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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2014-III-04]

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ARIZONA GOP GOVERNOR'S PRIMARY: 50 PERCENT UNCOMMITTED
CHRISTINE JONES AND DOUG DUCEY SOMEWHAT AHEAD

Phoenix, Arizona, July 29, 2014. Republican voters are keeping their cards close to their chest as regards the GOP primary election for governor of Arizona. Fifty percent remain uncommitted to any of the six candidates tested in this mid-July poll, a figure that rises to nearly 60 percent in Arizona's rural counties. What is more, among those with a preference, no candidate has broken from the pack. This leaves four of the six candidates within four to nine percentage points of each other (Christine Jones, Doug Ducey, Ken Bennett and Scott Smith). Two others (Frank Riggs and Andrew Thomas) are far behind.

But the main story is that the bulk of Republicans remain uncommitted. Similarly, 51 percent of Independent voters with an interest in participating on the GOP primary also remain uncommitted. This means that the election is wide open and could be very volatile in the five weeks remaining between this survey and the primary election August 26th.

As of the time of this survey, among registered Republican voters Christine Jones attracted 18 percent of the vote, Doug Ducey 16 percent and Scott Smith eight percent. Ken Bennett checked in at five percent, Frank Riggs at two percent and Andrew Thomas barely attracted one percent.

Republican voter reluctance to commit to any of these candidates cuts across all demographic segments of the party from the most to least affluent and across all age groups. As the only Republican woman in the field, candidate Christine Jones does not enjoy a significant lead among Republican women. In fact, women are among the most uncommitted (55%) and Doug Ducey trails Jones by only 16 to 19 percent among women.

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Ducey on the other hand may have modestly greater appeal among younger Republican voters where Jones trails him by 14 to 21 percent.

Latinos account for only about ten percent of the Republican vote but they favor Ducey over Jones by a two to one ratio (34% to 17%). Jones' pledge to militarize the Arizona border to deal with the child immigration issue may be an issue with these voters.

When Independents with an interest in voting in the GOP primary are factored into the equation, the picture changes only a little because, like Republicans, 51 percent of Independents with an interest in this election remain uncommitted. Note however that Ken Bennett and Christine Jones are, so far, the most popular with Independents. Doug Ducey, Frank Riggs and Andrew Thomas receive no votes from Independents as of the time of this survey.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2014-III-04, is based on 703 interviews with heads of household statewide including 459 registered voters, conducted between July 10 and July 17, 2014. Interviewing was conducted in either 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 and plus or minus 4.7 percent 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 (2014-III-04)

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

“If the Republican Primary election for Governor of Arizona were being held today which of the following candidates would you vote for? (List read in random order to respondents)

	Republican Voters	Independents Planning to Vote in GOP Primary	Republican & Independent Voters
Christine Jones	18%	13%	17%
Doug Ducey	16	0	13
Scott Smith	8	9	8
Ken Bennett	5	27	10
Frank Riggs	2	0	2
Andrew Thomas	1	0	0
Uncommitted	50	51	50

Republican Voters by County/ Region

	Maricopa	Pima	Other
Christine Jones	17%	21%	18%
Doug Ducey	19	12	11
Scott Smith	9	0	7
Ken Bennett	4	15	6
Frank Riggs	3	3	0
Andrew Thomas	1	6	0
Uncommitted	47	43	58