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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2006-IV-07]

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## NAPOLITANO FAR AHEAD OF MUNSIL, MUNSIL HAS GAINED GROUND BUT WILL NEED STRONG PERFORMANCE IN DEBATES TO CLOSE THE GAP

Phoenix, Arizona, October 6, 2006. Incumbent Governor Janet Napolitano has a wide lead over Republican challenger Len Munsil (58% to 24%), a lead that traces to her strength among Democratic voters (81%), Independents (65%) and because she is making deep cuts into the ranks of Republicans who are satisfied with her performance (33%). The Republican Party may be paying the price for an extremely low turnout primary election and the nomination of a candidate who appears to have little appeal to moderate conservatives within the party. Among moderate Republicans, 44 percent are defecting to Napolitano as are 76 percent of moderate Independents.

Munsil has closed the Napolitano lead by ten points since the primary election. Even so, it is unlikely, even with four weeks to go before the November election, that Munsil can close the gap sufficiently to become competitive. Among likely voters, he trails by an even wider 62 to 25 percent.

The low intensity of the Napolitano campaign raises questions as to whether she is forgoing any significant effort to create coattails that could help her avoid the prospect of facing a GOP super majority in the legislature for the next two years, a majority that might make the legislature “veto proof.” While the Governor certainly has a great interest in maintaining her bi-partisan appeal, a big win may mean little if, as some people believe, the GOP can capture enough seats in the legislature to give them such a majority.

In the race itself, Munsil trails by 34 points overall, but shows modestly greater strength in certain voter sub groups. For example, although women favor Napolitano by a whopping 62 to 21 percent, men are warmer to Munsil – voting only 52 percent for Napolitano and 28 percent for Munsil. Munsil also attracts 37 percent of the GOP vote and roughly a third of the vote from upper income groups.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 625 voters across Arizona conducted between Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and Oct 3<sup>rd</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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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-IV-07) is based on 625 telephone interviews with voters across Arizona, conducted from Sept 26<sup>th</sup> through Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.0 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**

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Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona  
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For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

“If the election for Governor of Arizona were being held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were Democrat Janet Napolitano, Republican Len Munsil and Libertarian Barry Hess? (NAMES ROTATED)

	Statewide	Maricopa	Pima	Rural
Janet Napolitano (D)	58%	58%	58%	56%
Len Munsil (R)	24	25	19	25
Barry Hess (L)	2	2	1	2
Undecided	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%

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