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Rocky Mountain Poll

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BUSH VOW TO SHRINK GOVERNMENT AND TAXES STRONGLY FAVORED
BUT PUBLIC WANTS TAX RELIEF FOR THEMSELVES

EIGHT IN TEN SUPPORT PROSECUTING CORPORATE WRONG DOERS
FOR FINANCIAL DAMAGES IN MAJOR BANKRUPTCY CASES

Phoenix, Arizona, February 1, 2002.

Tax and Spend Strategies

Taxpayers and voters across Arizona overwhelmingly agree with President Bush that the best Federal government strategy to help stimulate the economy out of its current doldrums is continued tax cuts and reducing the size of government. By a lopsided 76 percent to 14 percent, they side with the President and reject the notion that a stimulus strategy based on greater government spending and taxation will work.

At the same time, however, the public believes that individual taxpayers rather than businesses and corporations should benefit most from future tax reduction strategies. By 69 to 17 percent, they want a tax break strategy that favors individual taxpayers over one that would favor business and corporations.

Staying the course with Mr. Bush's efforts to reduce taxes and government spending reveals few partisan overtones. Thus, 83 percent of Republicans, 73 percent of Independents and 63 percent of Democrats favor Bush's approach.

There is also concurrence across political party lines about average taxpayers, rather than corporations, being the beneficiaries of the next round of tax cuts: 62 percent of Republicans, 68 percent of Democrats and 77 percent of Independents hold this view.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 708 adults across Arizona conducted between January 9 and January 17, 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 to read this and other recent polls.

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ENRON et al

The public also takes a very hard-line stance on how top executives and board members of publicly held corporations should be treated in cases where they profiteer by selling their company stock when they know the company is headed for bankruptcy and before the news is made known to employees or the general investor market. A stunning 86 percent favor prosecuting such company officials for financial damages.

The public is also very strongly of the opinion (84%) that company executives should be prosecuted for financial damages in cases where company executives withhold information from employees about the financial condition of the company when those employees are heavily invested in company stock and stand to lose their retirement benefits.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2002-I-06) is based on 708 interviews with adults across Arizona conducted from January 9th through January 17th, 2002. 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 may say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 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 sponsored by the Center.

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 2002-I-06

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"To help bring the U.S. economy out of the recession, which would be the best thing to do?" (ROTATED SEQUENCE)

	TOTAL	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT
Reduce government taxation and spending	76%	83%	63%	73%
Increase government taxation and spending	14	9	19	20
Unsure	10	8	18	7

"To help bring the U.S. economy out of the recession, which would be the best thing to do?" (ROTATED SEQUENCE)

	TOTAL	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT
Give tax breaks to businesses/ corporations	17%	27%	14%	16%
Give tax breaks to individual taxpayers	69	62	68	77
Unsure	14	11	18	7

"Recently, several major U.S. corporations filed for bankruptcy, laid off employees, cancelled medical insurance and employee retirement based on company stock lost value. In your opinion, should or should not top company executives and Board of Director members be prosecuted for financial damages in the following case:"

	SHOULD BE PROSECUTED	SHOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED	UNSURE
If company executives knew the company would go bankrupt but sold their stock before making the news public	86%	7%	7%
If company executives knew the company would go bankrupt but did not inform employees that their retirement programs might be wiped out when the value of company stock fell	84	10	6