



*behavior research center's*

# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2010-II-03]

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ATTITUDES ON RECENT IMMIGRATION LAW  
DIVIDES ARIZONA ON PARTISAN AND ETHNIC GROUNDS  
SUPPORT NOW ONLY 52%

May 5, 2010. Public support in Arizona for the immigration law recently passed by the Republican majority in the legislature and signed into law by Governor Jan Brewer stands at 52 percent in favor to 39 percent opposed and nine percent unsure. Among registered voters, 56 percent favor while 34 percent oppose. The data also indicates that support may be shrinking modestly in the wake of negative reactions from business and economic development spokespersons expressing concerns about its potential impact on Arizona's tourism and convention industries and on efforts to attract new industry and jobs to Arizona – concerns similar to those expressed after former Governor Evan Mecham rescinded the MLK holiday which was later approved by voters.

Also influencing the shift may be intense negative political commentary at the national and international level, characterizing Arizona as a “racist” state and efforts to challenge the constitutionality of the law in court or to bring it to a public vote through the initiative process. Public protests by Latinos and others may also be influencing people to have second thoughts about the wisdom of the new law. In the week prior to the governor signing the measure into law, support registered at 54 percent while opposition was at 39 percent. Since April 23, when she signed the law, support has edged downward to 50 percent and opposition rose modestly to 41 percent.

These recent Rocky Mountain Poll results compare to an automated interviewing “robotic-call” poll released in mid-April among 500 “likely voters” which reported that 70 percent favored the measure and only 23 percent were in opposition. The difference in results may trace to differences in polling methods. It should be remembered that the goal of polling is to faithfully report the opinions from a representative cross-section of the target universe. This requires strict random samples of the population and call backs to people who may not be at home when first dialed. Call back methods assure that all individuals in the original sample have an opportunity to express their views.

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Differences may also trace to the fact that all calls were made on a single mid-week day which can eliminate voters who are at work, in school, driving, shopping, in after school activities, traveling or otherwise not available when the robot makes its single dial to their phone. As a result, surveys on single mid week days tend to under-sample the views of working age voters, while samples of “likely voters” historically tend to over sample the views of older and more affluent voters and homemakers.

This most recent BRC survey is a random cross section of all Arizonans and made no assumptions as to whether those interviewed today will or will not be motivated to vote as campaigns heat up or when mail-in voting begins or when polls open on election day. Additionally, all interviewing was conducted by trained interviewers.

Reaction to the new immigration law appears to have galvanized Republicans in support of the measure, (76%) but may also be unifying Democrats (59%) into opposition. On the other hand, registered Independent are more similar in their views to Republicans than to Democrats in that they support it by a two to one ratio.

The law has exposed strong ethnic divisions in the state with 65 percent of Caucasians supporting it while opposition among Latinos is at 69 percent and among other ethnic minorities is 63 percent.

The law sharply divides younger citizens right down the middle with 45 percent in favor and 43 percent opposed. The most support for the new immigration law comes from older people (55+ years). Within this age set, 63 percent favor and 31 percent oppose.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2010-II-03), is based on 660 interviews with adult heads of household statewide, conducted between April 15 and 25, 2010. A total of 552 voters statewide were included in this study. 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 660, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.9 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed and for the voter sample of 552, the margin of error is 4.3 percent had all registered voters 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 (2010-II-03)

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

“Next, a new Arizona law may soon go into effect regarding one’s U.S. citizenship status and right to be in the U.S.. The new law would require police officers in Arizona to question anyone about their immigration status if an officer suspects the person may be in the country illegally, including anyone who looks or sounds foreign. Those found to be here illegally could be jailed up to six months and fined \$2,500. Do you favor or oppose the governor signing such a law if it is sent to her by the legislature?”

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Overall	52%	39%	9%
Republicans	76%	15%	9%
Caucasian	65	28	7
Age 55+	62	31	7
Independents	60	30	10
Men	56	40	4
All registered voters	56	34	10
Age 35 to 54	53	41	6
Women	49	38	13
Age under 35	45	43	12
Democrats	30	58	12
Non-Hispanic minorities	29	63	8
Hispanics	21	69	10

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