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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2007-IV-08]

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## GIULIANI EDGES McCAIN IN ARIZONA CLINTON FAR AHEAD

### EARLY LOOK AT INDEPENDENT PREFERENCES

Phoenix, Arizona, November 19, 2007. Republican voters continue to struggle with the issue of who they want to represent them in the race for the White House. Fully a third have not settled on who they might support and in a field of seven candidates tested last week, none attract the vote of more than a fifth of GOP voters. Rudy Giuliani has 20 percent, John McCain sits at 18 (far below more robust numbers earlier in the year) while candidates Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson hover around ten percent. Ron Paul, Mike Huckabee and Newt Gingrich are far behind in the field, each attracting fewer than five percent of the GOP vote.

On the Democratic side, we find a very different picture with Hillary Clinton continuing to hold a commanding lead over her rivals. Notwithstanding media views that she “stumbled” in recent televised debates, she now has 44 percent which gives her a commanding 30 points or more ahead of Barack Obama and John Edwards. Candidates Bill Richardson, Dennis Kucinich and Joe Biden barely excite the Democratic needle.

Hillary Clinton is very popular among voters in the 35 to 54 age group (56%) and among Hispanics (70%). Although older Democrats also lean toward Clinton (36%) they may be keeping their powder dry in that fully 35 percent remain undecided as of this survey.

On th GOP side, it appears to be Republican women (22%) that are tipping the balance in Arizona toward Rudy Giuliani while only 16 percent of men favor his candidacy. In contrast, a quarter of GOP men favor McCain compared to only 14 percent of Republican women.

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## INDEPENDENT VOTER PREFERENCES

Although only registered Democrats and Republicans can participate in the presidential preferential primaries this coming February in Arizona, we were curious how registered independents might vote if they were able to participate (as they can in state primary elections in the Fall). These results provide some early clues as to which party and which candidates they will favor come next November.

First, about half of independents indicate they would vote in state primary elections with 54 percent leaning toward voting in the GOP primary and 46 percent in the Democratic primary. Those interested in the Democratic election favor Hillary Clinton (35%), but give more of their vote to Barak Obama (22%) and John Edwards (16%) than do rank and file Democrats.

Independents who lean toward the GOP brush Rudy Giuliani aside, giving him only six percent and instead throw the largest percentage of their vote to John McCain (29%), Fred Thompson (13%) and Mike Huckabee (10%).

The growth in the ranks of registered independent voters in Arizona has been steady in recent years and now stands at around 28 percent, only five points shy of parity with Democrats and only 10 points shy of parity with Republicans. By way of comparison, in 1994 approximately 13 percent of voters called themselves independent of the two major parties. And according to recent reports, new voter registrations in Arizona for independents is outpacing either that for the Democratic and Republican parties.

Because their presidential preferences are significantly different than those of rank and file members of each party, their participation could affect the November outcomes. How they will vote when the parties finish their nominating processes is anyone's guess, but it is clear that because of their growing numbers, they could become major players in next year's general election.

This report is based on a survey of 800 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](http://www.brcpolls.com) for this and other poll results.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2007-IV-08), is based on 800 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.

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP (2007-IV-08)

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

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“If you were voting today, would you vote in the Democratic or Republican primary?” (asked only of registered Independents)

	Would Probably Vote In		
	Democratic Primary	Republican Primary	Neither of These
Total	29%	24%	47%
Men	27	28	45
Women	32	19	49
Under 35	28	44	28
35 to 54	26	17	57
55+	33	22	45
Caucasian	28	29	43
Hispanic	40	10	50
Other	32	11	57

<u>GOP Presidential Preferences</u>	<u>November 2007 – Arizona</u>	
	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Rudi Guiliani	20%	6%
John McCain	18	29
Mitt Romney	11	6
Fred Thompson	10	13
Ron Paul	4	3
Mike Huckabee	3	10
Newt Gengrich	2	7
None of these	32*	26

\* This is the highest reading in 2007, up from 20 percent in May, 13 percent in March and 12 percent in January\*

<u>Democratic Presidential Preferences</u>	<u>November 2007 – Arizona</u>	
	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>
Hillary Clinton	44%	35%
Barack Obama	14	22
John Edwards	11	16
Bill Richardson	2	8
Dennis Kucinich	1	*
Joe Biden	*	3
None of these	27	18