



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
RMP 2002-III-05

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“UNDER GOD” IN PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE SUPPORTED BUT NOT REQUIRED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Phoenix, Arizona, July 31, 2002. An impressive 78 percent of Arizonans believe the phrase “under God” should be a part of the pledge of allegiance in the United States, but 66 percent say no child in public school should be required to say the pledge if their parents object for any reason to the phrase “under God.”

In general, opinion on this issue cuts across political party lines, although registered Independents are noticeably less comfortable with the phrase being included in the pledge. Two-thirds of all voters, regardless of political affiliation, oppose requiring children whose parents object to say the pledge with the phrase included.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2002-III-05) is based on 703 interviews with adults across Arizona, of which 537 interviews conducted were with registered voters, from July 10th through July 15th, 2002. Where necessary, figures for age, sex and race were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 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.

BELOW: Statistical data

For this and other polls. See www.brcpolls.com/results

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2002-III-05

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“As you may know, the pledge of allegiance was officially adopted by the congress in 1942 to be recited as follows: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

In 1954, the Congress added the words, “under God” to the pledge. The “under God” phrase was recently ruled by a federal court to be a violation of the separation of church and state principle stated in the U.S. Constitution.

As far as you are concerned, should the pledge of allegiance contain the phrase “under God,” or not?”

	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT	UNSURE
Total	78%	17%	5%
Republican	88	9	3
Democrat	77	20	3
Independent	61	35	4

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*“Should children in public schools be required to say a pledge of allegiance containing the phrase “under God” if their parents object to it for any reason?”*

|             | SHOULD BE REQUIRED | SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED | UNSURE |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Total       | 29%                | 66%                    | 5%     |
| Republican  | 33                 | 65                     | 2      |
| Democrat    | 31                 | 67                     | 2      |
| Independent | 25                 | 68                     | 7      |

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