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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
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PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW EAST VALLEY COUNTY GREETED COOLY

Phoenix, Arizona, March 20, 2002. Proposals advanced by East Valley politicians in February to split Maricopa County into two counties – with the break-away county being in the East Valley – are greeted with opposition by six of ten voters, and by seven of ten if the split results in higher taxes for county residents.

In every region of the Valley, a majority or a plurality oppose dividing Maricopa into two counties. There is a little higher level of opposition for a split that would include not only Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert and Queen Creek in the split, but also Tempe and Scottsdale. When those two are deleted from such a plan, however, opposition drops from 63 to 57 percent and rises again to 74 percent if the result of any split is an increase in county taxes.

Stiff opposition comes from voters in Tempe, Phoenix and the West side, all of whom would have an opportunity to vote on such a county split measure and have to be convinced that their existing taxes would not go up even with a loss of a huge geographic area from the tax base. Considering that these areas constitute roughly two-thirds of the Valley's current population, it is unlikely that such a measure could pass without much higher levels of support from that region than are seen in this poll. Additionally, a plurality of voters in the East Valley look with disfavor on the proposal.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2002-I-16) is based on 604 telephone interviews conducted from February 15th through February 24th, 2002, 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 4.1 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

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
 Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
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“Some East Valley politicians propose dividing Maricopa County into two counties. If you were voting today, would you vote yes or vote no on splitting Maricopa County into two counties with the new county...”

	WOULD VOTE		
	Yes	No	Un-decided
“A” consisting of Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek	28%	57%	15%
“B” consisting of Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek and also Tempe & Scottsdale	27	63	10
“C” if your county taxes went up	15	74	11

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|                            | “A” EAST VALLEY |     | “B” EAST VALLEY + SCOT. / TEMPE |     | “C” IF TAXES INCREASE |     |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
|                            | Yes             | No  | Yes                             | No  | Yes                   | No  |
| Valley-wide                | 28%             | 57% | 27%                             | 63% | 15%                   | 74% |
| Phoenix                    | 17              | 67  | 28                              | 64  | 14                    | 74  |
| West Side                  | 34              | 57  | 28                              | 70  | 13                    | 78  |
| Scottsdale/Paradise Valley | 31              | 43  | 25                              | 72  | 9                     | 77  |
| Tempe                      | 13              | 72  | 17                              | 51  | 10                    | 72  |
| Mesa                       | 35              | 45  | 32                              | 53  | 26                    | 69  |
| Chandler/Gilbert - East    | 36              | 48  | 22                              | 60  | 15                    | 71  |

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