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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
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70 PERCENT OF REPUBLICANS UNCOMMITTED IN GOP PRIMARY:
NAPOLITANO BESTS JOHN GREEN AND DON GOLDWATER
BY 5 TO 2 IN TEST ELECTIONS

Phoenix, Arizona, November 3, 2005. Governor Janet Napolitano is receiving very favorable job ratings from the electorate in Arizona and is currently trouncing would-be opponents such as John Greene and Don Goldwater. Her electoral strength appears to trace to several factors: First, she is hugely popular with Democrats and Independents and they are strongly supportive of her reelection. Second, fully a third of Republicans favor her reelection and a clear majority believe she is doing a good job as governor. Finally, she enjoys lopsided support among three very active voters groups – women and older voters (60%), high efficacy voters (59%) and she is building very strong support in Pima County (68%). Finally, among Latino voters in Arizona, a group that may emerge with greater power next year, she enjoys wide support (64%).

A second factor in her electoral strength lies in the opposition. It appears that GOP voters are not coalescing around any of the would-be Republican challengers to her reelection. For example, 70 percent currently say they are uncommitted to any of five GOP candidates we included in a test election and of the five, only one has a significant lead – but it is a lead based more likely on his name than deep voter familiarity with his position on issues. Don Goldwater received 20 percent of the test GOP primary vote compared to five percent for John Greene, three percent for Jan Florez and one percent or less for Mary Peters and Teresa Ottesen.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 539 voters across Arizona conducted between October 19th and October 28th, 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.

In two test elections, the first pitting Napolitano against Republican Don Goldwater and Libertarian Mike Ross, Napolitano holds a commanding 53 to 21 percent lead over Goldwater while Mike Ross attracts only five percent. Against John Green and Mike Ross, Napolitano has an even greater margin: 56 percent to 20 percent for Green and three percent for Ross. Whether pitted against Don Goldwater or John Greene, Napolitano draws three out of ten Republicans to her standard, but when we look only at GOP voters with a preference as of this test election, nearly 46 percent favor her over Green and against Goldwater.

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It is interesting, of course, that the Goldwater name does not carry greater initial weight with GOP voters and the results certainly imply that for 80 percent of Republicans, the younger Goldwater will have to prove himself afresh.

Governor Napolitano’s appeal to voters rests on favorable job ratings (52 percent saying she is doing an “excellent or good job”) and only 12 percent are of the opinion that her performance has been “poor” or “very poor”. Another 30 percent rate her performance as “fair”. Napolitano’s positive job ratings rise to 64 percent among Democrats and are impressive at 46 percent among both Republicans and Independents. Only five percent of Democrats, 19 percent of Independents and 17 percent of Republicans thinks she is doing a “poor” job as Governor.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2005-IV-02) is based on 539 telephone interviews with Arizona voters, conducted from October 19th through October 28th, 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 4.3 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

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

“If the Republican primary for Governor were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?”

<u>GOP PRIMARY TEST ELECTION</u>	<u>TOTAL GOP</u>	<u>LIKELY VOTERS</u>
Jan Florez	3%	2%
Don Goldwater	20	22
John Greene	5	5
Teresa Ottesen	*	1
Mary Peters	1	1
None of these/unsure	70	69

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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*“And if the election for Governor of Arizona were being held today, would you vote for the Democrat Janet Napolitano, the Republican John Greene (Don Goldwater) or the Libertarian Mike Ross?”*

|                | Total | Dem. | Rep. | Ind. |                | Total | Dem. | Rep. | Ind. |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|----------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Napolitano (D) | 56%   | 81%  | 34%  | 56%  | Napolitano (D) | 53%   | 78%  | 31%  | 52%  |
| Greene (R)     | 20    | 2    | 37   | 16   | Goldwater (R)  | 21    | 4    | 39   | 18   |
| Ross (L)       | 3     | 3    | 3    | 5    | Ross (L)       | 5     | 5    | 2    | 10   |
| None of these  | 21    | 14   | 26   | 23   | None of these  | 21    | 13   | 28   | 20   |

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“Would you say Janet Napolitano is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job as Governor of Arizona.”

STATEWIDE

		Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/Very Poor	(Net Pos. to Neg.)
October	2005	52%	30%	12%	(+40)
July	2005	53	21	18	(+35)
April	2005	57	22	15	(+42)
January	2005	55	24	13	(+42)
October	2004	51	25	16	(+35)
July	2004	52	25	18	(+34)
April	2004	43	30	20	(+23)
January	2004	49	26	17	(+32)
October	2003	46	30	16	(+30)
April	2003	49	24	10	(+39)

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