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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

Rated in the Top 15% of Political Polls in the U.S.

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2016-II-02]

Contact: Earl de Berge  
Research Director  
Jim Haynes  
President/CEO

## UNIMPRESSIVE JOB RATING FOR U.S. SENATORS JOHN McCAIN AND JEFF FLAKE

Phoenix, Arizona, April 18, 2016 U.S. Senator Jeff Flake has never enjoyed the stratospheric job ratings Arizona's senior Senator John McCain has experienced, but both in 2016 are rated with little enthusiasm by Arizonans. Senator Flake now receives favorable job performance ratings from just 17 percent of his constituents, including GOP voters of whom only a quarter give favorable job ratings. Overall, 19 percent say Senator Flake is doing "poor" job after three full years in Washington. More concerning is that 23 percent of Republican voters think his performance to date has been "poor" and only 24 percent are willing to pat him on the back with a positive job rating. U.S. Senator Jeff Flake remains something of a mystery as to how, after three years in office, he has maintained such low job performance ratings. Nearly four in ten (37%) know too little about the Senator to even venture a guess as to what he has accomplished in Washington and for the balance, the picture is blasé at best.

At the same time, Arizona's Senior Senator John McCain, who will turn 80 this summer and who has been in the Senate since 1986, is now in a tight contest with Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick (42% to 42%). As recently as 2005, Senator McCain enjoyed favorable job ratings from 73 percent of Arizonans but his current ratings are down to 32 percent favorable with 25 percent saying he is doing a "poor" job in Washington.

McCain's positive job ratings have totaled under 40 percent since 2010 and while he has always proven himself to be a formidable campaigner in past elections, the negative mood in the nation and perhaps in Arizona as well toward "the establishment" may turn 2016 into a major challenge for the storied Senator.

What seems most unusual about the Senior Senator's job ratings is that they have become largely non-partisan. While Independents are the most favorable toward the Senator, Democrats

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and Republicans hold amazingly similar views. Thus 25 percent of Democrats and 31 percent of Republicans applaud his performance in Washington... but 32 percent of Democrats and 30 percent of Republicans rate his performance as “poor.”

The findings outlined in this reports are based on a statewide survey of 700 adult heads of household including 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-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll Series. The public is welcome to visit [www.BRCpolls.com](http://www.BRCpolls.com) for this and other polls.

-30-

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2016-II-02), is based on 700 interviews with heads of household statewide including 564 registered voters, conducted between April 4 and 11, 2016. Interviewing was conducted in English or 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 3.8 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed and 4.2 percent had the entire 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* 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.

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
 Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona  
 RMP (2016-II-02)

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

**Detail: John McCain Job Rating April 2016**

“Would you say that U.S. John McCain is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor/ Very Poor</b>	<b>Net Pos to Neg</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>+7</b>
<b><u>County</u></b>				
Maricopa	36	27	25	+11
Pima	28	40	20	+8
Rural	26	35	28	-2
<b><u>Party</u></b>				
Republican	31	30	30	+1
Independent	42	33	23	+19
Democrat	25	33	32	-7
<b><u>Gender</u></b>				
Men	36	30	26	+10
Women	29	33	23	+6
<b><u>Ethnicity</u></b>				
Caucasian	32	30	28	+ 4
Latino	21	40	13	+8
Other	32	29	22	+10

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“Would you say that U.S. Senator John McCain is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

|           |      | EXCELLENT/<br>GOOD | FAIR | POOR/VERY<br>POOR | (NET POS<br>TO NEG) |
|-----------|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|---------------------|
| April     | 2016 | 32%                | 31%  | 25%               | ( +7)               |
| May       | 2015 | 30                 | 29   | 26                | ( +4)               |
| April     | 2014 | 27                 | 30   | 31                | ( -4)               |
| Jan       | 2014 | 37                 | 23   | 33                | ( +4)               |
| July      | 2013 | 34                 | 32   | 26                | ( +8)               |
| April     | 2013 | 26                 | 27   | 36                | ( -10)              |
| April     | 2012 | 33                 | 30   | 31                | ( +2)               |
| January   | 2012 | 39                 | 32   | 26                | ( +13)              |
| April     | 2011 | 33                 | 26   | 28                | ( +5)               |
| July      | 2010 | 36                 | 31   | 22                | ( +14)              |
| January   | 2010 | 40                 | 30   | 21                | ( +19)              |
| September | 2009 | 48                 | 31   | 21                | ( +27)              |
| November  | 2007 | 45                 | 26   | 17                | ( +28)              |
| July      | 2007 | 42                 | 25   | 30                | ( +12)              |
| March     | 2007 | 49                 | 24   | 18                | ( +31)              |
| January   | 2007 | 50                 | 25   | 17                | ( +33)              |
| January   | 2006 | 62                 | 20   | 9                 | ( +53)              |
| October   | 2005 | 60                 | 27   | 7                 | ( +53)              |
| July      | 2005 | 63                 | 19   | 9                 | ( +54)              |
| April     | 2005 | 61                 | 22   | 10                | ( +51)              |
| January   | 2005 | 73                 | 15   | 6                 | ( +67)              |
| October   | 2004 | 70                 | 17   | 8                 | ( +62)              |
| July      | 2004 | 72                 | 17   | 6                 | ( +66)              |
| April     | 2004 | 65                 | 18   | 9                 | ( +56)              |
| January   | 2004 | 64                 | 20   | 9                 | ( +55)              |
| October   | 2003 | 61                 | 22   | 7                 | ( +54)              |
| July      | 2003 | 68                 | 18   | 8                 | ( +60)              |
| April     | 2003 | 66                 | 20   | 6                 | ( +60)              |
| January   | 2003 | 57                 | 24   | 9                 | ( +48)              |
| October   | 2002 | 61                 | 23   | 10                | ( +51)              |
| July      | 2002 | 66                 | 21   | 8                 | ( +58)              |
| April     | 2002 | 69                 | 15   | 9                 | ( +60)              |
| January   | 2002 | 65                 | 21   | 9                 | ( +56)              |
| October   | 2001 | 70                 | 16   | 9                 | ( +61)              |
| July      | 2001 | 54                 | 22   | 13                | ( +41)              |
| April     | 2001 | 63                 | 22   | 8                 | ( +55)              |
| January   | 2001 | 63                 | 21   | 7                 | ( +56)              |
| January   | 2000 | 63                 | 20   | 7                 | ( +56)              |
| January   | 1999 | 63                 | 17   | 9                 | ( +54)              |
| January   | 1998 | 55                 | 25   | 8                 | ( +47)              |
| January   | 1997 | 50                 | 28   | 9                 | ( +41)              |
| January   | 1996 | 47                 | 28   | 11                | ( +36)              |
| January   | 1995 | 47                 | 29   | 11                | ( +37)              |
| January   | 1994 | 38                 | 33   | 14                | ( +24)              |
| January   | 1993 | 46                 | 30   | 14                | ( +32)              |

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“Would you say that U.S. Senator Jeff Flake is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

|                                   | <b>Excellent/<br/>Good</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Poor/<br/>Very Poor</b> | <b>Net<br/>Pos to Neg</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Statewide</b>                  |                            |             |                            |                           |
| April 2016                        | 17%                        | 27%         | 19%                        | -2                        |
| May 2015                          | 20                         | 27          | 16                         | +4                        |
| April 2014                        | 18                         | 28          | 23                         | -5                        |
| Jan. 2014                         | 21                         | 28          | 26                         | -5                        |
| July 2013                         | 17                         | 25          | 30                         | -13                       |
| April 2013                        | 18                         | 25          | 26                         | -8                        |
| <b><u>Detail – April 2016</u></b> |                            |             |                            |                           |
| <b><u>Party</u></b>               |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Republican                        | 24                         | 31          | 23                         | +1                        |
| Independent                       | 26                         | 32          | 15                         | +11                       |
| Democrat                          | 18                         | 28          | 29                         | -11                       |
| <b><u>County</u></b>              |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Maricopa                          | 16                         | 26          | 19                         | -3                        |
| Pima                              | 22                         | 23          | 21                         | +1                        |
| Rural                             | 15                         | 33          | 17                         | -2                        |
| <b><u>Gender</u></b>              |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Men                               | 18                         | 28          | 22                         | -4                        |
| Women                             | 14                         | 26          | 15                         | -1                        |
| <b><u>Age</u></b>                 |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Under 35                          | 16                         | 21          | 10                         | +6                        |
| 35 to 54                          | 14                         | 29          | 23                         | -9                        |
| 55 or older                       | 21                         | 32          | 23                         | -2                        |
| <b><u>Ethnicity</u></b>           |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Caucasian                         | 18                         | 34          | 21                         | -3                        |
| Hispanic                          | 19                         | 16          | 18                         | +1                        |
| Other                             | 10                         | 17          | 13                         | -3                        |