



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
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STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN WIDELY SUPPORTED – BUT NOT FOR ALL PUBLIC PLACES

Phoenix, Arizona, August 26, 2003. There exists very strong support for a statewide law to ban smoking in public places – but not in *all* public places. By lopsided percentages, the public favors a ban covering the following places:

- Anywhere children may be present (84% favor to 15% oppose);
- All government buildings (78% to 20%);
- All indoor work environments (71% to 27%);
- All restaurants (59% to 38%).

The public is less unified in whether smoking should be banned in *all* businesses open to the public. Support drops to 55 percent and opposition rises to 44 percent, perhaps because of views regarding the appropriateness or fairness of a smoking ban in two types of businesses: bars that do not serve food and businesses with outdoor work environments. For both of these places, 60 to 65 percent question whether a smoking ban is appropriate.

Notwithstanding the apparent contradiction (simultaneous public support for a ban in all indoor work places and opposition to a ban protecting workers in bars), it is clear that a statewide ban that included every indoor work environment except bars would probably pass handily if put to a vote. Further, if such a ban included a provision aimed at keeping children out of the harm's way of second-hand smoke, support approaches unity.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 600 heads of household throughout Maricopa County conducted between August 6 and August 14, 2003, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent polls.

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Overall, responses do not vary greatly by age, gender or political affiliation, although Democrats and Independents tend to be more supportive of banning smoking in all locations. In all instances, however, Republicans are within a few points of the averages and are above average in their support of banning smoking in restaurants, indoor work environments, government buildings and places where children are present.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-III-11) is based on 600 telephone interviews conducted from August 6 through August 14, 2003, with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.07 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.

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

BELOW: Statistical data

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results

STATISTICAL DATA

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Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
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“Do you favor or do you oppose the State of Arizona passing a law to ban tobacco smoking in the following places?”

	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE
All places where children may be present	84%	15%	1%
All government buildings	78	20	2
All indoor work environments	71	27	2
All restaurants	59	38	3
All businesses open to the public	55	41	4
All bars where food is not sold	33	60	7
All outdoor work environments	26	65	9

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