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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2013-II-08]

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ARIZONA VIEWS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND MARIJUANA POSSESSION

Phoenix, Arizona, May 14, 2013. Public opinion in Arizona appears to be solidifying in support of two major issues: same-sex marriage and decriminalization of simple marijuana possession.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE:

After years of beating the drums against same-sex marriage, opponents of the idea in Arizona appear to be losing their grip on public attitudes toward the issue. By a ratio of 55 percent to 35 percent, Arizonans say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry. Majorities in the following groups appear to have locked arms in support of such unions: women (60%), Hispanics (75%), liberals (67%), moderates (64%), registered Independents (64%), Democrats (70%), and voters under 55 years of age (60%).

A plurality of voters over 54 years of age also favor allowing such unions (46%); while 40 percent remain in opposition.

Finally, opposition to same-sex marriage divides Republican voters, with 53 percent opposed but 36 percent now in favor. Similarly, while 51 percent of political conservatives are opposed, 41 percent favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry.

MARIJUANA POSSESSION:

On the subject of marijuana law reform, Arizonans have repeatedly affirmed their support at the ballot box for legalizing the distribution of marijuana to individuals who have first obtained a prescription provided by a physician. Now it appears that a majority (56%) also favor legalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use.

Unlike the gay marriage issue, it is men (62%) rather than women (50%) that are the most supportive of marijuana legalization, but defeloning also enjoys majority support in all age groups, across all counties and among both Democrats and Independent voters. Indeed, Independent voters are the most supportive at a very strong 72 percent, with only one in five opposed.

Support drops among Republicans and political conservatives, yet it is clear that they are not of one mind on the issue. Among registered Republicans, 41 percent favor defeloning of marijuana while 56 percent oppose. Among political conservatives, 35 percent favor defeloning for personal use, but 58 percent remain in opposition. The opposition of conservatives is more than offset by the support among political moderates (67%) and political liberals (75%). And while a majority in all age groups support legalizing simple possession of a small amount of marijuana, it is clear that voters under 54 years of age are the most likely age groups to carry this view into future elections.

It is perhaps ironic that as support for same-sex marriage and defeloning of marijuana have long been albatrosses which conservative candidates could hang around the necks of some of their moderate or liberal challengers, it now appears that hard opposition to gay marriage and perhaps even to marijuana liberalization could become issues moderates and liberals can use against their conservative opponents.

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

RMP (2013-II-08)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2013-II-08), is based on 700 interviews with heads of household statewide including 438 registered voters statewide, conducted between April 3 and 16, 2013. Interviewing was conducted in both English or 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 population been surveyed and 4.8 percent 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

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“Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry?”

	Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Statewide	55%	35%	10%
Latinos	75	20	5
Democrats	70	22	8
Liberals	67	28	5
Age: under 35	67	26	7
Pima County	65	30	5
Moderates	64	25	11
Independents	64	25	11
Women	60	33	7
Caucasian	54	35	11
Rural Counties	54	37	9
Age 35 to 54	54	39	7
Maricopa County	53	36	11
Men	50	37	13
Age 55 plus	46	40	14
Conservatives	41	51	8
Republicans	36	53	11
Non Latino Minorities	36	58	6

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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“Do you favor or do you oppose legalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?”

|                  | <b>Favor</b> | <b>Oppose</b> | <b>Unsure</b> |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Statewide</b> | <b>56%</b>   | <b>37%</b>    | <b>7%</b>     |
| Men              | 62           | 33            | 5             |
| Women            | 50           | 41            | 9             |
| Age: Under 35    | 58           | 32            | 10            |
| 35 to 53         | 59           | 37            | 4             |
| 54 or older      | 51           | 42            | 7             |
| Democrat         | 61           | 35            | 4             |
| Independent      | 72           | 20            | 8             |
| Republican       | 41           | 56            | 3             |
| Maricopa County  | 54           | 39            | 7             |
| Pima County      | 60           | 34            | 6             |
| Rural Counties   | 58           | 36            | 6             |
| Caucasian        | 59           | 36            | 5             |
| Latino           | 61           | 25            | 14            |
| Other            | 37           | 54            | 9             |
| Liberal          | 75           | 21            | 4             |
| Moderate         | 67           | 29            | 4             |
| Conservative     | 35           | 58            | 7             |

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