



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2003-I-02]

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PUBLIC UNIMPRESSED WITH LEGISLATURE:
VIEWS TOWARD GOVERNOR HULL SOFTEN
IN FINAL HOURS

Phoenix, Arizona, January 16, 2003. On the eve of inaugurating a new governor, Arizonans appeared to be softening their assessment of the Jane Hull administration but they retain very skeptical views of the state legislature.

Although still negative on balance, the depth of critical views toward Governor Hull softened from 38 to 32 percent and positive assessments rose to 24 from 21 percent between October 2002 and January 2003. Arizonans most critical of Governor Hull are concentrated in Maricopa County where the negative rating swells to 38 percent, compared to only 26 percent in other areas of the state.

Assessment of the job performance of the Arizona State Legislature, however, reveals little softening of views – 30 percent unfavorable to 19 percent favorable. These negative views are curious given the fact that in November voters returned control of both the state House and Senate to Republican legislators, yet today, a plurality of Democrats, Republicans and Independents maintain a sour view of the State Legislature.

In light of the somewhat peevish response of GOP legislative leaders to newly installed Democrat Governor Janet Napolitano's State of the State message, voters may wonder if the stage has already been set for several more years of partisan bickering. Whether they will blame any future bickering on the legislature or on the new governor remains to be seen, but there can be little doubt that leaders of the legislative majority were surprised by the forcefulness of Governor Napolitano's presentation and know they have an articulate governor with which to deal and one who may take her legislative agenda on the road to build voter support. If she is successful in such a campaign, legislative leaders may come to wish they enjoyed a broader base of esteem from the public when they launch their own side of the debate.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 675 adults across Arizona conducted between January 3rd and January 7th, 2003, 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 to read this and other recent polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-I-02) is based on 675 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from January 3rd through January 7th, 2003 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 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.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

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

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
 RMP 2003-I-02

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“Next, I'd like to read you the names of some public officials. As I read each one, please just tell me if you think the job they are doing in office is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor.”

		EXCELLENT/ GOOD	FAIR	POOR/VERY POOR	(NET POS TO NEG)
<u>Governor Jane Hull</u>					
January	2003	24%	30%	32%	(- 8)
October	2002	21	31	38	(- 17)
July	2002	38	32	24	(+ 14)
April	2002	37	28	29	(+ 8)
January	2002	34	34	22	(+ 12)
October	2001	43	29	20	(+ 23)
July	2001	36	29	23	(+ 13)
April	2001	38	28	24	(+ 14)
January	2001	36	29	24	(+ 12)
October	2000	47	31	12	(+ 35)
July	2000	51	29	11	(+ 40)
April	2000	41	32	13	(+ 28)
January	2000	50	30	10	(+ 40)
October	1999	55	26	8	(+ 47)
July	1999	58	23	7	(+ 51)
April	1999	58	23	5	(+ 53)
January	1999	65	20	4	(+ 61)
October	1998	57	23	3	(+ 54)
July	1998	55	27	5	(+ 50)
April	1998	57	23	5	(+ 52)
January	1998	56	20	3	(+ 53)
October	1997	45	20	4	(+ 41)
<u>Arizona State Legislature</u>					
January	2003	19%	33%	30%	(- 11)
October	2002	17	35	29	(- 12)
October	2001	29	34	16	(+ 13)
April	2001	28	37	17	(+ 11)
January	2001	25	32	25	(-0-)
October	2000	31	35	16	(+ 15)
January	2000	30	36	18	(+ 12)
January	1999	37	33	11	(+ 26)
January	1998	31	35	18	(+ 13)
January	1997	28	40	17	(+ 11)
January	1996	22	46	17	(+ 5)
January	1995	22	41	15	(+ 7)
January	1994	23	39	22	(+ 1)
January	1993	15	39	26	(- 11)
April	1992	14	37	30	(- 16)
January	1991	15	35	30	(- 15)
January	1990	25	41	21	(+ 4)

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