



*behavior research center's*

# *Rocky Mountain Poll*

NEWS RELEASE  
RMP 2004-I-07

Contact: Earl de Berge  
Research Director

## JOE ARPAIO NOT YET FACING "ELECTABILITY" PROBLEM

Phoenix, Arizona, February 20, 2004. Six of ten Maricopa County voters currently plan to vote to keep Joe Arpaio in office as County Sheriff, while less than half that are considering voting against giving him another term. Candidates who believe they have what it takes to defeat Arpaio in a GOP primary face a tough battle: 71 percent of Republican voters in the county favor his reelection, including 45 percent who are firm in their support of the colorful Sheriff.

Democrat challengers might be facing a stiff battle as well: 54 percent of both Democrat and Independent voters plan to vote for his reelection.

As of the time of this survey, only 29 percent of voters favor jettisoning Arpaio from office and, although the number favoring his forced retirement rises to 37 percent among Democrats and to 34 percent among registered Independents, it is clear that he will not be easily defeated in this year's elections.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio also appears to enjoy his strongest levels of support among women voters in both parties and his support rises appreciably among older voters, peaking at 67 percent among retired voters.

It also appears that some of the controversy that has surrounded the Sheriff's programs and activities are largely shrugged off by the public. In this survey, 56 percent rate his performance in office as "excellent" or "good" and less than one in five believe he has done a poor job in office.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 600 registered voters throughout Maricopa County conducted between February 14 and February 18, 2004, 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.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2004-I-07) is based on 600 telephone interviews conducted from February 14 through February 18, 2004, with adult registered voters 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 4.1 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](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
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*"Would you say Joe Arpaio is doing an excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor job as Sheriff of Maricopa County?"*

MARICOPA COUNTY

	Excellent/ Good	Fair	Poor/ Very Poor	(Net to Positive)
Total population	56%	17%	17%	(+39)
Likely voters	58	18	19	(+39)
Republicans	71	17	7	(+64)
Democrats	53	18	20	(+33)
Independents	47	20	27	(+20)

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*"If the election for Sheriff of Maricopa County were being held today, would you definitely, probably, probably not or definitely not vote to re-elect Joe Arpaio?"*

MARICOPA COUNTY VOTERS

|                | Total     | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Definitely     | 34%       | 26%       | 45%         | 26%          |
| Probably       | <u>28</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>26</u>   | <u>28</u>    |
| (Net)          | (62%)     | (54%)     | (71%)       | (54%)        |
| Probably not   | 13        | 16        | 11          | 10           |
| Definitely not | <u>16</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>10</u>   | <u>24</u>    |
| (Net)          | (29%)     | (37%)     | (21%)       | (34%)        |
| Unsure         | 9         | 9         | 8           | 12           |

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