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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2011-III-01]

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4 OF 10 VOTERS QUESTION WHETHER DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN
SHOULD REPLACE RETIRING JON KYL IN U.S. SENATE.
INDEPENDENTS MAY GIVE THE 'AMERICANS ELECT' PARTY A FOOTHOLD

Phoenix, Arizona, August 3, 2011. Not even a third of voters in Arizona today believe the best choice for Arizona would be to elect a Republican to replace retiring U.S. Senator (R) Jon Kyl. But before Democrats start to kick up their heels in the hope of recapturing a Senate seat, only 27 percent think the best choice would be a Democrat. Fully four of every ten voters may be looking in a different direction ... that is, considering options other than Democrat or Republican.

Seventeen percent say they think the best choice for Arizona would be a candidate independent of the two major parties and another 24 percent say they are not sure what would be best ... in other words, are sitting on the fence and committed to neither major political party. With the Americans Elect political party certified for the election ballot next year in Arizona, Independents may find they have a choice other than the currently perceived "lesser of two evils."

Younger voters lean slightly toward the Democrat choice but most importantly, 51 percent of voters under the age of 35 are turning their noses up at either a Democrat or Republican replacement. This is also true of 40 percent of voters between 35 and 54 years of age. Voters 55 years of age or over lean more strongly to the GOP but even within their ranks, the view of what would be best for Arizona is very divided.

As might be expected given the GOP stance on no increased taxes for the wealthiest segments of American society, it is only among upper income families in Arizona that a near majority think the best choice would be a Republican, but even within their ranks, only 49 percent prefer a Republican to replace Senator Kyl.

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Registered Independent voters split pretty evenly on the question, but less than one-fifth favoring either major political party. Thirty percent want an Independent candidate and another third are fence sitting - potentially meaning that two-thirds of the Independent vote could go against either the Democrats or the Republicans next November. And with the Americans Elect political party on the ballot in all 50 states, including Arizona, Independents may have an option other than Democrat or Republican.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2011-III-01), is based on 447 interviews with registered voters statewide, conducted between July 22 and 27, 2011. Interviewing was conducted in both English and Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both landlines and cell phones. 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 4.7 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.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
 RMP (2011-III-01)

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

“As you may be aware, U.S. Senator Jon Kyl from Arizona has announced that he will not be seeking reelection in 2012. In looking to the future, do you think it would be best for Arizona to elect a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent to fill that vacant U.S. Senate seat?”

Would Be Best For Arizona To Elect A...

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Not Sure	% Not Favoring Republican or Democrat
Statewide	32%	27%	17%	24%	41%
<u>COUNTY</u>					
Maricopa	33	26	18	23	41
Pima	29	31	19	21	40
Rural	29	28	13	30	43
<u>GENDER</u>					
Men	33	28	21	18	39
Women	31	27	13	29	42
<u>AGE</u>					
Under 35 years	23	26	23	28	51
35 to 54	32	28	13	27	40
55 or older	36	27	16	21	37
<u>INCOME</u>					
Under \$45,000	28	32	20	20	40
\$45,000 to \$99,000	30	26	20	24	44
\$100,000 or more	48	18	11	23	34
<u>POLITICAL PARTY</u>					
Republican	68	2	9	21	30
Democrat	5	62	13	20	33
Independent	17	19	30	34	64