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Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2009-I-02]

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TAXPAYERS TOP PRIORITIES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT: JOB CREATION & PUBLIC EDUCATION DID LEGISLATURE CUT WHAT PUBLIC WANTED?

Phoenix, Arizona. February 6, 2009. On the eve of the Arizona Legislature adopting measures they believe will balance the state budget through major reductions in education spending and through the laying off of government employees, nine of ten Arizonans say they want their new legislature and governor to do more to stimulate job creation in the state and improve the quality of education.

Belief that improving the state education system should be the state's top priority is voiced by 32 percent of all taxpayers and 37 percent of registered voters. The belief that taking steps to stimulate the economy and create jobs is nominated as the top priority by an impressive 62 percent of taxpayers and 58 percent of registered voters. The two items top the priority list of Republicans, Democrats and Independents. Taxpayers' demand for a focus on job stimulation rises to 70 percent in the rural counties of Arizona and hovers in the mid 50 percent range in Maricopa and Pima counties. Improving the quality of education in Arizona peaks in the urban counties.

Issues such as immigration reform, tax reform and health care services are nominated as the state's top priorities by only 11 to 20 percent of voters and taxpayers.

Other state issues which are of priority to less than ten percent of Arizonans surveyed include reducing government spending (9%), improving the state's transportation system (6%), public safety (5%), environmental protection and conservation (4%), crime and drug enforcement (3%), and even issues pertaining to the mortgage/home foreclosure problems facing Arizona (3%). Photo radar was nominated as a priority issue by just one percent of those surveyed.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2009-I-02), is based on 800 interviews with adult heads of household across Arizona, conducted between January 23 and 28, 2009. Where necessary, figures for age, sex, race and political party were weighted to bring them into line with their actual proportion in the population. In a sample of this size, one can say with a 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.5 percent of what they would have been had the entire voter 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.

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ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

STATISTICAL DATA

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ARIZONA CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX — January 2009

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RMP 2009-I-02

“What are the two most important issues you want the new state legislature and governor to work on in 2009?”

	All Taxpayers	Voters Only	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Job creation - stimulate economy	62%	58%	59%	63%	55%
Improve public education	32	37	40	35	37
Immigration reform	20	20	13	17	26
Tax reform	18	19	11	22	24
Improve health care system	13	11	12	18	6
Balance budget – less spending	9	11	10	10	11
Transportation system	6	7	9	3	7
Public safety	5	4	4	4	4
Environmental protection/conservation	4	4	5	2	2
Crime/drug issues	3	3	4	2	3
Mortgage/foreclosures	3	3	3	2	4
Poverty – elderly – social issues	3	2	3	2	1
Photo radar	1	2	1	*	2
All other issues	3	3	8	1	5
Nominated only one issue	18	16	18	19	13

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TOP FIVE PRIORITIES

|    | Democrat    | Republican     | Independent |
|----|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| #1 | Jobs        | Jobs           | Jobs        |
| #2 | Education   | Education      | Education   |
| #3 | Immigration | Immigration    | Tax reform  |
| #4 | Health care | Tax reform     | Health care |
| #5 | Tax reform  | Balance budget | Immigration |

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REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

	Maricopa	Pima	Rural
Economy - jobs	57	54	70
Education	35	30	20
Immigration	20	25	12
Tax reform	17	17	18
Health care	11	17	14

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