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# **Rocky Mountain Poll**

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## GOLDWATER LEADS GOP PRIMARY, BUT WITH BARELY A FIFTH OF VOTES: NAPOLITANO SWAMPS CHALLENGERS

Phoenix, Arizona. July 27, 2006. This year's GOP primary election for governor is boring most rank and file Republicans. If a candidate is to break away from the pack, political fireworks may be needed to stop the yawning.

Six of ten Republican voters remained uncommitted to any candidate in the four man race, including nearly a fifth who flatly declare they will vote for "none of them." Excluding voters who frown on the entire GOP primary election field of candidates, it leaves 39 percent who are still fence sitting, a figure nearly equal to the 42 percent who do have a favorite.

Among those who have selected a candidate in the race, Don Goldwater has the lead, but with only 23 percent, followed by Len Munsil at 12 percent. Mike Harris attracts three percent and Gary Tupper two. Although it must be said that Goldwater has a two to one lead over Len Munsil, with such a large number of voters still undecided, the lead currently enjoyed by Don Goldwater could evaporate if one of the other candidates does break away from the pack. Len Munsil may have the best opportunity if he can identify a break-away strategy since he has a bigger war chest than any of the other GOP candidates and is already showing some voter appeal among upper income Republicans.

That having been said, one can never under estimate the power of what may be the most well known name in Arizona politics . . . Goldwater. Further, Don Goldwater has already shown his ability to deflect criticisms of his U.S. / Mexico border policies from heavy weights such as Senator John McCain. If he is able to qualify for public money he may well be able to defend his lead and emerge victorious.

Whatever happens in the GOP primary, Governor Janet Napolitano has what may prove to be an insurmountable lead over her would be challengers – besting Don Goldwater by 58 to 24 percent and Len Munsil by 57 to 17 percent in test elections completed last week. Libertarian candidate Barry Hess appears to be a non-player, attracting less than five percent of the vote which, given Napolitano's lopsided lead, is too small to even play the role of spoiler.

This report is based on a survey of 627 voters across Arizona conducted between July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006, 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](http://www.brcpolls.com) for this and other polls.

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With only a quarter or less of voters in the “undecided” column, the probability that Napolitano could be defeated is very small. Whichever candidate wins the GOP primary contest would then have to pick up all the “undecided” vote, all of the votes now being cast for the Libertarian candidate and would have to strip Napolitano of eight percent of her vote . . . just to squeak out a victory.

Napolitano’s strength as a candidate traces to several factors: First, she has very impressive appeal to Democrats (78%) and to Independents (68%). Secondly, she attracts three of ten Republican voters to her banner. And finally, Napolitano enjoys great popularity among ethnic minority voters, sweeping up 67 percent of their vote and among retired persons, attracting 59 percent of their vote. Although she has greater appeal among women than among men, it is clear that this election is not about gender – 54 percent of men and 59 percent of women favor her re-election.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-III-02) is based on 627 telephone interviews with voters across Arizona, conducted from July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.9 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Republican sample includes 251 voters and the Democrat sample 284 voters. The margin of error for each of these sub-samples is plus or minus 6.3 percent. 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  
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For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

“If the Republican primary election for Governor of Arizona were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?” (NAMES ROTATED)

	<u>Republican Voters</u>	
	<u>All</u>	<u>High Efficacy</u>
Don Goldwater	23%	23%
Len Munsil	12	11
Mike Harris	3	5
Gary Tupper	2	3
None of these	18	19
Unsure	42	39

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“If the Republican primary election for Governor of Arizona were being held today, which of the following candidates would you vote for?” (NAMES ROTATED)

|               | <u>Republican Voters</u> |             |              |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|               | <u>Maricopa</u>          | <u>Pima</u> | <u>Rural</u> |
| Don Goldwater | 22%                      | 25%         | 25%          |
| Len Munsil    | 16                       | *           | 3            |
| Mike Harris   | 2                        | 3           | 8            |
| Gary Tupper   | 2                        | 5           | *            |
| None of these | 19                       | 22          | 14           |
| Unsure        | 39                       | 45          | 50           |

\* Less than 1 percent

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“If the election for Governor of Arizona were being held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were Democrat Janet Napolitano, Republican (Don Goldwater / Len Munsil) and Libertarian Barry Hess? (NAMES ROTATED)

	<u>All Voters</u>	<u>Likely Voters</u>
Janet Napolitano (D)	58%	57%
Don Goldwater (R)	24	28
Barry Hess (I)	2	1
None of these	4	2
Undecided	12	12

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|                      | <u>All Voters</u> | <u>Likely Voters</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Janet Napolitano (D) | 57%               | 58%                  |
| Len Munsil (R)       | 17                | 18                   |
| Barry Hess (I)       | 3                 | 3                    |
| None of these        | 6                 | 5                    |
| Undecided            | 17                | 16                   |

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