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# ***Rocky Mountain Poll***

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**PIMA SHERIFF DUPNIK RATINGS MIXED**  
**RURAL COUNTY SHERIFFS IN GENERALLY GOOD ODOR**  
**MARICOPA SHERIFF ARPAIO POPULARITY CONTINUES TO SLIDE**

Phoenix, Arizona. May 13, 2011. When Clarence Dupnik, the Sheriff of Pima county initially refused to enforce new anti-immigration laws passed by the Arizona legislature, and later in the wake of the assassination attempt on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, when he characterized Arizona as “A Mecca for prejudice and bigotry,” the impact on his public image has yielded more who think he is doing a “good” job, than a “poor” job, but it’s a pretty close call. Today, 31 percent rate Dupnik’s performance as “good” but nearly as many people rate his performance in office as poor (29%).

Attitudes toward Sheriff Dupnik reveal sharp partisan overtones with 53 percent of Democrats but only 19 percent of Republicans praising his work as Sheriff. Independents are divided right down the middle. From a re-election standpoint, Dupnik has the advantage of being quite popular with those most likely to vote (55 years of age and over) where his job rating is 55% to 23% positive.

In the state’s rural counties (beyond Maricopa and Pima), sheriffs are generally in good odor, with positive ratings out-distancing negative ones by nearly two-to-one (37% positive to 22 % negative). These sheriffs would be even more popular were it not for the views of women in the rural areas. Thus, while men rate these sheriffs favorably by a ratio of 43 percent to 12 percent, women are not convinced: negative ratings among women rise to 30 percent and positive ratings subside to only 31 percent.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who once was arguably the most widely known and popular elected official in the state and a media favorite, still continues to enjoy a greater percentage of people who think he is doing a “good” job (41%) than a “poor” job (33%), but it is equally clear that his positive job ratings have steadily eroded since 2007 when as many as 64 percent rated his performance favorably and only 16 percent said he was doing a poor job. While the outspoken Arpaio has always enjoyed being controversial and in the limelight, he is now the subject of FBI, U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Grand Jury investigations for civil rights abuses and abuse of power, all of which have doubtless had impacts on his popularity.

(Continue)

Half of Republican voters in Maricopa County still think Arpaio is doing a good job but the other half are not so sure. The current readings are also a far cry from the more than 70 percent of Republicans who applauded Arpaio's performance in the Sheriff's office back in 2006. Among registered Independents, favorable regard drops to 37 percent and among Democrats to only 29 percent. Sixty-two percent of Democrats flatly describe his performance as "poor", as do nearly four in ten Independents.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2011-II-05), is based on 700 interviews with adult heads of household statewide, conducted between April 15 and 30, 2011. Interviewing was conducted in both English and Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both landlines and cell phones. 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 3.8 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.

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STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP (2011-II-05)

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results).

*“Would you say the sheriff of your county is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”*

RATINGS OF SHERIFF OF YOUR COUNTY	APRIL 2011			
	EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/ VERY POOR	NET TO POSITIVE
Pima County	31%	22%	29%	(+ 2)
All other counties	37	21	22	(+15)
Maricopa County	41	19	33	(+ 8)

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JOB RATINGS OF SHERIFF JOE ARPAIO

MARICOPA COUNTY ONLY

|               | EXCELLENT/<br>GOOD | FAIR | POOR/<br>VERY POOR | NET TO<br>POSITIVE |
|---------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| May 2011      | 41%                | 19%  | 33%                | (+ 8)              |
| July 2010     | 44                 | 13   | 34                 | (+10)              |
| January 2010  | 39                 | 20   | 34                 | (+ 5)              |
| July 2008     | 54                 | 14   | 28                 | (+26)              |
| November 2007 | 59                 | 16   | 22                 | (+37)              |
| March 2007    | 64                 | 13   | 16                 | (+48)              |

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