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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
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BUSH JOB APPROVAL OFF 24 POINTS SINCE APRIL IN
MARICOPA COUNTY; LOW RATINGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL,
ECONOMIC POLICIES & WORLD OPINION TOWARD U.S.

Phoenix, Arizona, November 27, 2003. Favorable job ratings for President George W. Bush total 47 percent in Maricopa County, while just over half rate his performance as “fair” or “poor,” including 26 percent who rate his performance as “poor.” The current approval reading compares to 53 percent in October, 57 percent in July and 71 percent in April. The strongest element in the president’s current favorable ratings trace to his efforts to keep the United States safe from terrorism, where 54 percent say he is doing a good job and only a fifth think his performance is “poor.”

In no other area, however, are a majority of residents here willing to give Mr. Bush a good rating. More specifically, the proportion giving him good ratings were registered as follows:

- Management of the situation in Iraq: 43 percent favorable to 36 percent unfavorable.
- Reducing “your taxes:” 41 percent favorable to 29 percent unfavorable.
- Economic policies: 37 percent favorable to 33 percent unfavorable.
- Environmental policies: 30 percent favorable to 36 percent unfavorable.
- Improving world opinion of the United States: 30 percent favorable to 43 percent unfavorable.

As was noted in a statewide survey reported in October, views toward Mr. Bush continue to reveal divisions. Thus, favorable regard for the president’s overall performance wanes among women, lower income families, Democrats, Independents and among minorities, especially non-Hispanics. Were it not for continued strong confidence in the president among Republicans (76 percent favorable to only ten percent unfavorable), the president’s job ratings would be much lower. Republicans remain very impressed with his handling of the situation in Iraq (70% favorable) , the economy (64% favorable) , tax policies (67% favorable) and fighting terrorism (78% favorable), but in two areas GOP ratings drop appreciably: environmental protection (53% favorable) and improving world opinion of the US (only 47 percent favorable).

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Democrats and Independents are much less enthusiastic about the president, and for Democrats, the core of their discontent appears to be his handling of the situation in Iraq and the economy, and they are especially angry about his environmental policies, where barely ten percent are willing to rate his performance favorably. Independents, who represent an increasing political force in Arizona are less concerned about his successes in Iraq than his handling of environmental policy, a category in which barely 15 percent rate the president favorably. Also problematic are their assessments of his performance on the economy where positive ratings reach only 27 percent and negative ratings exceed 40 percent.

Finally, opinion here is very divided as to whether President Bush is correct in his assessment that stepped up terrorist activities in Iraq may be interpreted as but the desperate actions of an enemy that knows it is defeated and that U.S. reconstruction efforts are working. Fifty-three percent agree with the President, 33 percent believe the attacks on U.S. forces signal that reconstruction is not working and the balance are unsure.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 602 heads of household throughout Maricopa County conducted between November 6 and November 20, 2003, 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 polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-IV-09) is based on 602 telephone interviews conducted from November 6 through November 20, 2003, with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.1 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. The sample included 452 registered voters and the voter sub-sample margin of error is estimated to be +/- 4.7 percent.

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

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Overall Job Performance Ratings Of President George W. Bush

MARICOPA COUNTY

	Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor	(Net To Good)
November 2003	47%	25%	26%	(+21)
October 2003	53	18	26	(+27)
July 2003	57	23	18	(+39)
April 2003	71	12	14	(+57)
January 2003	60	19	18	(+42)

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*"Would you say George W. Bush is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in each of the following:"*

MARICOPA COUNTY

|                                     | Excellent/<br>Good | Fair | Poor/ Very<br>Poor | (Net To<br>Good) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|
| Making the U.S. safe from terrorism | 54%                | 24%  | 19%                | (+35)            |
| Managing the situation in Iraq      | 43                 | 19   | 36                 | (+ 7)            |
| Reducing your taxes                 | 41                 | 25   | 29                 | (+12)            |
| Improving the nation's economy      | 37                 | 27   | 33                 | (+ 4)            |
| Protecting the environment          | 30                 | 28   | 36                 | (- 6)            |
| Improving world opinion of the U.S. | 30                 | 24   | 43                 | (- 13)           |

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STATISTICAL DATA

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“Which of the following two statements come closest to your point of view?”

The continuing attacks on American forces in Iraq are...”

The result of desperation by our enemies because U.S. reconstruction is working	53%
A sign that American efforts at reconstruction are not working	33
(Not read: unsure)	14

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Attacks on U.S. forces seen as...

|                              | ACTS OF<br>DESPERATION | SIGN<br>RECONSTRUCTION<br>IS NOT WORKING |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| TOTAL                        | 52%                    | 33%                                      |
| <u>GENDER</u>                |                        |                                          |
| Men                          | 57                     | 31                                       |
| Women                        | 48                     | 36                                       |
| <u>AGE</u>                   |                        |                                          |
| Under 35 years               | 61                     | 24                                       |
| 35 to 54                     | 51                     | 35                                       |
| 55 +                         | 47                     | 41                                       |
| Retirees                     |                        |                                          |
| <u>POLITICAL AFFILIATION</u> |                        |                                          |
| Republican                   | 70                     | 20                                       |
| Democrat                     | 38                     | 53                                       |
| Independent                  | 45                     | 43                                       |

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