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# **Rocky Mountain Poll**

NEWS RELEASE  
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## NAPOLITANO AND McCAIN JOB RATINGS VERY HIGH; KYL ESTEEM REBOUNDS, AS DOES LEGISLATURE'S

Phoenix, Arizona, February 2, 2006. Arizonans are pretty darned pleased with their political leadership – both Republican and Democratic – and the highest proportion in nearly a year believe the state is headed in the “right direction.”

Janet Napolitano is registering favorable job ratings that approach 60 percent, Senator John McCain's favorable scores actually exceed 60 percent and Senator Jon Kyl's ratings are on the upswing in an important election year for him. The state legislature, which the public often views like an ill-tempered stepmother, enjoys two-to-one favorable job ratings as of January.

Further, when we look only at Arizonans who are registered to vote, the ratings are even better. For example, 59 percent of all registered voters and an impressive 68 percent of voters most likely to vote in state elections say Napolitano is doing a good job as Governor. Similarly, Senator John McCain receives the applause of 62 percent of the general public, 65 percent of all registered voters and 70 percent of likely voters. Fewer than ten percent say Senator Jon Kyl is doing a poor job in office, while favorable ratings are four times higher – 42 percent – a figure that rises to 47 percent among registered voters and to 50 percent among likely voters.

Even the state legislature, which is often the least understood and least favorably rated by voters, is regaining public esteem – now 30 percent favorable compared to 25 percent in October – while at the same time, its “poor” job ratings shrank to 14 percent from 18 percent in October.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 703 adults across Arizona conducted between January 5<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 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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The proportion who believe that Arizona is headed in the right direction steadily declined throughout 2005 from a high of 58 percent in January 2005 to only 51 percent in October. Today, the “right direction” decline has reversed itself and the proportion is now 54 percent. Readings of 54 percent of the general public and 59 percent of likely voters content with the state’s direction may point to a public that is not in a mood to change their current leadership.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-I-05) is based on 703 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from January 5<sup>th</sup> through January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 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.

**ENCLOSED:** Statistical data for reference.

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP 2006-I-05

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

*“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/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/VERY POOR	(NET Pos To NEG)
<b><u>Governor Janet Napolitano</u></b>					
<b>January</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>(+ 43)</b>
October	2005	52	30	12	(+ 40)
July	2005	53	21	18	(+ 35)
April	2005	57	22	15	(+ 42)
January	2005	55	24	13	(+ 42)
October	2004	51	25	16	(+ 35)
July	2004	52	25	18	(+ 34)
April	2004	43	30	20	(+ 23)
January	2004	49	26	17	(+ 32)
October	2003	46	30	16	(+ 30)
April	2003	49	24	10	(+ 39)
<b><u>Arizona State Legislature</u></b>					
<b>January</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>(+ 16)</b>
October	2005	25	35	18	(+ 7)
July	2005	34	35	13	(+ 21)
April	2005	27	33	17	(+ 10)
January	2005	34	34	13	(+ 21)
October	2004	26	35	19	(+ 7)
July	2004	34	33	18	(+ 17)
April	2004	25	37	20	(+ 5)
January	2004	27	34	22	(+ 5)
October	2003	22	38	20	(+ 2)
April	2003	29	31	20	(+ 9)
January	2003	19	33	30	(- 11)
October	2002	17	35	29	(- 12)
October	2001	29	34	16	(+ 13)
April	2001	28	37	17	(+ 11)
January	2001	25	32	25	( -0- )
January	2000	30	36	18	(+ 12)
January	1999	37	33	11	(+ 26)
January	1998	31	35	18	(+ 13)
January	1997	28	40	17	(+ 11)
January	1996	22	46	17	(+ 5)
January	1995	22	41	15	(+ 7)
January	1994	23	39	22	(+ 1)

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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."* (READ EACH; ROTATE LIST)

		EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/VERY POOR	(NET POS TO NEG)
<b>U.S. Senator John McCain</b>					
<b>January</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>(+ 53)</b>
October	2005	60	27	7	(+ 53)
July	2005	63	19	9	(+ 54)
April	2005	61	22	10	(+ 51)
January	2005	73	15	6	(+ 67)
October	2004	70	17	8	(+ 62)
July	2004	72	17	6	(+ 66)
April	2004	65	18	9	(+ 56)
January	2004	64	20	9	(+ 55)
October	2003	61	22	7	(+ 54)
July	2003	68	18	8	(+ 60)
April	2003	66	20	6	(+ 60)
January	2003	57	24	9	(+ 48)
October	2002	61	23	10	(+ 51)
July	2002	66	21	8	(+ 58)
April	2002	69	15	9	(+ 60)
January	2002	65	21	9	(+ 56)
October	2001	70	16	9	(+ 61)
July	2001	54	22	13	(+ 41)
April	2001	63	22	8	(+ 55)
January	2001	63	21	7	(+ 56)
October	2000	67	18	8	(+ 59)
July	2000	63	21	8	(+ 55)
April	2000	56	24	9	(+ 47)
January	2000	63	20	7	(+ 56)
January	1999	63	17	9	(+ 54)
January	1998	55	25	8	(+ 47)
January	1997	50	28	9	(+ 41)
January	1996	47	28	11	(+ 36)
January	1995	47	29	11	(+ 37)
January	1994	38	33	14	(+ 24)
January	1993	46	30	14	(+ 32)
January	1992	33	35	17	(+ 16)
January	1991	24	34	19	(+ 05)

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		EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/VERY POOR	(NET POS TO NEG)
<b>U.S. Senator Jon Kyl</b>					
<b>January</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>(+ 33)</b>
October	2005	40	23	10	(+ 30)
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)

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*“Do you think things in Arizona are going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?”*

|                |             | RIGHT<br>TRACK | WRONG<br>TRACK | BOTH/<br>UNSURE |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>January</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>54%</b>     | <b>28%</b>     | <b>18%</b>      |
| October        | 2005        | 51             | 30             | 19              |
| July           | 2005        | 52             | 30             | 18              |
| April          | 2005        | 55             | 32             | 13              |
| January        | 2005        | 58             | 28             | 14              |

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