



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

Rated in the Top 15% of Political Polls in the U.S.

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2015-II-05]

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PUBLIC NOT YET IMPRESSED WITH DUCEY LEGISLATURE IN THE SAME BOAT

Phoenix, Arizona, June 5, 2015. Governor Doug Ducey and the Arizona Legislature may be on a honeymoon with each other, but the public's view appears to be that of a bride left standing outside the altar of government. Only 15 percent give the legislature a good job rating and for the Governor, the figure is not much higher – 20 percent. As many, if not more, rate their performance as poor.

Even among registered Republicans it is clear that Governor Ducey has yet to earn broad levels of approval for his job performance (39% positive/14% negative). Both Democrats (12% positive/38% negative) and Independents (20% positive/23% negative) are currently inclined to give more negative than positive assessments.

At the same time and in all fairness, when it comes to the Governor, more than a third are reserving judgment on his performance (37%) and when they are more settled in their views, his job assessments may change significantly. The new legislature appears to be inheriting some of the negative views that the public attached to that body in past years ... it may be the body that voters love to find wanting.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a statewide survey of 701 adult heads of household including 457 registered voters. It was conducted between April 29 and May 10, 2015 by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is part of the Center's Independent non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll Series which is rated in the top 15 percent of independent polls in America. The public is welcome to visit www.BRCpolls.com for this and other polls.

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Voter assessment on the new state legislature hovers at very low levels with only 20 percent ratings its performance as good while 35 percent declare their performance to be poor. Views toward the Legislature are on balance negative across the state and particularly in the urban areas of Pima and Maricopa counties. Rural citizens are somewhat less negative, but even in those regions of the state, positive assessments of performance to date are lukewarm, at best.

The deepest hostility toward the Legislature is found, as might be expected, among Democrats, but is also quite strong among registered Independents of whom nearly four in ten have a negative view, and less than a fifth think the legislature is doing a good job.

The reasons behind the public's lukewarm assessment of both the new Governor's and Legislature's performance may be found in a second set of questions in which we asked them to assess the performance of the Governor and Legislature in 13 issue areas. Three months ago we asked voters to assign priorities to the same issues, so in this survey we were able to ask them to assess actual performance during the recent session. As may be seen, well under a third of the public give them good marks for their performance on five key issues of top priority to the public as measured in January (Page 4).

The public is also not enamored of the work the Governor and Legislature have completed in most of the other eight issue areas tested and particularly for their efforts to make elections more transparent by exposing dark money donors to campaigns. Similarly, the public is not particularly impressed with their skill in using tax incentives to attract new employers to Arizona. This latter opinion is very important at this time because voters across Arizona also believe that there has been little or no improvement in the Arizona job market. More specifically, 72 percent of Arizona consumers still believe that jobs are not plentiful or just plain old "hard to get".

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2015-II-05), is based on 701 interviews with adult heads of household statewide, including 457 registered voters, conducted between April 29 and May 10, 2015. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both land lines and cell phones. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, and race 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 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.

Further Note on Behavior Research Center

Rocky Mountain Poll is rated in top 15 percent of polls in America: In 2014, Nate Silver of the noted analytics website *fivethirtyeight.com* rated BRC in the top tier of political polling firms in America for methodology and accuracy. Mr. Silver and his website have correctly predicted national and state election outcomes in recent election cycles by aggregating polling results from multiple research firms.

ENCLOSED: Statistical tables.

“Would you say **Arizona Governor Doug Ducey** is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

| | Excellent/ Good | Fair | Poor/ Very Poor | Unsure | Net to Positive |
|--------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Statewide | 20% | 24% | 19% | 37% | + 1 |
| Maricopa | 25 | 21 | 19 | 35 | + 6 |
| Pima | 5 | 35 | 22 | 38 | - 17 |
| Rural | 14 | 24 | 18 | 44 | - 4 |
| Voters only | 24 | 24 | 24 | 28 | -0- |
| Democrats | 12 | 25 | 38 | 25 | -26 |
| Independents | 20 | 24 | 23 | 33 | -3 |
| Republicans | 39 | 24 | 14 | 23 | +25 |

“Would you say the **Arizona State legislature** is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job in office?”

| | Excellent/ Good | Fair | Poor/Very Poor | Unsure | Net to Positive |
|--------------|--------------------|------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Statewide | 15% | 30% | 24% | 31% | -9 |
| Maricopa | 16 | 29 | 26 | 29 | -10 |
| Pima | 9 | 30 | 27 | 34 | -18 |
| Rural | 15 | 32 | 19 | 34 | -4 |
| Voters only | 20 | 21 | 35 | 24 | -15 |
| Democrats | 9 | 34 | 39 | 18 | -30 |
| Independents | 18 | 20 | 37 | 25 | -19 |
| Republicans | 27 | 32 | 19 | 22 | +8 |
| April 2015 | 15 | 30 | 24 | 31 | -9 |
| April 2014 | 19 | 28 | 30 | 23 | -11 |
| April 2012 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 10 | -20 |
| April 2011 | 16 | 30 | 35 | 19 | -19 |
| April 2009 | 15 | 37 | 35 | 13 | -20 |
| March 2007 | 28 | 39 | 12 | 21 | +16 |
| January 2006 | 30 | 37 | 14 | 19 | +16 |

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| Issue                                                                              | January 2015                     | May 2015                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    | % ranking each as a top priority | % saying Gov. & Leg. have done a good job on each issue |
| <b>Protecting children</b> from parental abuse.                                    | 78%                              | 28%                                                     |
| Improving the quality of <b>public K-12 education</b> .                            | 75                               | 27                                                      |
| Providing funding for <b>mental health programs</b> .                              | 58                               | 24                                                      |
| Protecting the <b>natural environment</b> .                                        | 57                               | 31                                                      |
| <b>Helping existing Arizona companies expand jobs</b> by providing tax incentives. | 52                               | 31                                                      |

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STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona
 RMP (2015-II-05)

For this and other Rocky Mountain Polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results

| Issue | January 2015 | May 2015 |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| | % ranking each as a top priority | % saying Gov. & Leg. have done a good job on each issue |
| Making elections more transparent by exposing donors behind so-called dark money or third party ads. | 48% | 29% |
| Attracting new employers to the state by using tax incentives. | 48 | 31 |
| Expanding police and fire protection in your community. | 43 | 40 |
| Improving existing streets in your community. | 38 | 38 |
| Proving financial incentives to home owners to install solar energy on their homes. | 38 | 41 |
| Expanding public transit in your community | 36 | 42 |
| Building more freeways and highways | 23 | 37 |
| Slowing the rate of population growth in Arizona | 23 | 13 |

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**Detail April 2015:** “As you may know, the Arizona State Legislature recent passed and the Governor signed into law the new state budget and other legislation. As I read some of the issues they worked on please tell me if you think the job they did was excellent, good, only fair, poor or very poor.” (Sequence rotated at random)

| <b>ISSUE</b>                                                | Excellent to good | Only fair | Poor to Very Poor | Not sure what they have done |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Child protection                                            | 28%               | 25%       | 23%               | 24%                          |
| Improving public K-12 education                             | 27                | 14        | 49                | 10                           |
| Funding mental health                                       | 24                | 15        | 32                | 29                           |
| Protecting natural environment                              | 31                | 22        | 17                | 30                           |
| Tax incentives for Arizona companies to help create jobs    | 31                | 27        | 22                | 20                           |
| Exposing dark money in elections                            | 29                | 16        | 23                | 32                           |
| Creating tax incentives to attract new employers to Arizona | 31                | 19        | 26                | 24                           |
| Expanding police and fire protection                        | 40                | 20        | 24                | 16                           |
| Improving urban streets                                     | 36                | 28        | 20                | 16                           |
| Proving solar energy incentives to homeowners               | 41                | 12        | 21                | 26                           |
| Expanding public transportation                             | 42                | 21        | 22                | 15                           |
| Building more freeways and highways                         | 37                | 25        | 20                | 18                           |
| Sowing the rate of population growth in Arizona             | 13                | 16        | 25                | 46                           |

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