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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2014-I-02]

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ARIZONA GOVERNOR PRIMARIES:
NO CLEAR LEADERS FOR EITHER PARTY

Phoenix, Arizona, February 06, 2014. Both the Democrat and Republican primaries for Governor are wide open with no clear leader. This is especially true of the Republican primary where none of the six candidates tested attracted more than eight percent of the vote. And an impressive seven of ten Republican voters remain uncommitted to any of the candidates.

The same is basically true on the Democrat side in that 72 percent of Democrat voters are uncommitted to two of the known candidates. As of the time of this survey, among Democrat voters, Fred DuVal and Ron Cavanaugh were in a dead even tie each with 14 percent of the vote—but DuVal gets a modest boost in his overall numbers because of his stronger appeal to Independent voters who plan on voting in the Democrat primary. When the preferences of Independents are factored in, DuVal leads Cavanaugh by an 18 to 12 percent margin. In fact, however, because of the margin of error inherent in the survey, the two should be considered to be in a dead heat.

GOP voters are also withholding their preferences for the field of six candidates tested in this survey. Thus, no candidate has more than eight percent of the test vote. The field is led by Christine Jones (8%), Scott Smith (7%) and Andrew Thomas(7%). Ken Bennett is in fourth place at six percent while Doug Ducey and Al Melvin bring up the rear.

But the Democrat primary, it is really fair to say that there is no leader, since 69 percent of Republicans say they have no preference. The early strength of Christina Jones traces in some small measure to her showing greater appeal than her rivals in attracting early votes from women but it also appears that she enjoys some strength in Pima county.

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There seems little doubt that most voters have no favorites and will not move much until they learn more about each candidate’s stance on issues. The tumultuous economic and political events of the past several years and the general souring of voters on government and politicians may be at the core of their current reticence to show support for any candidate.

We also ran three test elections pitting Fred DuVal (D) against three Republican candidates, Ken Bennett, Doug Ducey and Scott Smith, who at the time were presumed to be front runners. As will be seen in the appended tables, Fred DuVal holds his own against all three Republicans, but in all of the test elections, a clear majority of voters remain uncommitted. More specifically, in the Bennett / DuVal race, 52 percent are uncommitted and only four points separate the two candidates. In the DuVal / Ducey race, 56 percent are undecided and DuVal ekes out a small margin over of Ducey of 23 to 21 percent. On the DuVal / Smith race, 57 percent are uncommitted and the balance split fairly evenly between DuVal and Smith. From these overall results for the primary and general election test races, there can be little doubt that a spirited campaign will be needed for voters to begin settling down on whom they prefer.

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

RMP (2014-I-02)

EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2014-I-02), is based on 701 interviews with adult heads of household statewide, conducted between January 16 and 26, 2014. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both land lines and cell phones. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, and race 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 3.8 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 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
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“If the Republican primary for Arizona Governor were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for – (ROTATE) Ken Bennett, Doug Ducey, Christine Jones, Al Melvin, Scott Smith or Andrew Thomas?”

Candidate	Republican Voters Only	Independents	All Primary Voters
		Planning to Vote in GOP Primary	
Christine Jones	8%	8%	8%
Andrew Thomas	8	3	7
Scott Smith	6	16	7
Ken Bennett	6	7	6
Doug Ducey	2	4	2
Al Melvin	1	0	1
Uncommitted	69	62	69

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*“If the Democrat primary for Arizona Governor were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for – (ROTATE) Ron Cavanaugh or Fred DuVal?”*

| Candidate     | Democrat Voters Only | Independents                         | All Primary Voters |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
|               |                      | Planning to Vote in Democrat Primary |                    |
| Ron Cavanaugh | 14%                  | 2%                                   | 12%                |
| Fred DuVal    | 14                   | 41                                   | 18                 |
| Uncommitted   | 72                   | 57                                   | 70                 |

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STATISTICAL DATA

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“If the November General election for Arizona Governor were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for – (ROTATE NAMES)

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
<u>TEST 1</u>				
Republican Ken Bennett	26%	8%	52%	16%
Democrat Fred DuVal	22	42	4	23
Undecided	52	50	44	61
<u>TEST 2</u>				
Republican Doug Ducey	21	2	43	17
Democrat Fred DuVal	23	50	3	17
Undecided	56	48	54	66
<u>TEST 3</u>				
Republican Scott Smith	20	3	42	14
Democrat Fred DuVal	23	48	4	19
Undecided	57	49	54	67

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