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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

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## **U.S. SENATE RACE IN ARIZONA: ANN KIRKPATRICK IN DEAD HEAT WITH JOHN McCAIN**

Phoenix, Arizona, April 15, 2016. Incumbent U.S. Senator John McCain is locked in a dead heat with Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick as both receive 42 percent of a test vote taken statewide in April. This leaves only 16 percent undecided as of the time of this survey, compared to 25 percent in January.

It also appears that at least one traditional voting pattern is changing in Arizona. For many years, rural voters have tended to lean Republican in most races, but in 2016 Kirkpatrick is outpolling McCain by 43 to 39 percent in the state's rural counties in a modest but important pattern we have noticed since January. To date, McCain seems to be running a low-key campaign, perhaps in an effort to not be drawn out about who he prefers in the primary elections for President. Whatever the reason, Senator McCain appears to have opened the door for Kirkpatrick to make gains with voters.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a statewide survey of 564 registered voters. It was conducted between April 4 and 11, 2016 by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is part of the Center's Independent and non-nonpartisan Rocky Mountain Poll Series. All interviewing was conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. The public is welcome to visit [www.BRCpolls.com](http://www.BRCpolls.com) for this and other polls.

The deeply partisan and bitter GOP presidential primary elections, plus McCain playing a low-key role, may be having an impact on voting patterns in Arizona. Thus, compared to January of this year, support for McCain among registered Republicans has slumped from 59 to 51 percent today and 27 percent are defecting to Kirkpatrick. Republicans are the most undecided about how to vote in the U.S. Senate race (22%, compared to 16% among Democrats and only 12% among Independents.)

In contrast, among registered Democrat voters, 49 percent favored Kirkpatrick in January but that number has swollen to 59 percent today. Independent voters are divided fairly closely with 47 percent going for McCain while 41 percent favor Kirkpatrick.

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Hispanic voters may yet turn out to be an island of strength for John McCain as he is currently garnering 50 percent of their vote compared to only 32 percent in January. Kirkpatrick has lost some ground among Hispanic voters (39% in January to 37% today). Non-Hispanic minority voters are splitting heavily for Kirkpatrick (66% to 19%).

Finally, when it comes to gender and age, the survey finds that 35 to 54 year olds tend to favor McCain while older voters are giving their nod to Kirkpatrick; voters under 35 are split. And while men split 49 to 34 percent for McCain, women return the favor by favoring Kirkpatrick by 47 to 37 percent.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (**2016-II-01**), is based on 564 interviews with Arizona registered voters conducted between April 4 and April 11, 2016. Interviewing was conducted in both English and Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both land lines and cell phones. 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 can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.2 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult 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.

**Further Note on Behavior Research Center**

Nate Silver of the website [fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com) rated BRC as one of the top 15 percent of political polling firms in the nation for methodology and accuracy, giving BRC an "A-" rating. Mr. Silver and his website have correctly predicted national and state election outcomes in recent election cycles by aggregating polling results from multiple research firms.

ENCLOSED: Statistical Tables

"If the 2016 general election for U.S. Senator from Arizona were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?" (LIST OF CANDIDATES RANDOMLY ROTATED)

	Republican John McCain	Democrat		
		Ann Kirkpatrick	Uncommitted	
Statewide April 2016	42%	42%	16%	
Statewide January 2016	38	37	25	
Statewide Nov. 2015	37	31	32	

April 2016 Detail

Maricopa	42%	42%	16%
Pima	46	36	18
Rural	39	43	18
Democrats	25	59	16
Republicans	51	27	22
Independents	47	41	12
Hispanics	50	37	13
Non-Hispanic minorities	19	66	15
Under 35	44	43	13
35 to 54	46	35	19
55+	37	45	18

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