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# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

NEWS RELEASE  
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## SENATOR JON KYL HOLDS 24-POINT LEAD OVER JIM PEDERSON, BUT JOB PERFORMANCE RATING HAS SLIPPED

Phoenix, Arizona, November 9, 2005. Incumbent Republican Senator Jon Kyl handily wins an early test election against Democrat challenger Jim Pederson 54 to 30 percent and has a slightly larger lead among voters most likely to vote in an off-year election – 56 to 30 percent. The Senator enjoys a huge lead among Republican voters and in his home county of Maricopa, which is principally the Phoenix area.

On the other hand, Democrat voters already favor the relatively unknown Pederson by five to three and registered Independents, although they lean toward Kyl, are divided at 47 percent for Kyl and 34 percent for Pederson with roughly a fifth uncommitted. It appears that Pederson is building early strength in the Tucson area where he trails Kyl by only six points. In the rural areas of the state, Kyl enjoys a lead of 49 to 31 percent, yet it is clear that Pederson has made some inroads. In Maricopa County, Kyl has a huge lead of 60 to 26 percent, a gap which Pederson must close if he is to have any hope of being competitive.

Senator Kyl's early strength however, may mask some latent vulnerabilities that could become important as the race unfolds. This conclusion traces to several factors. The first is that Jim Pederson is anything but a household name in Arizona and yet he manages to attract 30 percent of the vote, apparently on the basis of his political affiliation, or possible anti-incumbent sentiments among voters. He is already attracting over half of the Democrat vote and a third of the Independent vote.

Secondly, while the vote for Kyl is impressive, the favorable job performance evaluation given him by voters has weakened noticeably since mid-summer, declining to 40 percent from 47 percent in July.

Despite potential vulnerabilities, there can be no doubt that Senator Kyl enters the race with a comfortable lead and with little evidence of a ground swell for change. Consequently, Pederson has a major mountain to climb in giving voters a reason to dump a Republican incumbent in favor of a Democratic businessman.

If, on the other hand, the Senate race becomes, in part, a referendum on the Bush administration, Pederson could move into more serious contention than is apparent today. There is strong evidence in the survey that the less one supports Mr. Bush, the less one supports Senator Kyl. For example, 80 percent of voters who approve of Bush are voting as well for Kyl, but among those who are lukewarm toward Bush, Kyl's vote drops to 52 percent and among those unhappy with Bush, the Kyl vote drops to a bare 28 percent.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 539 voters across Arizona conducted between October 19<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005, 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](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2005-IV-04) is based on 539 telephone interviews with Arizona voters, conducted from October 19th through October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005, throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.3 percent of what they would have been had the entire voter 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.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
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TEST U.S. SENATE ELECTION

*“And finally, if the race for U.S. Senator for Arizona were being held today, which of the following candidates do you favor – Democrat Jim Pederson or Republican Jon Kyl?” (NAMES ROTATED)*

	Jon Kyl	Jim Pederson	Uncommitted	(Net Points to Kyl)
STATEWIDE	54%	30%	16%	(+24)
Maricopa	60	26	14	(+34)
Pima	44	38	18	(+ 6)
Rural	49	31	20	(+18)
Republican	79	7	14	(+72)
Democrat	31	52	17	(-21)
Independent	47	34	19	(+13)
Men	58	29	13	(+29)
Women	51	30	19	(+21)
Likely voters	56	30	14	(+24)

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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*"Next, I'd like to read you the names of some public officials. As I read each one, please just tell me if you think the job they are doing in office is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor."*

|                             |             | EXCELLENT/<br>GOOD | FAIR       | POOR/VERY<br>POOR | (NET POS<br>TO NEG) |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>U.S. Senator Jon Kyl</b> |             |                    |            |                   |                     |
| <b>October</b>              | <b>2005</b> | <b>40%</b>         | <b>23%</b> | <b>10%</b>        | <b>(+ 30)</b>       |
| July                        | 2005        | 47                 | 21         | 9                 | (+ 38)              |
| April                       | 2005        | 42                 | 21         | 10                | (+ 32)              |
| January                     | 2005        | 49                 | 22         | 7                 | (+ 42)              |
| October                     | 2004        | 47                 | 23         | 8                 | (+ 39)              |
| July                        | 2004        | 48                 | 22         | 9                 | (+ 39)              |
| April                       | 2004        | 42                 | 25         | 9                 | (+ 33)              |
| January                     | 2004        | 41                 | 28         | 10                | (+ 31)              |
| October                     | 2003        | 43                 | 27         | 7                 | (+ 36)              |
| July                        | 2003        | 49                 | 23         | 9                 | (+ 40)              |
| April                       | 2003        | 45                 | 22         | 7                 | (+ 38)              |
| January                     | 2003        | 42                 | 28         | 8                 | (+ 34)              |
| October                     | 2002        | 43                 | 26         | 10                | (+ 33)              |
| July                        | 2002        | 50                 | 23         | 8                 | (+ 42)              |
| April                       | 2002        | 49                 | 21         | 9                 | (+ 40)              |
| January                     | 2002        | 48                 | 26         | 5                 | (+ 43)              |
| October                     | 2001        | 57                 | 22         | 7                 | (+ 50)              |
| July                        | 2001        | 46                 | 24         | 7                 | (+ 39)              |
| April                       | 2001        | 46                 | 27         | 8                 | (+ 38)              |
| January                     | 2001        | 47                 | 23         | 9                 | (+ 38)              |
| October                     | 2000        | 46                 | 26         | 7                 | (+ 39)              |
| July                        | 2000        | 39                 | 32         | 7                 | (+ 32)              |
| April                       | 2000        | 37                 | 26         | 10                | (+ 27)              |
| January                     | 2000        | 40                 | 26         | 8                 | (+ 32)              |
| October                     | 1999        | 38                 | 26         | 9                 | (+ 29)              |
| July                        | 1999        | 43                 | 28         | 8                 | (+ 35)              |
| April                       | 1999        | 39                 | 27         | 9                 | (+ 30)              |
| January                     | 1999        | 42                 | 25         | 8                 | (+ 34)              |
| January                     | 1998        | 42                 | 28         | 9                 | (+ 33)              |
| January                     | 1997        | 36                 | 32         | 8                 | (+ 28)              |
| January                     | 1996        | 33                 | 31         | 13                | (+ 20)              |

VOTER ASSESSMENT OF G.W. BUSH  
PERFORMANCE AS PRESIDENT

| SENATE VOTE  | Excellent/<br>Good | Fair      | Poor/Very<br>Poor |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Jon Kyl      | 80%                | 52%       | 28%               |
| Jim Pederson | 8                  | 27        | 53                |
| Not sure     | <u>12</u>          | <u>21</u> | <u>19</u>         |
|              | 100%               | 100%      | 100%              |