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Rocky Mountain Poll

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ARIZONA: 53 % RATE CONGRESS AS DOING A “POOR” JOB OBAMA RATINGS BETTER THAN CONGRESS , BUT ERODING

Phoenix, Arizona, January 23, 2012. Fifty-three percent of Arizonans say the 112th Congress is doing a poor job in its first term of the session. This view is held by nearly half of Republicans, 56 percent of Democrats and a huge 63 percent of registered Independent voters. The survey was completed statewide between January 5th and 9th, 2012. Simultaneously, a recent Washington Post-ABC poll utilizing a different question found 84 percent of the public disapproves of the job Congress is doing. Both findings suggest that the huge victory of the GOP in the House of Representatives while Democrats maintained control of the Senate in the 2010 elections has produced a Congress that few expected or wanted.

Only 12 percent of Democrats, 15 percent of Republicans and nine percent of Independents were willing to attach positive assessments to their view of the work of the Congress.

The failure of the 112th Congress to find ways to move forward in concert on programs designed to stimulate job and business growth and their appearance of endless partisan bickering or a “just say no” approach to legislation, has had a profound impact on the views of most Arizonans but particularly on the views of upper-income segments of our population, political moderates, liberals, men, older voters and Independents, all of whom will play key roles in this year’s congressional and presidential elections.

At the same time, while Arizonans hold a more favorable view of the work of Barack Obama in the White House than they do of the Congress, his ratings are also problematic. Today, 34 percent think he is doing a good job in the White House, another 23 percent rate his performance as “fair” and 41 percent say he is doing a “poor” job. It is clear that he still struggles to earn the respect of voters, particularly Republicans, Whites and seniors – the same folks who are generally unhappy with the Congress. These broad bases of voter dissatisfaction will doubtless affect many of this Fall’s elections. We have already seen the lack of Arizona voter enthusiasm for candidates in the presidential sweepstakes as is evidenced in the survey results in which Barack Obama defeats three of four GOP presidential hopefuls (see RM Poll # 2012-I-01) and is outpaced by Mitt Romney by only a few percentage points. And notwithstanding the public’s lack of enthusiasm for the current GOP field of candidates for President, Obama’s job ratings continue to show some

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deterioration despite the fact that 63 percent of Democrats staunchly insist that he is doing an excellent or good job in office and another 25 percent characterize his performance as “fair.”

Independent voters give the President mixed job reviews but which nonetheless lean toward the negative (44%). But it is among Republicans that assessment of Obama is intensely uncharitable with 72 percent disapproving of his performance including 38 percent who characterize his performance as “very poor.”

It is generally believed that Obama will try to build a winning coalition from the ranks of younger voters, the middle class and ethnic minorities. How that will play out nationally is anyone’s guess, but here in Arizona he will have some mountains to climb. Although he has broad support among Democrats and Latino voters, opinion toward his presidency is very divided within ranks of voters under 55 years, among women and middle-income groups.

Despite his mixed job ratings, Obama may still be the top choice of many voters who, although not yet impressed with his performance, nevertheless are even less impressed with the field of GOP candidates. In a test election in this same survey, Obama out-pollled Newt Gingrich 45% to 35%, outdistanced Rick Santorum by 43 to 34% and blew past Ron Paul by 44% to 36% percent. On the other hand he trailed Mitt Romney by 43 to 37 in the trial heats.

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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. 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 (2012-I-04)

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

“Would you say that the current **U.S. Congress** is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job?”

	EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/ VERY POOR	NET TO POSITIVE
Jan. 2012	14%	29%	53%	-39
<u>Jan 2012 Detail</u>				
Democrats	12	27	56	-44
Independents	9	23	63	-54
Republicans	15	34	48	-33
Age under 35	21	29	48	-27
35 to 54	18	31	47	-29
55 and older	6	27	63	-57
Caucasian	12	27	57	-45
Hispanic	28	31	38	-10
Other	14	38	42	-28
Women	6	36	52	-46
Men	22	22	55	-33
<u>Income</u>				
\$45K or less	17	26	50	-33
\$45K to \$84,999	17	36	43	-26
\$85K or more	8	25	67	-59
Liberals	8	19	65	-57
Moderates	11	26	61	-50
Conservatives	20	33	41	-21

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“Would you say that **President Barack Obama** is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

|                               | EXCELLENT/<br>GOOD | FAIR       | POOR/<br>VERY POOR | NET TO<br>POSITIVE |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Jan. 2012</b>              | <b>34%</b>         | <b>23%</b> | <b>41%</b>         | <b>- 7</b>         |
| April 2011                    | 33                 | 26         | 35                 | - 2                |
| July 2010                     | 28                 | 27         | 39                 | -11                |
| Jan 2010                      | 40                 | 18         | 35                 | + 5                |
| Sept 2009                     | 45                 | 20         | 30                 | +14                |
| April 2009                    | 51                 | 24         | 20                 | +31                |
| <b><u>Jan 2012 Detail</u></b> |                    |            |                    |                    |
| Democrats                     | 63                 | 25         | 12                 | +51                |
| Independents                  | 28                 | 27         | 44                 | - 16               |
| Republicans                   | 8                  | 19         | 72                 | - 64               |
| Age under 35                  | 37                 | 30         | 32                 | + 5                |
| 35 to 54                      | 35                 | 22         | 39                 | - 4                |
| 55 and older                  | 31                 | 19         | 49                 | -18                |
| Caucasian                     | 32                 | 22         | 45                 | -13                |
| Hispanic                      | 57                 | 24         | 18                 | +39                |
| Other                         | 31                 | 29         | 33                 | - 2                |
| Women                         | 35                 | 23         | 38                 | - 4                |
| Men                           | 32                 | 34         | 42                 | -10                |
| <b><u>Income</u></b>          |                    |            |                    |                    |
| \$45K or less                 | 33                 | 24         | 43                 | -10                |
| \$45K to \$84,999             | 35                 | 21         | 44                 | - 9                |
| \$85K or more                 | 32                 | 30         | 37                 | - 5                |
| Liberals                      | 54                 | 29         | 16                 | +38                |
| Moderates                     | 33                 | 25         | 39                 | - 6                |
| Conservatives                 | 27                 | 19         | 55                 | -28                |

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