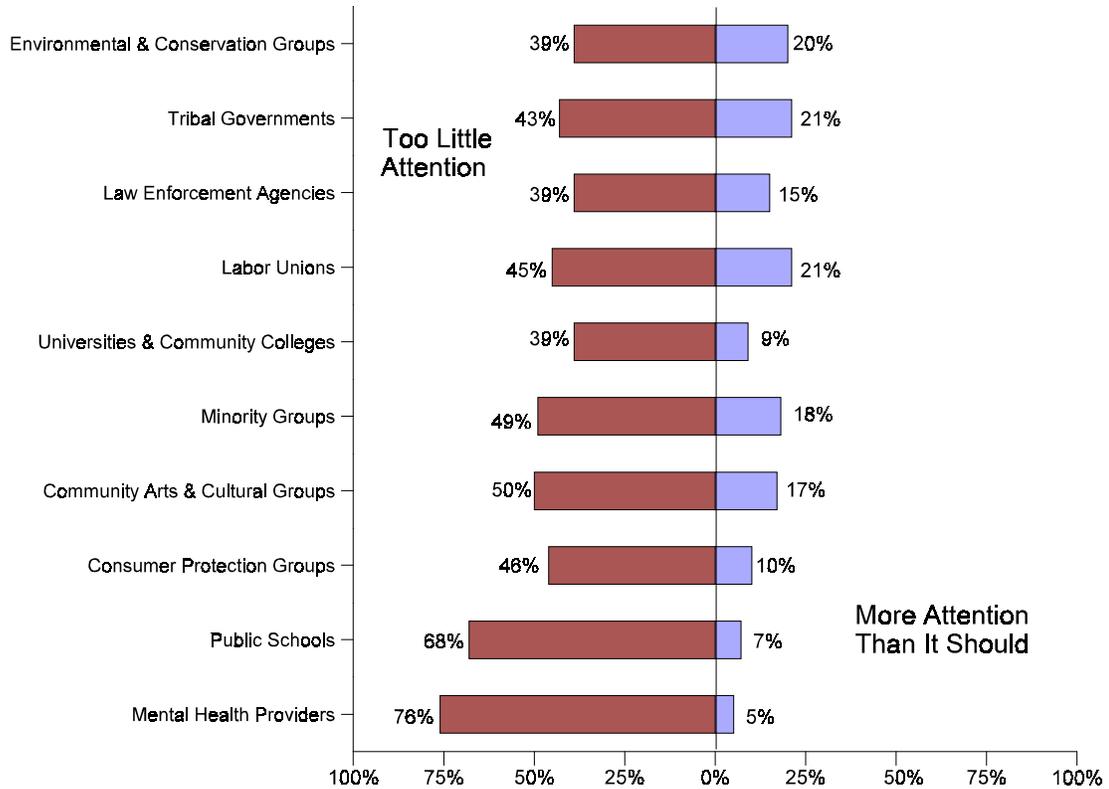


**STATISTICAL DATA**

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