



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

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NAPOLITANO TRUMPS LEGISLATURE ON MOST ISSUES FACING ARIZONA SAYS THE PUBLIC

Phoenix, Arizona. August 8, 2006. Governor Janet Napolitano's popularity with voters has roots far deeper than her charismatic presence. When Arizonans are asked whether they trust Governor Napolitano or the State Legislature to do the best job handling each of 18 issues, Napolitano wins on eleven of them, seven issues score a draw between the two and the state legislature is given the nod on none.

Additionally, Republican voters reveal significant confidence in the Governor across an interesting range of issues.

The public has more trust in Governor Napolitano than in the legislature to do a good job on such issues as improving the quality of public education in Arizona, including the state's universities, protecting the environment, and providing health care for the poor and elderly.

What may come as a surprise to some, however, is that Janet Napolitano is also more trusted than the legislature as regards several traditionally strong issues for the GOP, including balancing the budget, attracting new employers to Arizona, attracting science and technology jobs to the state, and preparing Arizona for the future. She also bests the legislature on the issue of supporting family values, an issue long claimed by Republicans as their own. Her battles with the legislature over funding for education, child protective services and women's health care issues may be central to her strong reading on family values leadership. Although men rate the Governor higher than the legislature on family value issues, it is women who are the most inclined to applaud the Governor on this dimension.

Also of interest are the issues upon which neither the legislature nor the Governor bested the other. These include achieving immigration reform that actually works, improving health care in Arizona, developing crime prevention programs, pursuing programs that stimulate job growth in Arizona's rural areas, keeping taxes low and keeping religion out of government.

This report is based on a statewide survey of 808 adults heads of household including 627 voters. It was conducted between July 8th and July 21st, 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 for this and other polls.

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The results of this survey raise questions as to whether the Republican-controlled legislature, as a highly visible policy icon for the GOP in Arizona, is losing public confidence on budget and growth issues.

To explore this issue we looked at the opinions of Republican and Independent voters to identify the proportion who choose the Democratic Governor rather than the Republican controlled legislature as most trusted to best handle five economic issues. As may be seen on the pages which follow, on two significant economic issues, large percentages of Republican voters and even greater percentages of Independent voters, place more trust in the governor than they do in the legislature. More specifically, on the issue of attracting new employers to Arizona, fully 43 percent of Republicans and 55 percent of Independents have more trust in the Democratic governor than in the Republican legislature. Even more dramatic are their views on who they trust most to attract science and industry to the state. On this issue a majority of both Republicans and Independents give the nod to Governor Napolitano.

Equally surprising are the views of Republicans regarding who they trust the most on keeping taxes low and balancing the state budget. While a majority of Republicans put their faith in the Legislature, 30 to 40 percent instead chose the Governor.

These same questions were also asked of Latinos across Arizona in a report survey conducted the prior week. Their trust of Governor Napolitano on all the issues is even more profound. The rank order of their trust varies as well with such factors as family values, taxes, immigration reform and health care for the poor and elderly at the top of their trust list.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-III-05) is based on telephone interviews with 808 heads of household across Arizona including 627 voters and was conducted from July 8th through July 21st, 2006. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.9 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed while on the voter sample the estimated margin of error is +/- 4.0. The Republican sample includes 251 voters and the Democrat sample 284 voters. The margin of error for each of these sub-samples is plus or minus 6.3 percent. 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.

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STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona
 RMP 2006-III-05

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

“Who do you trust to do a better job in handling the following issues:
 Governor Janet Napolitano or the State Legislature?”
 (Sequence Rotated at Random)

GENERAL PUBLIC

	Napol- itano	Legis- lature	Neither can be Trusted	Net to Govern- nor	% with an Opinion
<u>Edge to Napolitano</u>					
Protect the environment in Arizona	63%	30%	7%	(33)	(84)
Balance the State budget	62	33	5	(29)	(86)
Improve the quality of public education	57	32	11	(25)	(81)
Prepare Arizona for the future	59	36	5	(23)	(89)
Improve Arizona transportation system	54	34	12	(20)	(82)
Attract science and technology jobs to Arizona	54	35	11	(19)	(80)
Provide health care for Arizona’s poor and elderly	52	37	11	(15)	(82)
Attract new employers to Arizona	53	40	7	(13)	(78)
Support family values	49	36	14	(13)	(83)
Improve your quality of life	46	34	20	(12)	(81)
Improve universities in Arizona	51	41	8	(10)	(79)
<u>No Clear Edge</u>					
Reduce crime in Arizona	44	37	19	(7)	(83)
Keep religion out of government	46	40	14	(6)	(74)
Stimulating job growth in Arizona’s rural areas	48	44	8	(4)	(75)
Keeping taxes low	44	41	14	(3)	(80)
Represent your point of view	43	43	14	(0)	(85)
Improve health care in Arizona	43	43	14	(0)	(82)
Developing immigration reform that works	38	41	21	(-3)	(79)

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STATISTICAL DATA

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“Who do you trust to do a better job in handling the following issues,
Governor Janet Napolitano or the State Legislature?”

REGISTERED VOTERS

(among those with an opinion)

Trust To Do The Best Job

	<u>Napolitano</u>	<u>Legislature</u>	<u>Neither</u>
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Attract new employees to Arizona

Republican voters	43%	51%	6%
Independent voters	55	43	2

Attract science and technology to Arizona

Republican voters	53	41	6
Independent voters	55	24	21

Keep taxes low

Republican voters	30	59	11
Independent voters	54	31	15

Balance the state budget

Republican voters	40	54	6
Independent voters	81	13	6

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“Who do you trust to do a better job in handling the following issues:  
 Governor Janet Napolitano or the State Legislature?”  
 (Sequence Rotated at Random)

L A T I N O S

|                                                       | Napol-<br>itano | Legis-<br>lature | Neither<br>can be<br>Trusted | Net to<br>Govern-<br>nor | %<br>with an<br>Opinion |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Support family values                                 | 67%             | 23%              | 10%                          | (44)                     | (74)                    |
| Keeping taxes low                                     | 67              | 24               | 9                            | (43)                     | (81)                    |
| Provide health care for Arizona’s poor<br>and elderly | 67              | 26               | 7                            | (41)                     | (85)                    |
| Developing immigration reform that works              | 65              | 28               | 7                            | (37)                     | (75)                    |
| Stimulating job growth in Arizona’s<br>rural areas    | 63              | 26               | 11                           | (37)                     | (79)                    |
| Attract new employers to Arizona                      | 63              | 30               | 7                            | (33)                     | (80)                    |
| Improve health care in Arizona                        | 63              | 31               | 6                            | (32)                     | (74)                    |
| Improve universities in Arizona                       | 63              | 31               | 6                            | (32)                     | (79)                    |
| Improve your quality of life                          | 59              | 28               | 13                           | (31)                     | (80)                    |
| Reduce crime in Arizona                               | 60              | 31               | 9                            | (29)                     | (77)                    |
| Keep religion out of government                       | 59              | 32               | 9                            | (27)                     | (74)                    |
| Attract science and technology jobs<br>to Arizona     | 59              | 34               | 7                            | (25)                     | (70)                    |
| Represent your point of view                          | 58              | 34               | 8                            | (24)                     | (82)                    |
| Balance the State budget                              | 59              | 37               | 4                            | (22)                     | (78)                    |
| Improve the quality of public education               | 57              | 35               | 8                            | (22)                     | (86)                    |
| Improve Arizona transportation system                 | 57              | 36               | 7                            | (21)                     | (81)                    |
| Protect the environment in Arizona                    | 55              | 35               | 10                           | (20)                     | (77)                    |
| Prepare Arizona for the future                        | 55              | 44               | 1                            | (11)                     | (74)                    |

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