



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2007-IV-06]

Contact: Earl de Berge
Research Director

ARIZONA EMPLOYER SANCTIONS LAW DIVIDES PUBLIC MOST CALL IT A "BAD IDEA" IF SOME AMERICANS ALSO LOSE JOBS

Phoenix, Arizona. November 16, 2007. As Arizona's employer sanctions law is debated in federal court, Arizonans are sharply divided about the wisdom of the new state law which would use the state's business licensing process as a way to punish employers which are found to have hired illegal aliens. On the straight forward question of whether they think it to be a good or a bad idea to penalize companies in this way, opinion is divided. 46 percent calling it a "good idea" and 40 percent perceive it as a "bad idea." Fourteen percent were unsure about the wisdom of the law. Republicans and Pima County residents (56%) tend to be the most inclined to call this a good idea when the new law is presented to them in its simplest form. As might be expected, the Latino community is deeply opposed to the law (63%).

At the same time, if the employer sanctions law might also cost the American employees of offending companies their jobs, belief the law may be a "good idea" drops to 37 percent and the "bad idea" response rises an impressive eleven percent to a total of 51 percent.

The appeal of Arizona's new law if it might cost some Americans their jobs withers principally due to the sharp negative reaction from Democrat voters – 56 percent of whom then call it a "bad idea." This potentiality in the law also sharply divides Republican and Independent voters with a plurality of independent voters (47%) then calling it a bad idea and among Republicans, the division of opinion is equally sharp with barely four percentage points separating the opinions (46 percent calling it a good idea and 42 percent of the opinion the idea is a bad one).

It may also be of interest that while people most likely to be in the work force (under the age of 55) are quite sharply divided on the initial question about this law, when the issue of other Americans possibly losing their jobs in companies forced to close is raised, their support for the law shrinks dramatically.

This report is based on a survey of 700 interviews with adult heads-of-household across Arizona, conducted between November 12 and 15, 2007 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 for this and other poll results.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2007-IV-06), is based on 700 interviews with adult heads-of-household across Arizona, conducted between November 12 and 15, 2007. 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 3.5 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 (2007-IV-06)

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

“Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to put small business owners out of business who hire illegal immigrants?”

	<u>Good Idea</u>	<u>Bad Idea</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Total	46%	40%	14%
Democrats	44	43	13
Independents	48	36	16
Republicans	56	33	11
Under 35 years	44	42	14
35 to 54	42	46	12
55 or older	53	33	14
Maricopa	44	41	15
Pima	55	38	10
Rural	45	40	15

“Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to put small business owners out of business who hire illegal immigrants *if doing so means Americans on their payroll will also lose their jobs?*”

Total	37	51	12
Democrats	32	56	12
Independents	42	47	11
Republicans	46	42	12
Under 35 years	30	58	12
35 to 54	37	54	9
55 or older	39	46	15
Maricopa	36	52	12
Pima	42	50	8
Rural	33	52	15