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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

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## PUBLIC TO LEGISLATURE: MORE BUDGET CUTS NEEDED DO MORE TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY & PROTECT CONSUMERS

Phoenix, Arizona, May 12, 2009. Forty-three percent of Maricopa County consumers believe the state legislature is doing a “poor” job when it comes to taking concrete steps to stimulate Arizona’s economy and only 15 percent rate the legislature favorably on this task. Among registered voters, 54 percent hold a negative view, a figure that jumps to 65 percent among Independents, 60 percent among Democrats and to 41 percent of Republicans.

This view reflects other discontents as well. For instance, 51 percent believe the legislature is doing “too little” in working with the federal government to stimulate the economy while 55 percent feel it has also done “too little” on economic development programs such as attracting alternative energy technology companies to the state.

Similarly, the legislature is given “poor” job ratings by half of those surveyed as regards its efforts to curb unemployment, to help Arizonans get retrained for the new economy and for its efforts at developing programs to help both unemployed families and small businesses to survive the recession. On these issues not even 15 percent are willing to give the legislature positive job ratings.

On the other hand, Arizonans appear in sync with the Republican Party view that state government is too large and inefficient. Fifty-eight percent believe the legislature has not done enough to reduce the cost of state government. However, not everyone is convinced that more government job cuts is the way to go: while 49 percent favor more job cuts, 41 percent disagree and another ten percent are unsure.

In some ways it appears that the public wants to have its cake and to eat it too: it wants more budget cuts but wants the state to do more to stimulate the economy and help people and small businesses hurt by the recession.

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
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For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2009-II-03), 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.

*“Would you say the Arizona State Legislature is doing too little, too much or about the right amount in each of the following areas?”*

	Doing Too Little	Doing Too Much	Doing The Right Amount	Don't Know
<u>CUTTING THE COST OF STATE GOVERNMENT</u>				
Reducing the cost of state government	58%	9%	27%	6%
Cutting jobs out of government	49	15	26	10
<u>STIMULATING THE ECONOMY</u>				
Working with the federal government to stimulate the economy	51	7	32	10
Helping bring solar and other alternative energy technologies to Arizona	55	2	35	8
<u>CONSUMER PROTECTION</u>				
Working to protect consumers from high energy costs	56	4	31	9
Maintaining vital governmental services for the elderly and poor	56	2	32	10

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*“Overall, would you say the state legislature in Arizona is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in each of the following areas?”*

|                                                                                 | Poor/<br>Very Poor | Fair | Excellent/<br>Good | Don't<br>Know |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|---------------|
| Helping get workers retrained for the new economy                               | 51%                | 24%  | 13%                | 12%           |
| Working to curb unemployment                                                    | 49                 | 29   | 13                 | 9             |
| Helping unemployed families during this recession                               | 49                 | 29   | 14                 | 8             |
| Working to help small businesses survive the recession                          | 48                 | 28   | 14                 | 10            |
| Working to help people who have lost their jobs from<br>also losing their homes | 48                 | 28   | 14                 | 10            |
| Taking concrete steps to stimulate Arizona's economy                            | 43                 | 36   | 15                 | 6             |
| Working to create jobs in Arizona                                               | 43                 | 36   | 15                 | 6             |

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