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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2007-II-01]

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RUDY GUILIANI CLOSES IN ON JOHN MCCAIN IN ARIZONA

Phoenix, Arizona , March 23, 2007. As U.S. Senator John McCain campaigns across the country for political support, he may need to rekindle the fires in Arizona. For the first time, favorite son U.S. Senator John McCain no longer has a double digit lead as the top choice for President among Arizona Republicans. Rudy Guiliani, former mayor of New York is now within nine points of Senator McCain, have made major gains in just the past two months. As of this week, McCain leads Guiliani by only 34 to 25 percent, but more important is the dynamic surge in Guiliani's appeal rising to 25 percent from only 13 percent in January while McCain sank from 40 percent to only 34 percent.

The surge in support for Guiliani seems to be fueled by retired Republicans and Republicans most likely to vote in a primary election. Among retirees, Guiliani leads McCain by 36 to 21 percent and among likely voters who call themselves Republicans, Guiliani leads McCain by a 32 to 21 percent margin.

Mitt Romney's effort to gain some traction in Arizona with his recent visit and tough talk about policy regarding immigration reform is attracting only 11 percent to his banner and shows no improvement since January. Condoleeza Rice, Newt Gingrich, George Pataki and Chuck Hagel are behind the three top vote getters and both Rice and Gingrich lost ground since January.

It appears very likely that by having allied himself with the troop surge policy of President Bush, McCain has inherited part of the downward spiral in popularity being experienced by President Bush. Nearly half (49%) of the overall electorate here and three of every ten registered Republicans (30%) say they are less likely to support McCain's presidential bid because of his support of sending more US troops into combat in Iraq. Only 41 percent of GOP voters say they are more likely to support McCain because of his stance on the Iraq troop surge.

Of equal interest is what appears to be a steady and now steep drop in Senator McCain's job approval ratings in Arizona. Today, 49 percent say they approve of the job he is doing in Washington. This compares to 50 percent in January, 62 percent in January of 2006 and 73 percent in January of 2005. That's a 24 point drop since 2005 and seven points in just the past few months. While his popularity still outpaces his unpopularity there can be no doubt that the hometown folks are not as happy with the "maverick" in the Senate as in the past. Negative assessments of Senator McCain's job performance now stand at 18 percent, the highest such readings since January of 1991.

In the Primary test election among Republicans, Condoleeza Rice lost nearly half of her support since our January survey (now at 9 percent compared to 15 percent). Newt Gingrich also lost ground while George Pataki and Chuck Hagel appear to have little appeal at this time, each drawing only one to two percent.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2007-II-01) is based on 646 telephone interviews with voters across Arizona, conducted from March 10th to March 21st, 2007. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.0 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Republican sample includes 250 voters and the Democrat sample 216 voters. The margin of error for each of these sub-samples is plus or minus 6.3 percent. 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

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 Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona
 RMP 2007-I-01

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

“Next I will read a list of people who may be running in the (Republican) primary for president of the United States in the 2008 election. After I read all the names, please tell me which you favor today.” (NAMES ROTATED)

ASKED OF REPUBLICANS

	<u>JAN.</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
John McCain	40%	34%
Rudi Giuliani	13	25
Mitt Romney	11	11
Condoleezza Rice	15	9
Newt Gingrich	9	5
George Pataki	NA	1
Chuck Hagel	NA	2
Undecided	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
	100%	100%

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“As you may be aware, Senator John McCain has said that he favors sending more U.S. troops to Iraq. Does his position on this issue make you more likely to vote for him or less likely to vote for him for President of the United States?”

|              |       | <u>More Likely</u> | <u>Less Likely</u> | <u>No Impact</u> |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| All Voters   | March | 28%                | 49%                | 23%              |
|              | Jan   | 30                 | 43                 | 27               |
| Republicans  | March | 41                 | 30                 | 29               |
|              | Jan   | 45                 | 21                 | 34               |
| Democrats    | March | 17                 | 66                 | 17               |
|              | Jan   | 13                 | 66                 | 21               |
| Independents | March | 21                 | 55                 | 24               |
|              | Jan   | 28                 | 47                 | 25               |

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