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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2014-III-01]

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## ARIZONANS BLAME VA SCANDAL ON CONGRESS AND VA OFFICIALS: HUGE PER CENT FAVOR CRIMINAL TRIALS FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE

Phoenix, Arizona, July 22, 2014. Arizonans are very angry with the scandal at the Veterans Administration in which it is alleged that some veterans with medical issues have, through secret appointment delay procedures, been denied medical treatment and that some veterans may, as a consequence of such policies, have died.

Arizonans are so angry that 71 percent say that if this is proven to be true, those responsible should be tried criminally.

As of the time of this survey completed last week, most Arizonans (91%) are aware of the stories about the Veterans Administration and the awareness of the stories has had a major impact on the public's respect for the organization. Today, although 30 percent still have a favorable view of the services provided by the VA, 55 percent have an unfavorable view, including 29 percent who classify their view as "very unfavorable". Fifteen percent remain unsure. Both awareness of the issue and unfavorable regard for VA services is less intense in Pima County.

Considering the very high level of public awareness of the VA issue it is interesting to note that the public is concluding that blame for this problem lies squarely at the doorstep of the Congress and the VA officials in Washington or in the various states. More specifically, 43 percent blame VA officials for the problems and 39 percent say the issue traces to the U.S. Congress because of its failure to provide adequate funding to the VA. And on the matter of whether the issue traces to mismanagement or inadequate resources, the public believes that both have contributed to the problem. Thus, 68 percent believe VA mismanages its services and facilities, but 53 percent also believe inadequate funding and manpower are involved.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP (2014-III-01)

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

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2014-III-01, is based on 703 interviews with heads of household statewide conducted between July 10 and July 17, 2014. 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 3.8 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.

“Is your overall impression of the health care services provided to veterans by the Veterans Administration (the VA), very favorable, favorable, unfavorable or very unfavorable?”

	Statewide	Maricopa	Pima	Other
Very Favorable	5%	5%	3%	4%
Favorable	25	23	40	22
(Net Positive)	(30%)	(28%)	(43%)	(26%)
Unfavorable	26%	25	26	27
Very Unfavorable	29	33	19	29
(Net Negative)	(55%)	(58%)	(45%)	(56%)
Unsure	15	14	12	18

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“In recent months stories have become public about problems at the VA alleging that many veterans are being denied access to the VA medical care by being forced to wait for long periods before being seen by a VA doctor. About this story would you say you have:”

	Statewide	Maricopa	Pima	Rural
Heard a lot	58%	59%	49%	61%
Heard some	21	22	23	15
Heard only a little	12	13	19	8
Heard nothing at all	9	6	9	16

“ From what you have read or heard thus far, which of the following do you think is most to blame for the problems at the VA medical facilities” (Answer options read in randomly rotated order)

	Statewide	Maricopa	Pima	Other
The U.S. Congress for failure to provide adequate funds for the VA.	30%	28%	33%	35%
The people who run local VA facilities	23	26	16	17
The people who run the VA from Washington	20	20	19	18
President Barack Obama	16	14	13	24
Unsure (volunteered)	11	12	19	6

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“And from what you have read or heard, which of the following two factors do you think is the main reason the VA is not meeting the medical needs of these veterans?” (Answer options read in randomly rotated order)

	Statewide	Maricopa	Pima	Other
The VA mismanages its services and facilities	47%	44%	52%	52%
The VA does not have the money or manpower and facilities it needs	31	32	33	27
Both of these (volunteered)	21	23	15	18
Unsure (volunteered)	1	1	0	3

“If it is proven that any veterans died because of appointment policies at the VA, do you think those responsible for making these policies should or should not be brought to trial on criminal charges?”

	Statewide	Maricopa	Pima	Other
Should be brought to trial	71%	74%	73%	60%
Should not be brought to trial	19	16	16	27
Unsure (volunteered)	10	10	11	13