



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
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"STRIKE EVERYTHING" AMENDMENT REFORM APPEALS TO PUBLIC

Phoenix, Arizona, May 30, 2003. In recent years, Arizonans have tended to take a generally dim view of the state legislature's job performance, but are cautious about interfering with one parliamentary maneuver – the "strike everything amendment" that is sometimes criticized as eliminating public input on new legislation. Even when described as a process that can result in the creation of laws with little or no input from the public, Arizonans are divided on the wisdom of forcing elimination of the process through a vote of the people: 38 percent favor such a reform, 53 percent oppose and nine percent are unsure.

On the other hand, when informed that the "strike everything amendment" process was the maneuver used by legislators to pass the Alternative Fuels measure several years ago, support for eliminating the process expands to 59 percent.

Also of interest is that, under this description, support for eliminating the "strike everything amendment" rises among registered voters and opposition drops off, particularly among Republicans, who have been revealed by past polls as among the most offended by the Alternative Fuels scandal. Among voters most likely to vote in Arizona elections, support for eliminating the process rises to a stunning 65 percent, while opposition subsides to only 27 percent.

Whether or not such a reform would ever make it to the ballot, it is clear that the public does not approve of widespread use of the maneuver, which according to recent newspaper stories was applied on over 160 legislative measures dealt with by the legislature this session.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 599 heads of household throughout Maricopa County conducted between May 7 and May 14, 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2003-II-09) is based on 599 telephone interviews conducted from May 7 through May 14, 2003, with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.08 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.

BELOW: Statistical data

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

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
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“As you may be aware, the Arizona State Legislature uses a process called the ‘strike all amendment.’ With the strike all amendment, legislation can be proposed and approved with little or no input from the public. If given a chance, would you vote yes or no on a law to prevent the state legislature from passing legislation in which the public has no opportunity to give its input on the legislation.”

	TOTAL	LIKELY VOTERS
Yes	38%	40%
No	53	44
Unsure	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>
	100%	100%

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*“And would you vote yes or no on eliminating the strike all amendment process if you knew it was used by legislators to enact such measures on the alternative fuels law?”*

|        | TOTAL | LIKELY<br>VOTERS |
|--------|-------|------------------|
| Yes    | 59%   | 65%              |
| No     | 32    | 27               |
| Unsure | 9     | 8                |

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