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NEWS RELEASE [RMP 2015-II-01]

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SHERIFF ARPAIO JOB RATING REMAINS LOW AT 38 PERCENT **NO TWO YEARS OF LOW RATINGS**

Phoenix, Arizona, May 27, 2015. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio was the darling with Maricopa County voters in 1996 when his job approval ratings among voters soared to 73 percent and were still in the 60 percent ranges as recently as 2007. But by 2010 his stock in trade with the public began to experience erosion which has accelerated to the point where for the past two years, only between 37 and 38 percent think his job performance can be rated as good. Over the past two years, between 39 to 42 percent have rated his performance as “poor.”

Sheriff Arpaio still has popularity among Republican voters (57 percent approve of his job performance although a fifth now rate his performance as poor). Among Caucasians, 44 percent give the Sheriff a thumbs up but 36 percent say he is doing a poor job. Independent voters are sharply divided on what they think of his performance. The steady decline in his job ratings may trace to the lawsuits and investigations that have mired his reputation and work over the past several years. The growing cost to taxpayers of defending the Sheriff in court may also be a growing influence in voter opinion.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a statewide survey of 701 adult heads of household including 457 registered voters. It was conducted between April 29 and May 10, 2015, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is part of the Center's Independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll Series. The public is welcome to visit www.BRCpolls.com for this and other polls.

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Democrats appear to have made up their minds about Arpaio with 65 percent saying he has done a poor job, while only 18 percent are in approval of his work. Young voters disapprove of his performance by a 46 to 27 percent ratio as do Latinos by a 48 to 24 percent ratio.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona (2015-II-01), is based on 701 interviews with heads of household statewide, including 457 registered voters, conducted between April 29 and May 10, 2015. Interviewing was conducted in both English and Spanish by professional interviewers of the Behavior Research Center on both land lines and cell phones. 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 4.3 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed and 4.7 percent had the entire voter population been surveyed. The samples in Maricopa County total 418 with a margin of error of 4.8 percent; in Pima County 111 with a margin of error of 9.5 percent and in the rural counties, 172 with a margin of error of 7.6 percent. 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.

Further Note on Behavior Research Center

In 2014, Nate Silver of the website fivethirtyeight.com rated BRC as one of the top 15 percent of political polling firms in the country for methodology and accuracy, giving BRC an "A-" rating. Mr. Silver and his website have correctly predicted national and state election outcomes in recent election cycles by aggregating polling results from multiple research firms.

ENCLOSED: Statistical Tables

JOB RATINGS OF MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF

| | EXCELLENT/ GOOD | FAIR | POOR/ VERY POOR | NET TO POSITIVE |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| May 2015 | 38% | 16% | 39% | (- 1) |
| July 2013 | 37 | 12 | 42 | (- 5) |
| Jan 2012 | 49 | 15 | 32 | (+17) |
| April 2011 | 41 | 18 | 33 | (+ 8) |
| July 2010 | 44 | 13 | 34 | (+10) |
| Jan 2010 | 39 | 20 | 34 | (+ 5) |
| July 2008 | 54 | 14 | 28 | (+26) |
| Nov 2007 | 59 | 16 | 22 | (+37) |
| March 2007 | 64 | 13 | 16 | (+48) |
| April 1996 | 73 | 11 | 5 | (+68) |

| <u>MARICOPA COUNTY</u> | EXCELLENT/ GOOD | FAIR | POOR/ VERY POOR | NET TO POSITIVE |
|------------------------|--------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total | 38% | 16% | 39% | (- 1) |
| Democrats | 18 | 10 | 65 | (- 47) |
| Independents | 36 | 13 | 38 | (- 1) |
| Republicans | 57 | 18 | 21 | (+36) |
| Caucasians | 44 | 16 | 36 | (+ 8) |
| Latinos | 24 | 19 | 48 | (- 24) |
| Other | 22 | 11 | 43 | (- 21) |
| Under 35 | 27 | 19 | 46 | (- 19) |
| 35 to 54 | 46 | 17 | 30 | (+16) |
| 55 or older | 40 | 12 | 43 | (- 3) |
| <u>OTHER ARIZONA</u> | | | | |
| Pima | 23 | 20 | 28 | (- 5) |
| Rural | 42 | 13 | 29 | (+13) |

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