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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2009-I-03]

Contact: Earl de Berge
Research Director

TAXPAYERS TO OBAMA: ITS JOBS AND THE ECONOMY!

Phoenix, Arizona. February 10, 2009. Taxpayers and voters in Arizona have many expectations for the new Democratic administration in Washington, but one goal is upper most in their minds: seven of ten want President Obama to take steps to stimulate the economy and create jobs for Americans. This demand is literally three times the level of the issue second on the list and should be a pretty clear message to Arizona's congressional delegation about public expectations for them as well as for the White house . The orientation puts Arizona on the same page as recent national surveys.

While working on plans to stimulate the economy has number one billing for both Republicans, Independents and Democrats, in Arizona it is strongest among registered Republicans where 80 percent rate it at the top. Given this overwhelming expectation by voters, it seems reasonable to assume that if the public perceives that significant delays in adopting a stimulus package have become the political reality in Washington, voters will start looking for someone to blame, if they have not already done so.

The second most frequently mentioned priority is for the Obama White House to more aggressively pursue policies of peace and to end U.S. involvement in foreign wars, and more specifically in Iraq. This is called for by 27 percent of Arizonans, and uniformly captures the second position among Democrats, Independents and Republicans. Of interest in this finding is that Arizonans not registered to vote place this issue at an even higher level than do registered voters, possibly a underlying sign of their alienation with government and political parties. Forty percent of adults not registered to vote put peace and an end to war as one of their top two priorities for the White House.

In third place, at 20 percent, is reducing the national debt and cutting federal spending. Interesting, it is independent voters and Democrats who express the most concern about this issue (27 and 22 percent respectively) compared to only 17 percent among registered Republicans. This seems to trace to the fact that Republican voters are currently placing more emphasis on homeland security issues than either Independents or Democrats.

Below these top mentioned issues, we register roughly 11 to 13 percent focusing on three issues – health care reform, education programs and immigration reform and note that concerns about health care reform are far stronger among Democrats and Independents than among Republicans.

Further down the list, drawing priority issue nomination from six percent or less of the public are issues that may surprise some readers: reform and stronger regulation of Wall Street and the banking/financial industry, corruption in government, social programs for the elderly and poor and several issues which barely receive mention. These include abortion, transportation systems, environment and civil rights.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2009-I-03), is based on 800 interviews with adult heads of household across Arizona, conducted between January 23 and 28, 2009. 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.

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ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

STATISTICAL DATA

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ARIZONA CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX — January 2009

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“As you know, Barak Obama became the 44th President of the United States recently – what are the top two issues you want the new President to work on in 2009?”

	All Taxpayers	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Stimulate economy – create jobs	74%	70%	68%	80%
Pursue peace – end wars*	27	23	21	22
National debt – cut government spending	20	22	27	17
Health care reform	13	20	17	11
Education reform	12	16	10	14
Immigration reform	11	8	10	13
Homeland security – terrorism	9	5	6	19
Bank – Wall Street reform – mortgage crisis	6	9	11	3
Poverty – elderly programs	4	5	3	3
Corruption in government	4	6	4	2
Rebuild U.S. image abroad	3	2	4	3
Environment/conservation issue	2	4	0	1
Transportation system	2	3	1	2
Civil rights	1	1	3	1
Abortion	*	*	0	2
Nominated only one issue	14	10	15	10

*Persons not registered to vote were among the most likely to call for an end to U.S. involvement in foreign war (40%)

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