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Rocky Mountain Poll

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Contact: Jim Haynes
President or
Earl de Berge
Research Director

SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL TAX INCREASES UNPOPULAR; ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IMPORTANT BUT LOSING STEAM

Phoenix, Arizona. August 3, 2010. Arizonans are even less inclined today than 20 years ago to support tax increases as a tool to help finance the operation of the federal government. In 1990, 64 percent opposed any federal tax increase. Today an even greater percent (69%) hold the same view.

On the other hand, when asked a more complex question regarding which of four approaches might be best today to deal with the federal deficit, no single majority view emerges. Thus, 43 percent favor more spending cuts, 22 percent favor just waiting for the recovery to right the federal ship and 16 percent favor both raising taxes and cutting spending. The option of just raising taxes was chosen by only a handful (7%).

And if there was ever an issue that separated Democrats from Republicans and Independents it could well be how to deal with the federal deficit: 63 per cent of Republicans and 59 per cent of Independents favor more spending cuts. Among Democrat voters, only 27 percent favor spending cuts as the core deficit reducing strategy. The close similarity of Independents to Republicans on this issue may help explain why more Independents are noticeably more interested this year in voting in the Republican primary than in the Democrat primary.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Half of Arizonans say the position of candidates for governor and the legislature on environmental issues is "very important" to them. Only one in ten are disinterested in the position candidates take on such issues. These readings are similar to 1990 in that close to 90 percent say the position of candidates on environmental issues is important to them, but this year, the intensity of that

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interest has subsided in that the proportion who answered “very important” today registers 53 percent compared to 68 percent in 1990. Voters’ current preoccupation with economic and jobs issues may account in the softening of th 2010 readings

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EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2010-III-09), is based on 800 interviews with adult heads of household statewide, conducted between June 30 and July 11, 2010 using BRC’s in-house interviewing staff. 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 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 sponsored by the Center.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

“Is the federal deficit serious enough that the President and Congress should cut spending, raise taxes, raise taxes and cut spending or do nothing right now and give the recovery more time to succeed?”

	Spend Less	Raise Taxes	Do Both	Wait Do Neither	Not Sure
Total	43%	7%	16%	22%	12%
Democrats	27	10	20	26	17
Independents	59	4	14	17	6
Republicans	63	2	16	14	5
Under 35	49	10	7	20	14
35 to 54	38	7	21	23	11
55 or older	46	6	16	20	12

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*“Is the federal deficit serious enough that Congress and the President should raise taxes to finance the operation of the federal government?”*

|                     | Yes | No  | Unsure |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| 1990                | 30% | 64% | 6%     |
| 2010                | 21  | 69  | 10     |
| <u>DETAILS 2010</u> |     |     |        |
| Democrats           | 36  | 48  | 16     |
| Independents        | 16  | 71  | 13     |
| Republicans         | 11  | 79  | 10     |
| Under 35            | 17  | 71  | 12     |
| 35 to 54            | 21  | 74  | 5      |
| 55 or older         | 26  | 62  | 12     |

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“In the upcoming election for governor and legislature in Arizona how important to you is a candidate’s position on environmental issues: very important, somewhat important or not at all important”

	2010	1990
Very important	53%	68%
Somewhat important	34	28
Not very important	10	3
Unsure	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	100%	100%

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