

# STRAW POLLS AZ

DIVISION OF BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CENTER, INC.

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## PUBLIC SUPPORTS DEATH PENALTY IN MURDER CASES

Phoenix, Arizona, March 26, 2012 Six of ten Arizonans in this poll say they approve of Arizona using the death penalty for individuals convicted of murder. Twenty-one percent are opposed to the death penalty and another 19 percent say they are unsure or that their opinion may depend upon the facts of a particular case.

As in the past, older citizens are the most supportive of the death penalty. For example adults under 35 are split on the death penalty with about half in favor and the balance opposed or unsure. In contrast, nearly seven of ten citizens over the age of 54 favor the death penalty.

*“Recently, two men convicted of murder were put to death by chemical injection at the Arizona State Prison after their clemency appeals were turned down. In general, do you favor or do you oppose Arizona’s use of the death penalty for individuals convicted of capital crimes such as murder?”*

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure/ Depends</u>
Statewide	60%	21%	19%
Men	63	24	13
Women	60	19	21
Under 35	52	24	24
35 to 54	62	20	18
55 +	67	18	15

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The “favor” readings in this poll are similar to those seen in a report published by the Coalition of Arizonans to Abolish the Death Penalty in July of 2000 in which 64 percent favored the death penalty – a number that then subsided to 46 percent when sentencing options for convicted murders included life imprisonment without parole.

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This BRC Straw Poll is based on 974 automated telephone interviews with a random cross section of adults in Arizona. The interviewing was completed between March 13 and March 25, 2012, All respondents were reached via land lines. The study was completed by Straw Polls Arizona, a division of Behavior Research Center of Phoenix, which encourages readers and journalists to recognize the difference between scientific polling and the long tradition of straw polls for which no margin of error can be computed. These polls are a part of a three year research effort begun in 2012 to compare the results of various straw poll methodologies with other scientifically generated polls run by BRC.