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## **ARIZONA EMBRACES INTERNET VOTING**

On-line, Internet voting is coming to Arizona...and Arizonans welcome its arrival! For the first time ever in the world, on-line voting will be available during Arizona's upcoming Democratic Party primary election in March 2000. According to recent *Grand Canyon State Poll* results, more than half of all registered voters in Arizona want to see on-line voting included as an option in future elections in the state. A significant number of registered Democrats in Arizona say introduction of on-line voting makes them more likely to participate in the primary election. One quarter of registered Democrats think they will actually vote on-line using the Internet.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. Six hundred seventy six registered voters in Arizona were surveyed between October 2 and October 10, 1999. Questions asked of all registered voters are associated with a margin of error of +/- 3.8 percent at a 95% confidence level. The margin of error for questions asked of registered Democrats is +/- 6.8 percent at a 95% confidence level.

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## **ON-LINE VOTING APPEALS ESPECIALLY TO YOUNG PEOPLE**

Arizona Democrats will host the first binding election anywhere in the world that allows people to vote on-line, using the Internet. At this time, on-line voting will be available to Democratic voters in the March 2000 primary election. But, on-line voting is not only interesting to Democrats in the state, it is an idea that appeals to all registered voters in Arizona. When asked if on-line voting should be included as an option for future elections in Arizona, more than half of all registered voters said 'Yes.' Fifty-five percent of Arizona's registered voters would like to see on-line voting included in all future elections in Arizona. One-third of registered voters (34%) believes on-line voting should not be an option in future Arizona elections and 11 percent had no opinion regarding the subject.

Support for on-line voting differs by age and party status. Younger registered voters are much more likely than older voters to support on-line voting as a future option in Arizona. More than two-thirds (68%) of younger registered voters--18-35 years old--support the availability of on-line voting compared to 61 percent of 36-59 year old voters and 39 percent of registered voters 60 years old and older. This is significant because younger people typically vote less often than older people. Also, Democrats are more supportive (63%) of on-line voting than Republicans (51%).

According to Fred Solop, director of the *Grand Canyon State Poll*, "On-line, Internet, voting is the next wave of election reform in this country. The system allows people to participate in elections using a secured access, Internet site and it is designed to encourage more participation in the political system. Because on-line voting is particularly attractive to younger

voters who participate less often in elections, on-line voting may be an idea whose time has come.”

### **ON-LINE VOTING MAY BOOST TURNOUT IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**

A significant number of registered Democrats are planning to vote in Arizona’s March 2000 Democratic primary election. When the *Grand Canyon State Poll* asked how likely registered Democrats were to participate in this election, 64 percent said they were very likely to participate and another 19 percent said they were somewhat likely to participate. Internet voting is quite appealing to registered Democrats and holds the possibility of encouraging larger turnout in the primary election. After being informed that on-line voting will be an option in the upcoming Democratic primary election, one quarter of registered Democrats (25%) said this option makes them more likely to vote on election day. Only 5 percent of registered Democrats said availability of on-line voting would make them less likely to participate on election day and 69 percent said this option will have no affect whatsoever on whether or not they vote in the Democratic primary election.

Democrats will not be shy about exploring this new technology. Twenty-eight percent of registered Democrats said they probably will vote in the Democratic primary using the on-line voting system. Sixty-five percent said they will still show up at the voting booth on Election Day and vote the traditional way.



Social Research Laboratory, Northern Arizona University

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## **GRAND CANYON STATE POLL BACKGROUND MEMO**

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The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between October 2 and October 10, 1999. A random sample of 676 registered voters was asked questions specific to the 2000 Arizona primary and general elections. Within this pool of registered voters, 32 percent (219 respondents) were registered Democrats. Survey questions addressed to all registered voters are subject to a sampling error of +/-3.8 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Questions addressed specifically to registered Democrats are subject to a sampling error of +/-6.8 percent at a 95 percent confidence interval. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

Note: All registered voters were asked a question about the vision of the future of on-line voting in Arizona. Registered Democrats were asked a version of the question that differed slightly from the question asked of all other registered voters.

**Registered Democrats:** Do you think on-line, Internet voting should be included as an option for all future elections in Arizona?

**All Other Registered Voters:** This year registered Democrats will have the option of voting in the Democratic Primary election using a secured, on-line, Internet system. Do you think on-line, Internet voting should be included as an option for all future elections in Arizona?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Age</b>			<b>Party</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>18-35</b>	<b>36-59</b>	<b>60+</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>
Yes	55%	68%	61%	39%	51%	63%
No	34%	27%	34%	40%	39%	23%
Don't Know	11%	5%	5%	22%	10%	14%
	N=670	N=147	N=279	N=190	N=304	N=218

The Democratic Primary in Arizona will be held in March 2000. How likely are you to participate in the Democratic Primary—very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

	%	
Very likely	64%	N=219
Somewhat likely	19%	
Not Very Likely	15%	
Don't Know	3%	

For the first time ever, registered Democrats will have the option of voting in the Democratic Primary using a secured system on the Internet called “on-line voting,” in addition to showing up at the polls on election day. Does the option of on-line voting make you more likely to participate in the Democratic Primary, less likely to participate, or doesn't it matter?

	%	
More likely	25%	N=219
Less likely	5%	
Doesn't Matter	69%	
Don't Know	1%	

If you were to participate in the Democratic Primary in March, are you more likely to vote on-line using the Internet or are you more likely to vote at the polls on election day?

	%	
On-line voting	28%	N=216
Vote at polls	65%	
Don't Know	7%	