



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2001-II-11]

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SUPPORT FOUND FOR HEALTH COVERAGE OF GAY EMPLOYEES GROWS

Phoenix, Arizona, June 4, 2001. By a ratio of 2.5 to one, employed persons in the state's capitol county favor employer policies that extend health insurance coverage to gay employees and their domestic partners. Support has risen somewhat since the first reading taken in 1996 and now stands at 65 percent in favor, 26 percent opposed and nine percent with no opinion.

Support for such employer policies cuts across all employee sub-groups, but shows some generational, gender and partisan variations. Thus, 73 percent of women workers but only 59 percent of male workers favor such policies. Similarly, 70 percent of workers under 35 years of age are supportive, as are 63 percent of workers in the 35 to 54 age bracket. On the other hand, workers over 55 are more divided, with 53 percent in favor of such coverage and 42 percent opposed.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 604 adults across Maricopa County conducted in May 2001 by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent poll results.

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Partisan affiliations, however, are where the sharpest differences of opinion are found. Thus, while 82 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of independent voters favor such policies, Republican voters are deeply divided – 48 percent in favor and 41 percent opposed. The division of opinion within the ranks of Republicans cuts deeply along generational and gender lines as well. Thus among Republican women, 53 percent favor such insurance policies while Republican men are split dead even on the issue: 44 percent in favor and exactly the same opposed. Republicans under the age of 35 favor such policies by a 56 to 32 percent margin while among 35 to 54 year old Republicans, support rests at 47 percent with 42 percent opposed. Among the oldest Republicans still in the work force, 35 percent favor such insurance policies while 60 percent oppose.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2001-II-11), is based on 604 interviews with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County during May of 2001. 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 +/-4.06 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult 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.

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ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2001-II-11

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“Do you favor or oppose a policy at your workplace that provides health care benefits to gay employees and their domestic partners?”

EMPLOYED PERSONS

	<u>2001</u>	<u>1996</u>
Favor	65%	62%
Oppose	26	27
Unsure	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
	100%	100%

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Favor    Oppose    Unsure

DETAIL: 2001

|               |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Gender: Men   | 59% | 30% | 11% |
| Women         | 73  | 21  | 6   |
| Age: Under 35 | 70  | 19  | 11  |
| 35 to 54      | 63  | 28  | 9   |
| 55 +          | 53  | 42  | 5   |
| Republican    | 48  | 41  | 11  |
| Democrat      | 82  | 14  | 4   |
| Independent   | 70  | 22  | 8   |

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