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Rocky Mountain Poll

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U.S. SENATORS McCAIN AND FLAKE JOB RATINGS STILL ON DOWNSLOPE

Phoenix, Arizona, May 29, 2014. It is said that all ships rise in a rising tide, but it may also be true that as respect for the U.S. Congress declines, so also may public respect decline for all members of the U.S. Senate. Both U.S. Senators representing Arizona in Washington, but particularly John McCain, are experiencing continuing erosion in public belief they are doing a good job in Washington. Interestingly, this is happening at the same time that President Obama's stock in trade with the public shows some signs of improvement. (President Obama's job rating currently stands at 38 percent favorable to 40 percent unfavorable but three months ago was only 30 percent favorable but 49 percent unfavorable).

More specifically, Senator John McCain's positive job rating fell to 27 percent in April from 37 percent in January and is currently far below the high water mark registered January of 2005 when it hit 73 percent favorable. In January of 2005, only six percent of the public opined that Senator McCain was doing a poor job in Washington, but that figure today stands at 31 percent.

U.S. Senator Jeff Flake has also lost a little ground with voters and the general public. Today, just 18 percent rate his performance as good, while 23 percent give a thumbs down. Curiously, even among Republican voters, there is noticeable reluctance to assess him strongly in favorable terms. Thus, opinion among Republican voters is divided – a 29 percent positive rating to 20 percent unfavorable. Respect for Senator Flake's work in Washington is most problematic in rural Arizona and in Pima County, among voters over the age of 35 and as might be expected, among registered Democrats.

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Part of the reason for the softening in Senator Flake’s numbers may also trace to men, rural voters and Latinos. For example, in January 25 percent of men said he was doing a good job, but today, only 19 percent hold that view. Similarly, in Arizona’s rural counties, favorable ratings of Senator Flake declined from 21 percent in January to only ten percent today and during the same period, his negative assessments rose to 25 percent from 18. Among Hispanic voters, the proportion willing to assess his job performance collapsed from 75 to 51 percent with both negative and positive assessments declining.

While there is still plenty of time for both Senators to rebuild their credit with voters before their re-election seasons return, it is clear that the task may be very challenging because their job ratings have remained in the doldrums for at least a year. This is usually a sign that voters may be becoming reluctant to give them the benefit of the doubt. On the other hand, as consumer and voter confidence in the economy improves, it may be reasonable to anticipate that job ratings for all federal officials will see an up-tick as well.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2014-II-05), is based on 710 interviews with heads of household statewide including 462 registered voters statewide, conducted between April 16 and 27, 2014. Interviewing was conducted in either English or Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on either landlines or 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.

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 (2014-II-05)

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

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

	Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor	Net Pos to Neg
Statewide				
April 2014	18%	28%	23%	- 5
Jan. 2014	21	28	26	- 5
July 2013	17	25	30	-13
April 2013	18	25	26	- 8
Detail - Jan. 2014				
<u>Party</u>				
Republican	29	32	20	+ 9
Independent	17	29	23	- 6
Democrat	11	29	41	-30
<u>County</u>				
Maricopa	22	27	22	-0-
Pima	14	30	25	-11
Rural	10	30	25	-15
<u>Gender</u>				
Men	19	32	27	- 8
Women	17	24	20	- 3
<u>Age</u>				
Under 35	21	30	11	+10
35 to 54	13	26	28	-15
55 or older	20	29	31	-11
<u>Ethnicity</u>				
Caucasian	22	24	30	- 8
Hispanic	7	34	10	- 3
Other	21	45	11	+10

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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/<br>GOOD | FAIR       | POOR/VERY<br>POOR | (NET POS<br>TO NEG) |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>April</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>27%</b>         | <b>30%</b> | <b>31%</b>        | ( <b>-4</b> )       |
| 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)              |
| 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                | ( +6)               |

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**Detail: John McCain Job Rating April 2014**

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

|                         | <b>Excellent/<br/>Good</b> | <b>Fair</b> | <b>Poor/<br/>Very Poor</b> | <b>Net<br/>Pos to Neg</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Statewide</b>        | <b>27%</b>                 | <b>30%</b>  | <b>31%</b>                 | <b>-4</b>                 |
| <b><u>County</u></b>    |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Maricopa                | 30                         | 28          | 29                         | +1                        |
| Pima                    | 18                         | 42          | 31                         | -13                       |
| Rural                   | 25                         | 28          | 37                         | -12                       |
| <b><u>Party</u></b>     |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Republican              | 31                         | 28          | 35                         | -4                        |
| Independent             | 28                         | 22          | 43                         | -15                       |
| Democrat                | 24                         | 42          | 30                         | -6                        |
| <b><u>Gender</u></b>    |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Men                     | 29                         | 26          | 38                         | -9                        |
| Women                   | 25                         | 34          | 25                         | -0-                       |
| <b><u>Ethnicity</u></b> |                            |             |                            |                           |
| Caucasian               | 26                         | 31          | 35                         | -9                        |
| Latino                  | 26                         | 28          | 24                         | +2                        |
| Other                   | 35                         | 24          | 26                         | +9                        |

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