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# Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE  
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SIXTY-FOUR PERCENT FAVOR HIKE IN CIGARETTE TAXES:  
RESIGN-TO-RUN LAW SUPPORTED BY 65 PERCENT

Phoenix, Arizona, April 26, 2002.

Cigarette Taxes: As more scientific evidence makes its way into the news substantiating the harmful effects on human health of cigarette smoking and of second hand smoke, voters and the general public appear willing to impose higher levels of taxes on the products used for smoking. Sixty-four percent say they would vote "yes" on a ballot measure to raise the Arizona state tax on a pack of cigarettes from its current level of 58 cents to one dollar and 18 cents per pack, if the money is earmarked for health-related research and disease prevention programs. A petition to put such a measure on the ballot is being circulated by a coalition of health groups led by the Arizona Hospital Association.

Thirty-four percent oppose such a measure, a figure somewhat larger than the 22 percent of adults who admit they currently are puffers.

Support for the tobacco tax measure jumps to 73 percent among adults under the age of 35, which is by far the highest figure in any voter subgroup and perhaps a sign of the effects of the elevated anti-smoking and anti-tobacco campaigns that have been in place for the past several years, and which have targeted young adults. Support for the tax hike exceeds 62 percent among both Democrats and Republicans, rests at 60 percent among likely voters and dips to 54 percent among Independent voters.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 710 adults across Arizona conducted between April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent polls.

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Resign-to-Run Law Sixty-five percent of Arizonans, including 63 percent of the state's most active and dedicated voters, favor continuation of the State's "resign-to-run" law, which requires state office holders who have more than one year remaining in their terms to resign that office before seeking another office.

Republican and Independent voters are the most supportive of the law with 67 and 71 percent respectively supporting its continuation. Voters passed the law in 1980 which says that except for their last year in office, no official can offer themselves to any salaried local, state or federal office without first resigning.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2002-II-07) is based on 710 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 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. The voter sample included 542 voters and has an estimated margin of error of plus or minus 4.3 percent. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

BELOW: Statistical data

For this and other polls. See [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center

Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona

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Tobacco:

*“If you were voting today, would you vote “yes” or would you vote “no” on raising the Arizona state tax on a pack of cigarettes from 58 cents a pack to one dollar and 18 cents a pack, with the money earmarked for health-related research and disease prevention programs?”*

	YES	NO	UNCERTAIN
Statewide	64%	34%	2%
Maricopa	62	36	2
Pima	62	34	4
Rural	70	29	1

Election:

*“As you may know, Arizona currently has a law which requires state office-holders who have more than one year remaining in their term to resign that office before running for another office. In general, do you strongly support, support, oppose or strongly oppose the resign-to-run law?”*

	STATEWIDE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT
Strongly Support	16%	18%	12%	25%
Support	<u>49</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>46</u>
(Total Support)	(65%)	(67%)	(64%)	(71%)
Oppose	18	18	20	19
Strongly Oppose	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
(Total Oppose)	(21%)	(20%)	(23%)	(25%)
No opinion	14	13	13	4