



*behavior research center's*

# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

NEWS RELEASE  
RMP 2001-III-08

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## TAX ON POLLUTING COMPANIES FAVORED IN ARIZONA

Phoenix, Arizona, July, 26, 2001. Large percentages of Arizonans lean toward a principle being advanced by some environmental groups: that the costs of pollution should be paid by the polluter, not by the taxpayer. More specifically, seven of ten Arizonans say they would support candidates for public office who favor levying a "pollution tax" on polluting companies, provided those taxes could later be lifted proportionate to the reduction in pollution achieved by the companies.

Only 18 percent would vote against candidates who advance this idea. About ten percent are unsure on the issue.

Among registered voters, 72 percent support the idea, including an even higher percentage of Republicans (74%) than Democrats (68%). Independents are the most supportive with 77 percent in favor and only 15 percent opposed.

The stronger support among Republicans may, at first glance, seem counter-intuitive, since they are usually the least likely to look favorably on any tax aimed at free enterprise. On the other hand, their strong support may reflect beliefs among Republicans that specific businesses which fail to deal with pollution issues should be the ones made to pay the price, rather than shifting the costs of clean-up to other businesses or to taxpayers in general. In short, they may perceive it as good business to make the polluters pay. The lower levels of support among Democrats may reflect beliefs among blue collar workers that shifting pollution taxes directly onto polluting businesses may have an adverse impact on jobs.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 702 adults across Arizona conducted between July 5, 2001 and July 11, 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](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent poll results.

The survey also reveals that residents of the less populated areas of Arizona are noticeably more likely than those in the Phoenix area to favor this tax shift concept: rural residents are at 80 percent, Pima County at 76 percent, while Phoenix support is at 68 percent.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2001-III-08), is based on 702 interviews with adults throughout Arizona between July 5, 2001 and July 11, 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 +/- 3.7 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. Estimated margin of error for the Democrat sample is +/- 6.9 and for the Republican sample, +/- 6.5. 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.

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

**BELOW: Statistical tables.**

**STATISTICAL DATA**

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*"In next year's election for Governor and members of the legislature, would you vote for or would you vote against a candidate taking the following position on issues?"*

*Wants to place special taxes on businesses that pollute providing the taxes can be reduced or eliminated proportionate to how well the business reduces its pollution."*

	FOR THE CANDIDATE	AGAINST THE CANDIDATE	UNSURE
Statewide	72%	18%	10%
Republicans	74	19	7
Democrats	68	22	10
Independents	77	15	8
Maricopa (Phoenix)	68	21	11
Pima (Tucson)	76	12	12
Rural	80	12	8

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