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Rocky Mountain Poll

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BUSH RATINGS IMPROVE: ECONOMY HELPS BUOY NUMBERS, BUT DEFICIT SPENDING, HEALTH CARE AND IRAQ DAMPEN GAINS

Phoenix, Arizona, July 22, 2005. The largest percentage ever of Arizonans (45%) now hold the opinion that President George Bush is doing a poor job in his management of the situation in Iraq and 50 percent disapprove of his development of an exit strategy for Iraq. These negative ratings, however, appear to be off-set by some modest improvement in the public's regard for President Bush's performance as regards the economy and the impact of his tax policies on their lives.

The net result is a modest improvement in the overall job ratings given President Bush by Arizonans: 43 percent positive today compared to 41 percent in April, while the "poor" ratings declined to 37 from 38 percent during the same period. Although the shifts are slight, his net positive over negative rating doubled from three to six points between April and July.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 705 adults across Arizona conducted between July 9th and July 16th, 2005, 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.

Arizonans remain very critical of President Bush on his success in reducing federal deficit spending (52 percent give "poor" ratings) and 56 percent also give "poor" ratings on his efforts to reduce health care costs for Americans.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2005-III-01) is based on 705 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from July 9th through July 16, 2005, throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 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. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2005-III-01

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

"Next, I'd like to read you the names of some public officials. As I read each one, please just tell me if you think the job they are doing in office is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor." (READ EACH; ROTATE LIST)

President George W. Bush		EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/VERY POOR	(NET POS TO NEG)
July	2005	43%	18%	37%	(+ 6)
April	2005	41	19	38	(+ 3)
Jan.	2005	53	16	28	(+ 25)
Oct.	2004	50	15	31	(+ 19)
July	2004	52	15	30	(+ 22)
April	2004	45	16	36	(+ 9)
January	2004	50	16	29	(+ 21)
October	2003	51	19	27	(+ 24)
July	2003	56	20	21	(+ 35)
April	2003	69	13	14	(+ 55)
January	2003	57	21	18	(+ 39)
October	2002	58	19	20	(+ 38)
July	2002	63	21	15	(+ 48)
April	2002	73	15	10	(+ 63)
January	2002	77	15	7	(+ 70)
October	2001	79	14	5	(+ 74)
July	2001	44	27	21	(+ 23)
April	2001	49	24	19	(+ 30)

April 2005: President Bush

"More specifically, would you say President George W. Bush is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or a very poor job in each of the following areas?"

	Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/Very Poor	NET TO POSITIVE		
				Jan. 05	Apr. 05	Jul. 05
Reducing deficit spending by the Federal government	18%	26%	52%	(- 28)	(- 38)	(- 34)
Reducing health care costs for Americans	22	18	56	(- 19)	(- 31)	(- 34)
Developing a good exit strategy for Iraq	28	17	50	(- 7)	(- 12)	(- 22)
Assuring the financial security of the social security system	27	21	47	(- 8)	(- 20)	(- 20)
Improving world opinion of the U.S.	28	24	44	(+ 2)	(- 13)	(- 16)
Improving the U.S. balance of trade	25	30	37	(- 1)	(- 16)	(- 12)
Managing the situation in Iraq	34	19	45	(+ 7)	(+ 3)	(- 11)
Understanding the needs of people like you	34	20	43	NA	(- 11)	(- 9)
Protecting the environment	31	25	39	(+ 2)	(- 5)	(- 8)
Improving the nation's economy	35	23	39	(+ 6)	(- 11)	(- 4)
Reducing your taxes	36	23	38	(+ 13)	(- 5)	(- 2)