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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2012-I-01]

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## MITT ROMNEY FAR AHEAD OF RIVALS AND IS ONLY REPUBLICAN THAT OUT POLLS OBAMA IN ARIZONA

Phoenix, Arizona, January 13, 2012. Mitt Romney is opening a commanding lead on the field of Republican candidates seeking the GOP nomination for President. Additionally, he is the only Republican candidate to out-poll President Barack Obama in test elections – although that race remains close and a fifth of voters are still undecided.

In the test Primary election, Mitt Romney attracts 41 percent of the GOP vote in Arizona while Rick Santorum gets 14 percent and Newt Gingrich attracts only nine percent. The rest of the field which includes Rick Perry, Ron Paul and John Huntsman are far behind at five percent or less.

Romney's strength as a vote getter is further emphasized by the fact that his appeal is very uniform across age and gender and regions of the state. His appeal, however, to non-Caucasians is minimal and he also appears to have little appeal to Independents, who if they choose, can participate in primary elections. Most popular among Independents is Ron Paul, who also enjoys popularity among younger Arizona voters.

In the test elections separately pitting President Barack Obama against Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney, Obama defeats all but Mitt Romney and the two of them are in a tight race with only six percentage points separating them and a fifth of voters still undecided. There is every possibility the victor in an Obama and Romney race will be determined by a good old fashioned get out the vote effort and a slugfest to see who has most appeal with Independent voters, who compose close to a third of all voters in this state. Democrats are not abandoning Obama. Currently, 77 percent of Democrats are loyal to Obama and only eight percent defect to Romney. At the same time, 80 percent of Republicans favor Romney and only eight percent defect to Obama. Assuming that Democrats and Republicans get their troops to the polls, the outcome of the presidential election could well be decided by how Independents vote and at this point in time, Romney has a 48 percent to 29 percent lead over Obama and 23 percent sitting the rail among Independents. Obama does very well with younger voters (43%) and gets a powerful 67 percent of the Latino vote. He trails Romney among Caucasian voters, with Romney holding an impressive 49 to 32 percent lead among them.

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STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP (2012-I-01)

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

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2012-I-01), is based on 553 interviews with registered voters statewide, conducted between January 5 and 9, 2012. Interviewing was conducted in both English or Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both landlines and cell phones. 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 4.3 percent of what they would have been had the entire voter population been surveyed (+/-7.1% among Republicans). 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.

“If you decided to vote in the Republican Primary election for President, which of the following Republican candidates would you vote for if the election were being held today?” (ROTATE)

ARIZONA VOTERS BY PARTY AND PHILOSOPHY

Registered to Vote as:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mitt Romney	41%	15%	29%
Rick Santorum	14	6	10
Newt Gingrich	9	6	8
Rick Perry	5	5	5
Ron Paul	4	22	12
John Huntsman	2	4	3
Undecided	<u>25</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>
	100%	100%	100%

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“If the election for President of the United States were being held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney?” (ROTATE)

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Barack Obama	37%	8%	77%	29%
Mitt Romney	43	80	8	48
Undecided	20	12	15	23
Barack Obama	44	17	77	40
Ron Paul	36	60	10	46
Undecided	20	23	13	14
Barack Obama	45	14	80	50
Newt Gingrich	35	68	5	32
Undecided	20	18	15	18
Barack Obama	43	13	78	42
Rick Santorum	34	67	5	35
Undecided	23	20	17	23