



*behavior research center's*

# **Rocky Mountain Poll**

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2004-IV-02]

Contact: Earl de Berge  
Research Director

## SIX OF TEN FAVOR PREVENTING DEVELOPERS FROM BUILDING IN RURAL AREAS THAT LACK PROVEN WATER SUPPLIES

Phoenix, Arizona, November 2, 2004. Six of ten Arizonans favor laws to prevent developers from building subdivisions in rural areas where there is no proven water supply to support such developments. Support transcends political party lines and regions of the state, and is unabated even if such laws were to have the effect of slowing down growth in those rural areas.

Support for laws to curtail development in areas with no proven water supply undoubtedly traces to widespread beliefs that the state as a whole and local communities, especially in rural areas, are already facing water shortages. Thus, half of Arizonans believe the state already has serious water shortages and another 34 percent believe water supplies are becoming questionable. Only one in ten are willing to say that Arizona has plenty of water for future growth.

When asked specifically about drought, it may be seen that from half to two-thirds of Arizonans believe Arizona and most of its communities and counties are in the midst of a serious drought. Another fifth to a quarter believe the state and its various cities and counties are in a mild drought.

Clearly, growth planning that does not factor in proven water supplies will not rest well with the public and may become an issue of significant political dimensions in the months and years to come.

– more –

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 705 adult residents across Arizona conducted between October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2004-IV-02) is based on 705 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from October 5<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004 throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 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.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**ENCLOSED:** Statistical data for reference.

**STATISTICAL DATA**

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP 2004-IV-02

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

- A. *Do you favor or oppose a law which prevented developers from building in rural areas where they have not proven there is an adequate water supply to support their development...*
- B. *...if doing so slowed down the rate of growth in those rural areas.*

	QA			QB		
	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE
Statewide	61%	32%	7%	59%	31%	10%
Maricopa	62	30	8	61	30	9
Pima	53	36	11	51	33	16
Rural	62	32	6	60	32	8
Republicans	65	26	9	66	24	10
Democrats	66	28	6	62	30	8
Independents	58	39	3	55	40	5
Not Registered	45	35	20	47	36	17
Likely Voters	65	33	2	58	38	4

~~~~~

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP 2004-IV-02

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

Perceptions on Water Supply

*Would you say the following areas have plenty of water for future growth, have questionable water supplies for future growth, or are they already facing serious water shortages?*

|                                 | Have<br>Plenty<br>of<br>Water | Question-<br>able<br>Water<br>Supply | Already<br>Facing<br>Shortages | Not<br>Sure | Total  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| <u>"The state as a whole"</u>   | 11%                           | 34%                                  | 51%                            | 4%          | (100%) |
| <u>"The county you live in"</u> | 17                            | 37                                   | 43                             | 3           | (100%) |
| (County of Residence)           |                               |                                      |                                |             |        |
| (Maricopa)                      | (17)                          | (39)                                 | (43)                           | (1)         | (100%) |
| (Pima)                          | (14)                          | (45)                                 | (35)                           | (6)         | (100%) |
| (Rural)                         | (21)                          | (26)                                 | (50)                           | (3)         | (100%) |
| <u>"Rural areas of Arizona"</u> | 10                            | 36                                   | 42                             | 12          | (100%) |
| (County of Residence)           |                               |                                      |                                |             |        |
| (Maricopa)                      | ( 9)                          | (37)                                 | (42)                           | (12)        | (100%) |
| (Pima)                          | ( 8)                          | (44)                                 | (34)                           | (14)        | (100%) |
| (Rural)                         | (14)                          | (27)                                 | (45)                           | (14)        | (100%) |
| <u>"Your community"</u>         | 24                            | 35                                   | 39                             | 2           | (100%) |
| (County of Residence)           |                               |                                      |                                |             |        |
| (Maricopa)                      | (22)                          | (37)                                 | (38)                           | (2)         | (100%) |
| (Pima)                          | (29)                          | (35)                                 | (32)                           | (3)         | (100%) |
| (Rural)                         | (22)                          | (29)                                 | (46)                           | (3)         | (100%) |

~~~~~

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center  
Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona  
RMP 2004-IV-02

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

Perceptions on Drought

*As far as you know, are the following areas in a serious drought, a mild drought or not in a drought at this time...*

	Serious Drought	Mild Drought	Not in Drought	Unsure	Total
Major cities in Arizona such as Phoenix and Tucson	63%	24%	5%	8%	(100%)
Small cities such as Prescott, Flagstaff, Nogales and Casa Grande	50	25	7	18	(100%)
Arizona rural counties	56	20	5	19	(100%)

~~~~~