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Rocky Mountain Poll

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GOVERNOR BREWER OFF TO A ROUGH START PUBLIC REGARD FOR LEGISLATURE EVEN WORSE

Phoenix, Arizona, May 7, 2009. Voters and the general public in Maricopa County appear disinclined to grant a honeymoon to the new and politically experienced Republican Governor Jan Brewer. Voters usually give new governors the benefit of the doubt early in their terms with about half applauding their initial efforts and only small proportions saying their performance to date was “poor.” Examples of this may be seen when Janet Napolitano assumed the office after a close and hard fought race in 2003 and when Jane Hull was elevated to the Governorship after Fife Symington was forced out in 1997. Hull’s starting numbers were 45 percent favorable to only four percent negative. For Napolitano, the ratings in April of 2003 were 49 percent favorable to only ten percent negative.

In contrast, Jan Brewer starts off with only 24 percent positive... roughly half the levels enjoyed by Hull and Napolitano. At the same time, Brewer’s “poor” readings stand at 26 percent, more than double that of Napolitano’s initial poll ratings and six times higher than Jane Hull’s.

At this time, another third give Governor Brewer the lukewarm “fair” job rating, a rating which past studies have shown reflects a mix of positive and negative assessments and show that these voters have reservations about the office holder’s performance. Whether Governor Brewer will be able to earn stronger support from some of those currently giving her only a “fair” is yet to be seen. It is very likely that her position on the highly volatile issue of tax increases has been costly.

At the same time, the State Legislature has nothing to crow about for it is receiving some of the lowest kudos from the public that we have seen in recent times... only 15 percent like what they see in the state legislature while 35 percent flatly rate their performance as poor. Even though the legislature never receives strongly favorable marks from the public, usually between a quarter and a third applaud their efforts while negative assessments tend to hover around about a fifth of the population.

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This report is based on a survey of 500 interviews with adult heads-of-household in Maricopa County, conducted between April 13 and 21, 2009 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.

Particularly worrisome to the Republican Party this year may be the low marks given to the Legislature from registered Republican voters: 33 percent unfavorable to only 21 percent favorable. Governor Brewer stands in better odor with Republican voters... only 31 percent favorable but 18 percent negative. Usually well over half of the GOP voters give favorable ratings to new Republican governors. Both Democrat and Independent voters are more negative in their assessment of the Governor's performance: 21% positive to 27% negative among Democrats and 25% positive to 35% negative among Independents.

Although U.S. Senator John McCain will most probably be at the top of the GOP ticket during the upcoming off-year election, a most probable candidate for Governor on the Democrat side may be current Attorney General Terry Goddard. Goddard enjoys considerable and stable popularity in this critical county since he assumed the office in 2004. His current job performance readings for a Democrat in a county long dominated by Republicans. What is more, among registered voters alone, his favorable job ratings climb to 42 percent and his negatives sink to only eleven percent.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2009-II-02), is based on 500 interviews with adult heads of household across Maricopa County, conducted between April 13 and 21, 2009. 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.

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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.

“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.”

	Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor	No Opinion
<u>EARLY JOB RATINGS FOR ARIZONA GOVERNORS</u>				
Jan Brewer - May 2009	24%	32%	26%	18%
Janet Napolitano - April 2003	49	24	10	17
Jane Hull - October 1997	45	20	4	31
<u>CURRENT READINGS FOR GOVERNOR JAN BREWER</u>				
Total population	24	32	26	18
Registered voters	26	33	27	16
Republicans	31	39	18	12
Independents	25	27	35	13
Democrats	21	29	27	23
<u>CURRENT READINGS FOR STATE LEGISLATURE</u>				
Total population	15	37	35	13
Registered voters	14	38	37	11
Republicans	21	38	33	8
Independents	9	44	38	9
Democrats	9	33	41	17
<u>CURRENT READINGS FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL TERRY GODDARD</u>				
Total population	38	31	13	18
Registered voters	42	31	11	16
Republicans	45	27	14	14
Independents	32	38	10	20
Democrats	43	30	10	17

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|                                  |             | EXCELLENT/<br>GOOD | FAIR       | POOR/VERY<br>POOR | (NET POS<br>TO NEG) |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Arizona State Legislature</b> |             |                    |            |                   |                     |
| <b>April</b>                     | <b>2009</b> | <b>15%</b>         | <b>37%</b> | <b>35%</b>        | <b>( - 20)</b>      |
| March                            | 2007        | 28                 | 39         | 12                | (+ 16)              |
| January                          | 2007        | 35                 | 34         | 12                | (+ 23)              |
| January                          | 2006        | 30                 | 37         | 14                | (+ 16)              |
| October                          | 2005        | 25                 | 35         | 18                | (+ 7)               |
| July                             | 2005        | 34                 | 35         | 13                | (+ 21)              |
| April                            | 2005        | 27                 | 33         | 17                | (+ 10)              |
| January                          | 2005        | 34                 | 34         | 13                | (+ 21)              |
| October                          | 2004        | 26                 | 35         | 19                | (+ 7)               |
| July                             | 2004        | 34                 | 33         | 18                | (+ 17)              |
| April                            | 2004        | 25                 | 37         | 20                | (+ 5)               |
| January                          | 2004        | 27                 | 34         | 22                | (+ 5)               |
| October                          | 2003        | 22                 | 38         | 20                | (+ 2)               |
| April                            | 2003        | 29                 | 31         | 20                | (+ 9)               |
| January                          | 2003        | 19                 | 33         | 30                | (- 11)              |
| October                          | 2002        | 17                 | 35         | 29                | (- 12)              |
| October                          | 2001        | 29                 | 34         | 16                | (+ 13)              |
| April                            | 2001        | 28                 | 37         | 17                | (+ 11)              |
| January                          | 2001        | 25                 | 32         | 25                | ( -0- )             |
| January                          | 2000        | 30                 | 36         | 18                | (+ 12)              |
| January                          | 1999        | 37                 | 33         | 11                | (+ 26)              |
| January                          | 1998        | 31                 | 35         | 18                | (+ 13)              |
| January                          | 1997        | 28                 | 40         | 17                | (+ 11)              |
| January                          | 1996        | 22                 | 46         | 17                | (+ 5)               |
| January                          | 1995        | 22                 | 41         | 15                | (+ 7)               |
| January                          | 1994        | 23                 | 39         | 22                | (+ 1)               |

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Attorney General Terry Goddard

April	2009	38%	31%	13%	(+ 25)
March	2007	42	27	6	(+ 36)
January	2007	45	24	8	(+ 37)
October	2005	42	26	8	(+ 34)
July	2005	45	26	7	(+ 38)
April	2005	43	24	6	(+ 37)
October	2004	37	29	6	(+ 31)
July	2004	42	28	6	(+ 36)

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