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**GOVERNOR HAS HIGH APPROVAL RATING;
NAPOLITANO IN CONFIDENT POSITION AS SHE ENTERS
REELECTION CAMPAIGN**

Arizonans are very supportive of Governor Napolitano, according to the results of a recent telephone survey. She has a 70 percent approval rating in the state. In comparison, 38 percent of Arizonans approve of the job the state legislature is doing. Governor Napolitano enters her reelection campaign in a very strong position with Arizona voters, leading all potential gubernatorial challengers. When positioned against Grant Woods, Rick Romley, Fife Symington, and Rick Renzi, Governor Napolitano is favored for reelection.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. Calling took place between March 23 and March 26, 2005. A total of 423 randomly-selected Arizonans participated in the survey, including 394 people who plan to vote in the 2006 election. Total survey results are accurate within a +/-4.8 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level, and results for people registered to vote or planning to register before the 2006 election are accurate within a +/-5.0 percent margin of error.

ARIZONANS APPROVE OF NAPOLITANO'S PERFORMANCE

Arizonans are very supportive of the job Janet Napolitano is doing as governor. When asked to rate her performance, 70 percent of Arizonans say they approve of the job she is doing. Seventeen percent of Arizonans say they disapprove of the job Napolitano is doing as governor.

At the same time, people in Arizona are conflicted over the job the state legislature is doing. Thirty-eight percent of Arizonans approve of the performance of the state legislature. Thirty-two percent of Arizonans disapprove of the job the state legislature is doing and 30 percent say they “don’t know.”

NAPOLITANO FAVORED AGAINST REPUBLICAN CHALLENGERS

As Governor Napolitano enters her 2006 reelection campaign, she is favored for reelection against potential Republican challengers. At this time, Republicans have yet to select a challenger. Possible challengers include former Attorney General Grant Woods, former Maricopa County District Attorney Rick Romley, former Governor Fife Symington, and Congressman Rick Renzi.

Regardless of which potential candidate Janet Napolitano is matched against, the survey found that Governor Napolitano is positioned to win reelection. Governor Napolitano is in the strongest position against former governor Fife Symington (70% to 16%). Her level of support hovers in the mid-to-high 50’s when positioned against the other possible candidates: Napolitano versus Grant Woods (54% to 25%); Napolitano versus Rick Romley (56% to 27%); and Napolitano versus Rick Renzi (59% to 23%)

Kristi Hagen, Acting Interim Director of the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University, commented, “Arizonans like Governor Napolitano. She has bipartisan support across the state and she is favored, at this early time, for reelection in 2006. The election should get more interesting, however, once the Republicans decide who their challenger will be. We will continue tracking election dynamics throughout the campaign season.”

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Social Research Laboratory, Northern Arizona University

March 30, 2005

**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL – ARIZONA GUBERNATORIAL RACE
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2005

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between March 23 and March 26, 2005. A random sample of 423 adult residents of Arizona was asked questions regarding elected officials. This sample includes 394 people who said they are registered to vote or plan to register to vote in the near future. Total survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/-4.8 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Results for voters/future voters are subject to a sampling error of +/-5.0 percent. 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.

APPROVAL RATING

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Janet Napolitano is handling her job as Governor of Arizona? (ALL RESPONDENTS)

What about the state legislature? Do you approve or disapprove of the job the state legislature is doing? (ALL RESPONDENTS)

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Know	(N)
Governor Napolitano	70%	17%	13%	(423)
State Legislature	38%	32%	30%	(423)

CANDIDATE PREFERENCE

At this moment, four Republican candidates are considering running for Governor in Arizona in 2006 against the current Governor, Janet Napolitano. The four republicans are: Fife Symington, Rick Romley, Rick Renzi, and Grant Woods.

If the election for Governor was held today, would you vote for: (presentation order was randomized)

A. Janet Napolitano or Fife Symington?

B. Janet Napolitano or Rick Romley?

C. Janet Napolitano or Rick Renzi?

D. Janet Napolitano or Grant Woods?

(PEOPLE REGISTERED TO VOTE OR WHO WILL REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NEAR FUTURE)

	Janet Napolitano	Fife Symington	Don't Know	Count (N)
Total	70%	16%	14%	394

	Janet Napolitano	Rick Romley	Don't Know	Count (N)
Total	57%	26%	17%	394

	Janet Napolitano	Rick Renzi	Don't Know	Count (N)
Total	59%	23%	19%	394

	Janet Napolitano	Grant Woods	Don't Know	Count (N)
Total	54%	24%	22%	394