



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2013-IV-01]

Contact: Earl de Berge
Research Director
or Jim Haynes
President/CEO
602-258-4554

ARIZONA: HALF SAY AMERICA ON “ROAD TO RUIN”
ONLY 13 % PLAN TO SUPPORT INCUMBENTS

Phoenix, Arizona, **October 30, 2013** For the first time in our memory and in sharp contrast to more optimistic views held in 1999, a majority of Arizonans now believe *America is on the road to ruin*. Today, just 27 percent believe America “is headed for a new and better future.” In 1999, half of the public held this more optimistic view.

The increasingly sour view that voters have of the direction political leaders are giving the nation carries over to how voters may vote in 2014. Thus barely 13 percent say they plan to vote to re-install current office holders in the US congress while a whopping 55 percent say they plan to vote incumbents out of office in favor of new blood. And while this general view transcends all political sub-groups, it spikes to 69 percent among political independents and 64 percent among GOP voters. Democrat office holders also have little to crow about as 59 percent of their rank and file members also plan to vote against incumbents.

Conventional political wisdom has it that even though voters often display disapproval toward Congress, yet when elections roll around, they will stick with their party and incumbents. 2014 may be different however, because of both the intensity of the sentiment and because voters view the Congress as having pursued partisan brinkmanship tactics and policies that hurt recovery, hit the consumer in the pocket book and may have hurt U.S. prestige in the international community. National polls have shown that even though the public has deep questions about Obama’s health care program, they strongly disapprove of successful efforts by some in the GOP to shut down the government as a way of showing their opposition to the program.

-more-

These findings may also explain why a long term Arizona incumbent facing re-election such as U.S. Senator John McCain is vigorously trying to put some distance between himself and the politics of the extreme right wing of his political party. McCain has been openly critical of the Tea Party wing of the GOP for pursuing politics designed to create crisis such as trying to stop Obama health care reform by shutting down the government during a slow economic recovery and via threats to block debt ceiling increases.

Belief that America is on the road to ruin is uniquely high among registered Republicans (62%), Independents (61%) rural residents (59%) and among Caucasians (59%). These groups tend to also be those most likely to vote against incumbents in 2014.

-30-

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

RMP (2013-IV-01)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2013-IV-01), is based on 702 interviews with heads of household statewide including 438 registered voters statewide, conducted between October 17 and October 25, 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

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP (2013-IV-01)

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

“In recent years, there has been much debate over where America is headed in the next century (1999 language) in this century (2013 language) In your opinion, is America on the road to ruin or is it headed to a new and better future than ever before?”

	New & Better Future	On Road to Ruin	Not Sure	Net Pos to Neg. Response
1999	50%	35%	15%	+15
2013	27	51	22	-24
<u>2013 DETAIL</u>				
Democrats	47	33	20	+14
Republicans	23	62	15	-39
Independents	20	61	19	-41
Age under 35	29	44	27	-15
35 to 54	25	56	19	-31
55 or older	28	52	20	-24
Maricopa	28	48	24	-20
Pima	32	51	17	-19
Rural	23	59	18	-36
Men	29	54	17	-25
Women	26	48	26	-22
Caucasian	25	59	16	-34
Hispanic	32	37	31	-5
Other	34	40	26	-6
Under \$45K income	31	48	21	-17
\$45 to 84.9K	32	43	25	-11
\$85K plus	32	49	19	-17

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
 RMP (2013-IV-01)

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

“Given the ongoing budget and debt ceiling battle in the U.S. Congress, some people have said that in the next election they will vote against incumbents currently in either the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate. In your own case, will you vote for new people to represent you in the House and Senate or will you still vote for current office holders?”

	Will Vote for New Candidates	Will Vote for Current Office Holders	Not Sure	Net New over Incumbents
Statewide	55%	13%	32%	+42
Democrats	59	14	27	+45
Republicans	64	16	20	+48
Independents	69	9	22	+60
Age under 35	60	18	22	+42
35 to 54	46	11	43	+35
55 or older	59	11	30	+48
Maricopa	53	12	35	+41
Pima	51	14	35	+37
Rural	60	16	24	+44
Men	58	11	31	+47
Women	51	15	34	-36
Caucasian	58	15	27	+43
Hispanic	63	10	27	+53
Other	41	14	45	+27
Under \$45K income	54	12	34	+42
\$45 to 84.9K	62	19	19	+43
\$85K plus	61	8	31	+53