



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

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FOUR IN TEN SUPPORT HIGHER GAS TAXES IF MONEY IS DEDICATED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH.

Phoenix, Arizona, August 23, 2007. With public discontent about gasoline prices, it may come as a surprise that nearly four in ten Arizonans (38%) say they would be willing to pay higher gasoline taxes if the taxes would be earmarked for university research in Arizona for the development of renewable energy resources such as solar and wind energy. Further, an additional seven percent do not dismiss the idea as totally unacceptable.

Support for such a strategy is most noticeable among younger consumers where 40 percent favor the idea and 50 percent oppose. Among older people support shrinks to 33 percent and opposition rises to 59 percent.

Yet it is among Democrats and Independents, who together comprise a majority of voters in Arizona that support for raising gas taxes for renewable energy research is closest. Forty-three percent of Independents favor the idea while only 47 percent oppose. Among Democrats the idea is favored by 41 percent and opposed by 53 percent. The closeness of the spread is closer than one might have thought it would be given the general frustration of residents with gasoline prices. The only voter group in which opposition can be classified as intense, is among registered Republican voters where 62 percent stand in opposition and a third are supportive.

The research also reveals that Maricopa County residents offer the highest support for the proposal (40%) and rural residents the lowest (33%).

This report is based on a survey of 800 interviews with adult heads-of-household across Arizona, conducted between July 27th and August 4th, 2007 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 for this and other poll results.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2007-IV-04), is based on 800 interviews with adult heads-of-household across Arizona, conducted between July 27th and August 4th 2007. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party 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 3.5 percent of what they would have been 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.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
 RMP (2007-IV-04)

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

“Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher state gasoline taxes if the money were used for research at Arizona Universities on renewable energy research such as solar and wind energy?”

	Willing	Unwilling	Unsure
Statewide	38%	55%	7%
Republicans	33	62	5
Democrats	41	53	6
Independents	43	47	10
Under 35	40	50	10
35 to 54	40	55	5
55 and over	33	59	8
Maricopa	40	52	8
Pima	37	55	8
Rural	33	61	6

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