



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2007-IV-13]

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President

SHERIFF JOE ARPAIO STILL POPULAR... BUT APPEARS TO HAVE PEAKED; COUNTY ATTORNEY RATINGS SLIP

Phoenix, Arizona. December 4, 2007. In March of this year, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio was just about the most popular guy around and seemed to growing more popular than ever. At that time, 64 per cent of residents here gave him favorable job ratings and only 16 percent thought he was doing a poor job. Today he still enjoys a popularity level that most politicians would give their eye teeth for, but he is not as popular as in the past. Most of the loss in popularity traces to the views of Democrats, Hispanics, other minorities and folks in the Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert and Southeast valley.

Countywide today, 59 percent of Maricopa county residents say his job performance meets with their approval while 22 percent rate him as doing a poor job. Another sixteen percent call his performance “only fair.” Compared to March, this is a five point drop in his positive scores and a six point increase in the poor ratings. Although still very favorable overall, the net shift in his ratings is downward by eleven points.

During the same period, job ratings for County Attorney Andrew Thomas also shifted. In March, Thomas was given a thumbs up by 27 percent while barely five percent considered his performance to be “poor.” Today, his positive job ratings remain relatively static (29%) while the “only fair” ratings doubled from 12 to 23 percent and the poor ratings, although still low, also doubled from five to eleven percent. The survey was taken just after the County Attorney’s Office ordered the abortive arrest and then release of the publisher and editor of the *New Times* newspaper and so may account for some of the shift. The shift may also portend that this event may be a viable issue his political opponents might use against him in future elections.

Overall, however, neither the ratings of Sheriff Arpaio nor County Attorney Thomas appear sufficiently negative to give much hope to those passing petitions to force a recall election of either office holder.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2007-IV-13), is based on 500 interviews with adult heads-of-household across Maricopa County, 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 4.5 percent of what they would have been had the entire 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-13)

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

“With respect to the following public officials, do you think they are doing an excellent, good, only fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

MARICOPA COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

	EXCELLENT/ GOOD	ONLY POOR	POOR/ VERY POOR	NET TO POSITIVE
SHERIFF JOE ARPAIO				
November 07	59%	16%	22%	+37
March 07	64	13	16	+48
COUNTY ATTORNEY ANDREW THOMAS				
November 07	29	23	11	+18
March 07	27	12	5	+22

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