

The Social Research Laboratory

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CLINTON SUPPORT LOW IN ARIZONA; MORE SUPPORT FOR REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

Arizonans are critical of President Clinton's performance in office, according to a recent survey. If he was running for reelection today, a majority of Arizonans would vote against him. At the same time, people in Arizona are more supportive of the job the Republicans are doing in Congress.

According to a recent Arizona Poll, two-thirds of Arizonans (66%) say Bill Clinton is doing either a fair or poor job as president. One-third (32%) say he is doing an excellent or good job in this role. Women have a more favorable opinion of President Clinton than men. Thirty-eight percent of women say Clinton is doing either an excellent or good job as president while only 27 percent of men rate Clinton's performance this high. A majority of Democrats say Clinton is doing either an excellent or good job in office (57%), but a majority of Independents (51%) and nine-out-of-ten Republicans (88%) say he is only doing a fair or poor job.

Fred Solop, Director of the Arizona Poll had this to say about the results, "Arizonans don't think too highly of President Clinton today. Of course, Clinton never has been popular in Arizona. More Arizonans voted for George Bush rather than Bill Clinton in the 1992 presidential election."

When asked about President Clinton's performance in specific policy areas, people in Arizona are a bit more critical of Clinton's handling of foreign policy than his handling of the economy. Sixty-eight percent of respondents said Clinton is doing either a fair or poor job handling foreign policy issues compared to 63 percent of respondents who rate Clinton's handling of the economy as poor or fair.

A majority of respondents (56%) said they would not vote to reelect President Clinton if he were running for reelection today. Only 27 percent of respondents said they would vote for his reelection and 16 percent are undecided. Men oppose Clinton's reelection more often than women (59% versus 53% respectively). While a majority of Democrats favor President Clinton's reelection, there is still a large amount of defection from the party fold. More than a quarter of all Democrats in Arizona (26%) oppose President

Clinton's reelection bid. Nearly all Republicans in Arizona (89%) also oppose President Clinton's reelection.

Arizonans, on the other hand, are optimistic about the newly elected Republican-controlled Congress. More Arizonans believe the country is better off rather than worse off with a Republican Congress (29% versus 21% respectively). Forty-four percent of the respondents in this survey said they expect very little change to take place with the Republicans in Congress and 3 percent said it is too early to tell.

When asked to directly compare President Clinton and the Republicans in Congress, Congress gets significantly better ratings. Forty-four percent of Arizonans believe the Republicans in Congress have a better understanding of the problems facing this country than does the President. Only 26 percent of respondents said President Clinton has a better understanding of the nation's problems. Forty-seven percent believe the Republicans in Congress rather than President Clinton can do a better job solving the country's problems. Twenty-seven percent of Arizonans believe President Clinton can do a better job in this area.

"Arizona is a Republican state. The citizens of Arizona are optimistic that the Republican Congress will do good things for the country," said Solop.

Arizonans believe very strongly that President Clinton should compromise some of his beliefs to work with the Republicans in Congress. Fifty-nine percent of the public expressed this view as compared to 33 percent who say Clinton should stand up for his beliefs without compromising with the Republicans in Congress.

The Arizona Poll was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University with 619 Arizonans living throughout the state. The polling was conducted between February 27 and March 6, 1995 and carries a margin of error of +/- 4 percent.

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