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Rocky Mountain Poll

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JOB PERFORMANCE RATINGS
SENATOR McCAIN STILL IN A SLUMP
SENATOR FLAKE RATINGS IMPROVE

Phoenix, Arizona, February 13, 2014 Should U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) decide to run for re-election in 2016, he may face a tough struggle to convince voters to stay the course with him. Voter attitudes toward his performance in Washington remain sharply divided with 37 percent applauding his efforts but 33 percent giving him a thumbs down. What is more, the proportion rating his performance as “poor” rose to 33 percent in January from 26 percent this past summer.

Another 23 percent classify his job performance as only “fair” which overall means that the combined percent who rate his performance as “fair” or “poor” stands at 56 percent. Perhaps more ominous to his chances for being re-nominated by his party for a sixth term, is the finding that the proportion of registered Republicans who rate his performance as “poor” rose to 38 percent in January from only 27 percent last summer. Simultaneously, the proportion of Republicans who gave him favorable job ratings fell to 34 percent from 38 percent last summer.

Evidence that Senator McCain continues to cause some Republicans to scratch their heads was also seen recently when he was censored by the Arizona Republican Party for being “too associated with liberal Democrats.” The Senator responded to the censorship saying that he had a strong conservative voting record and that being censored by the party may only embolden him to seek a sixth term in 2016 when he turns 80. He also expressed concern that the Republican party apparatus has been “taken over by a very extremist element of the party”. Nonetheless, should a credible Republican candidate emerge to challenge him in 2016, he could be in for a serious battle.

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The Senator may have to try and scoop up votes from among Independents who can participate in primary elections, but he may find little fresh support there, for Independents are also divided toward the Senator’s performance: 34 percent say he is doing a good job but an equal percent say his performance has been poor.

McCain may also need to mend some fences with male voters. Within their ranks, four in ten classify his performance as “poor”.

U.S. Senator Jeff Flake is still having difficulty in building public support for the work he is doing in Washington, but in this most recent survey we find evidence that he may be making some modest headway, although on balance more Arizonans rate his performance as “poor” (26%) than as “good” (21%). This problem has plagued him since he took office after a bruising campaign many characterized as one of the most riddled with character assassination in Arizona history. Even so, his numbers are improved compared to last summer when his favorable job rating was only 17 percent and the negatives totaled 30 percent.

Senator Flake’s improved stock with the public is most noticeable within the ranks of registered Republicans and Independents. Democrats remain very cool toward the Senator. His biggest problem, however, is with voters over 35, among whom nearly a third remain of the opinion that his performance is poor.

EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2014-I-04), is based on 701 interviews with heads of household statewide including 457 registered voters statewide, conducted between January 16 and January 26, 2014. Interviewing was conducted in either 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 4.7 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.

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

RMP (2014-I-04)

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.
ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
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“Would you say that U.S. Senator John McCain is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

		EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/VERY POOR	(NET POS TO NEG)
U.S. Senator John McCain					
Jan	2014	37%	23%	33%	(+ 4)
July	2013	34	32	26	(+ 8)
April	2013	26	27	36	(- 10)
April	2012	33	30	31	(+ 2)
January	2012	39	32	26	(+ 13)
April	2011	33	26	28	(+ 5)
July	2010	36	31	22	(+ 14)
January	2010	40	30	21	(+ 19)
September	2009	48	31	21	(+ 27)
November	2007	45	26	17	(+ 28)
July	2007	42	25	30	(+ 12)
March	2007	49	24	18	(+ 31)
January	2007	50	25	17	(+ 33)
January	2006	62	20	9	(+ 53)
October	2005	60	27	7	(+ 53)
July	2005	63	19	9	(+ 54)
April	2005	61	22	10	(+ 51)
January	2005	73	15	6	(+ 67)
October	2004	70	17	8	(+ 62)
July	2004	72	17	6	(+ 66)
April	2004	65	18	9	(+ 56)
January	2004	64	20	9	(+ 55)
October	2003	61	22	7	(+ 54)
July	2003	68	18	8	(+ 60)
April	2003	66	20	6	(+ 60)
January	2003	57	24	9	(+ 48)
October	2002	61	23	10	(+ 51)
July	2002	66	21	8	(+ 58)
April	2002	69	15	9	(+ 60)
January	2002	65	21	9	(+ 56)
October	2001	70	16	9	(+ 61)
July	2001	54	22	13	(+ 41)
April	2001	63	22	8	(+ 55)
January	2001	63	21	7	(+ 56)
October	2000	67	18	8	(+ 59)
July	2000	63	21	8	(+ 55)
April	2000	56	24	9	(+ 47)
January	2000	63	20	7	(+ 56)
January	1999	63	17	9	(+ 54)
January	1998	55	25	8	(+ 47)
January	1997	50	28	9	(+ 41)
January	1996	47	28	11	(+ 36)
January	1995	47	29	11	(+ 37)
January	1994	38	33	14	(+ 24)
January	1993	46	30	14	(+ 32)
January	1992	33	35	17	(+ 16)

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John McCain job rating January 2014

“Would you say that U.S. John McCain is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

	Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor	Net Pos to Neg
Statewide	37%	23%	33%	+4
County				
Maricopa	39	25	32	+7
Pima	29	19	34	-5
Rural	38	20	33	+5
Party				
Republican	34	24	38	-4
Independent	36	25	36	-0-
Democrat	31	26	37	-6
Gender				
Men	36	21	38	-2
Women	38	24	27	+11
Ethnicity				
Caucasian	40	23	30	+10
Latino	39	21	36	+3
Other	27	30	31	-4

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