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# **Rocky Mountain Poll**

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2006-II-02]

Contact: Earl de Berge  
Research Director  
602-258-4554

## GOLDWATER STILL LEADS GOP PRIMARY FOR GOVERNOR BUT MOST REPUBLICANS STILL ON THE FENCE

Phoenix, Arizona. May 23, 2006. Don Goldwater continues to hold his lead in the GOP primary for Governor, but a stunning 75 percent of Republican voters still have no candidate preference from among the field of GOP hopefuls wishing to challenge Democrat Governor Janet Napolitano. Indeed, the proportion of Republicans with no preference has actually increased since the beginning of the year, raising questions as to whether the field contains any candidate with cornerstone appeal to GOP voters. Don Goldwater is the only candidate in a field of five names tested whose appeal to Republican voters rises into the double digits, but even for Mr. Goldwater, only 15 percent currently favor his candidacy....a level slightly lower than was registered in surveys completed earlier this year and last year.

Jan Smith Flores, who withdrew from the race in early May, had only one percent of the test vote while Gary Tupper garnered three percent and Mike Harris pulled only two percent. Len Munsil has only four percent, a significant drop from the nine percent he registered in January..

A quarter of GOP voters flatly assert that they will vote for "none of the five," perhaps a sign that these voters feel comfortable with the governorship of Janet Napolitano or are hoping a candidate more to their liking will emerge. Another 52 percent simply say they are undecided.

Among those Republicans most likely to vote in this year's primary, the situation is essentially the same with 76 percent favoring none of the candidates, Goldwater with 14 percent, Munsil with four, Tupper with three and Harris with two percent.

The lack of enthusiasm for these candidates will do little to help boost Republican voter turnout this fall and will probably also help intensify voter focus on the race for U.S. Senate which currently appears to be tightening up as Jim Pederson (D) and Jon Kyl (R) are trading heavy TV and radio salvos against one another.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 253 Republican voters across Arizona conducted between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 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.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-II-02) is based on 253 telephone interviews with Republican voters across Arizona, conducted from May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 6.2 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  
2006-II-02

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

*“If the Republican primary for governor were bring held today, which one of the following candidates would you vote for?” (NAME SEQUENCE ROTATED)*

	May 2006	Jan 2006	Oct 2005	May 2006 (Likely Voters)
Don Goldwater	15%	20%	20%	14%
Len Munsil	4	9	NA	4
Gary Tupper	3	NA	NA	3
Mike Harris	2	NA	NA	2
Jan Florez	1	1	3	1
John Greene	NA	4	5	NA
Teresa Ottesen	NA	1	*	NA
Mary Peters	NA	NA	1	NA
None of these/unsure	75	65	70	76