



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

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MCCAIN POPULARITY SLIPS IN ARIZONA, BUT HE IS STILL TOP DOG

RECALL PETITION DRIVE UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED

Phoenix, Arizona, Wednesday, July 18, 2001. U.S. Senator John McCain's popularity has lost some of its luster in Arizona, but he remains by far the most well-regarded elected official in the state, with 54 percent rating his performance as "excellent" or "good." Only thirteen percent think he is doing a poor job in Washington.

Overall, his favorable job ratings outpace his unfavorable ones by more than four to one, which appears to be strong testimony that more voters here support his maverick style and his positions on election finance reform, tax policies and health care than see it necessary for him to being in "lock-step" with President George W. Bush.

More important at the moment, however, is that 81 percent of Arizonans indicate no willingness to sign a petition to force a recall election of McCain. Of those willing to sign such a petition, a fifth are not registered to vote, 40 percent are Republicans and the balance are Democrats or Independents whose motives for signing such a petition may as likely be rooted in a desire to embarrass the GOP as in hard-nosed anti-McCain sentiments.

According to the Secretary of State's office, there are 2.2 million voters in the state and a recall

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petition would need roughly 350,000 to qualify for the ballot. Usually petition drives aim at collecting the legal requirement plus a 1/3rd cushion for names that get invalidated, bringing the number of signatures they would need to file to around 465,000. Unless sentiment toward McCain changes, there simply are not enough voters in the state currently willing to sign the petition to force an election. More specifically, among registered voters in this survey, 19 percent say they would sign a recall petition if it were presented to them. This projects to 418,000 voters which, although greater than the number of valid signatures needed, is short of the 465,000 that might be needed to provide the cushion after invalid signatures are eliminated. In effect, the recall drive would need to reach and properly sign every single disgruntled vote – a highly dubious probability.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 540 registered voters across Arizona conducted between July 5, 2001 and July 11, 2001 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 to read this and other recent poll results.

Even in the unlikely probability that a recall election were forced, the anti-McCain forces would then face the very formidable task of finding a quality candidate willing to face him and capable of overcoming Senator McCain's deep bi-partisan support in Arizona. Complaints that McCain does not support President George W. Bush on tax issues and election finance reform are likely to fall on deaf ears among those who respect him for exactly those reasons: Democrats, Independents and many moderate to liberal Republican voters.

While Senator McCain is in no immediate danger of being recalled, it is also true that most of his losses in public esteem have come within the ranks of Republican voters. For example, while 62 percent of Democrats and 54 percent of independents give the Senator "excellent" or "good" job

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ratings, only 47 percent of Republicans agree. Only 23 percent of Republicans, however think he is doing a poor job as Senator, a figure that drops to around ten percent among both Democrats and Independents.

McCain's favorable job ratings rest at 52 percent in Maricopa County, swell to 70 percent in Pima County and surpass 50 percent in the rural areas. Fifty-five percent of Caucasians and nearly six of ten Hispanics like what they see in McCain.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2001-III-03), is based on 540 interviews with registered voters throughout Arizona between July 5, 2001 and July 11, 2001. 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 +/- 4.3 percent of what they would have been had the entire voter population been surveyed. Estimated margin of error for the Democrat sample (207) is +/- 6.9 and for the Republican sample (230) is +/- 6.5. 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.

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

BELOW: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
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"Would you say U.S. Senator John McCain is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor job in office?"

		Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/Very Poor	(Net Pos To Neg)
July	2001	54%	22%	13%	(+ 41)
April	2001	63	22	8	(+ 55)
January	2001	63	21	7	(+ 56)
October	2000	67	18	8	(+ 59)
July	2000	63	21	8	(+ 55)
April	2000	56	24	9	(+ 47)
January	2000	63	20	7	(+ 56)
October	1999	59	21	8	(+ 51)
July	1999	58	21	8	(+ 50)
April	1999	58	21	8	(+ 50)
January	1999	63	17	9	(+ 54)
January	1998	55	25	8	(+ 47)
January	1997	50	28	9	(+ 41)
January	1996	47	28	11	(+ 36)
January	1995	47	29	11	(+ 37)
January	1994	38	33	14	(+ 24)
January	1993	46	30	14	(+ 32)
January	1992	33	35	17	(+ 16)
January	1991	24	34	19	(+ 05)
January	1990	33	31	18	(+ 15)
January	1989	44	24	5	(+ 39)

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"If you were approached to sign a petition to hold an election to recall U.S. Senator John McCain, would you sign the petition or not sign the petition?"

|                | Would<br>Sign | Would<br>Not Sign |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Statewide      | 19%           | 81%               |
| Maricopa       | 20            | 80                |
| Pima           | 19            | 81                |
| Rural          | 17            | 83                |
| Republicans    | 27            | 73                |
| Democrats      | 14            | 86                |
| Independents   | 17            | 83                |
| Not Registered | 20            | 80                |

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