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Rocky Mountain Poll

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MCCAIN LEADS OBAMA BY 11 POINTS AND CLINTON BY 15 IN ARIZONA

Phoenix, Arizona. May 23, 2008. Were the Presidential Election being held at the end of May, Republican candidate John McCain would defeat either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton in Arizona, but with margin's smaller, especially against Barack Obama than one might expect for a favorite son. His lead over Barack Obama is eleven points (50 to 39 percent) while over Hillary Clinton, he heads by 51 to 36 percent, or 15 points.

Voting is intensely partisan with 84 percent or more of Republicans sticking with McCain against either of the Democratic challengers. Similarly, 70 percent or more of Democrats sticking with Obama or Clinton against McCain. So it appears that much of the GOP hope that Democrats will remain divided after the nomination process is over may be wishful thinking on their part. Further, at this moment in time, Independent voters are splitting right down the middle so there is no advantage to either side from the ranks of Independents. And the threat of third party candidates is minuscule: barely one percent indicate they are thinking about voting for third party candidates.

So, in the final analysis, if Democrats close ranks after the nomination process is over to a level even stronger than the 70 percent already shown in this poll and if they remain competitive for the vote of Independents, McCain may find himself in a horse race here in Arizona with whomever is the Democratic nominee in November. Obama already appears to be the most formidable which undoubtably explains early efforts by the McCain campaign to criticize his experience and policies.

Obama's greater potential strength here is also seen in the fact that by a five to one ratio, those voters who were uncommitted in a McCain-Clinton test election, switch to Obama in an Obama-McCain test election. In contrast, undecided voters in a McCain-Obama test election split evenly in a McCain-Clinton test election. .

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP (2008-II-01)

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2008-II-01), is based on 630 interviews with voters across Arizona, conducted between May 12 and 20, 2008. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 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 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 sponsored by the Center. This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

	McCain	Clinton	Other	Uncommitted
All voters	51%	36%	1%	12%
Men	60	27	1	12
Women	43	44	0	13
Under 35	48	42	2	8
35 to 54	53	34	0	13
55+	51	36	*	13
Democrat	15	72	0	13
Republican	89	6	0	5
Independent	39	36	2	23

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|             | McCain | Obama | Other | Uncommitted |
|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------------|
| All voters  | 50%    | 39%   | 0%    | 11%         |
| Men         | 57     | 32    | 0     | 11          |
| Women       | 45     | 44    | 0     | 11          |
| Under 35    | 44     | 48    | 0     | 8           |
| 35 to 54    | 54     | 37    | 0     | 9           |
| 55+         | 51     | 35    | 0     | 14          |
| Democrat    | 18     | 70    | 0     | 12          |
| Republican  | 84     | 10    | 0     | 6           |
| Independent | 41     | 43    | 0     | 16          |

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