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**NAPOLITANO MAINTAINS HIGH APPROVAL RATINGS;  
IMMIGRATION TOPS LIST OF CONCERNS;  
NAPOLITANO FAVORED IN REELECTION BID, THOUGH VOTERS  
WAIT FOR FIELD TO BE IDENTIFIED**

Governor Janet Napolitano has a 70 percent approval rating in the state, according to recent results from the *Grand Canyon State Poll*. This rating is consistent with her 70 percent approval rating in March. President George W. Bush has a 48 percent approval rating in the state and the state legislature has a 40 percent approval rating. More than one-third of Arizonans cite “immigration” as the top concern in the state, followed by “the economy” and “education.” Among Arizonans likely to vote in the 2006 gubernatorial election, 43 percent say they intend to vote for Governor Napolitano’s reelection, and 39 percent say they are not sure if they will vote for Governor Napolitano, for a Republican candidate, or for a candidate from another party.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* is a telephone survey conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was conducted with a sample of 406 randomly-selected Arizona adults. Calling took place between October 13 and 16, 2005. Survey results are valid at a +/- 4.9 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level.

**PUBLIC OFFICIAL APPROVAL RATINGS ARE CONSISTENT ACROSS TIME**

Governor Napolitano has a 70 percent approval rating in the state. Nineteen percent of Arizonans disapprove of the job she is doing as Governor. The 70 percent approval rate is

unchanged since March and continues to represent Napolitano's highest approval rating since taking office.

This survey finds that President George W. Bush holds a 48 percent approval rating among Arizonans. An equal proportion of Arizonans disapprove of the job President Bush is doing. These results are also consistent with the March 2005 figures, which showed that 47 percent of Arizonans approved of Bush's performance and 48 percent disapproved.

The state legislature receives a 40 percent approval rating and a 30 percent disapproval rating in the October study. The 40 percent approval rating is the highest for the legislature since October, 2001.

### **IMMIGRATION HEADS LIST OF CONCERNS**

The survey asked Arizonans to identify the issue that tops of the list of concerns facing Arizona today. More than one-third of Arizonans (34%) say "border issues and immigration" is the most important issue in the state today. The next most important issue is "the economy," which was identified by 15 percent of Arizonans. Fourteen percent believe "the environment and growth" issues are the most important concerns, while 13 percent say "education."

Immigration has risen as a concern over the last two years. Today, one-third of Arizonans define immigration as the most important concern. In contrast, a March 2003 *Grand Canyon State Poll* found that only 6 percent of Arizonans identified immigration as the top concern facing the state. At that time, 32 percent of Arizonans said "education" was the most important issue and 29 percent said "the economy" was the most important issue.

Fred Solop, study director, commented, "Immigration has rocketed to the forefront of concerns held by Arizonans. Clearly immigration is an issue that will have staying power. It will shape the work of the state legislature this year and it will become a defining issue in the Fall 2006 state elections."

### **GOVERNOR NAPOLITANO FAVORED FOR REELECTION**

Governor Napolitano is running for reelection in November 2006. While Republicans have yet to coalesce behind a well-known challenger, likely Arizona voters are divided between favoring Napolitano's reelection bid and waiting to see who will emerge to challenge her for the

gubernatorial seat. When asked who they will vote for in the election, 43 percent of likely voters say they will vote to reelect Governor Napolitano to office and 14 percent say they will vote for an unnamed Republican opponent. Thirty-nine percent of likely voters say they are “unsure” who they will vote for.

Fred Solop noted, “the electorate supports Governor Napolitano, though they are hesitating about making a final commitment until the entire field of candidates is identified. Public opinion will continue to be soft until voters know who will emerge to challenge the Governor. It’s still very early in the election season.”

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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL  
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Fall 2005

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between October 13 and 16, 2005. A random sample of 406 adult residents of Arizona was asked questions regarding politics in Arizona. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.9 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. 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.

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

	<b>Fall 2005</b>	Spring 2005	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003
Approve	<b>70%</b>	70%	60%	60%	47%
Disapprove	<b>19%</b>	17%	23%	22%	15%
Don't know	<b>11%</b>	13%	18%	18%	38%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	<b>Fall 2005</b>	Spring 2005	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003	Spring 2002	Fall 2001
Approve	<b>48%</b>	47%	50%	50%	57%	74%	86%
Disapprove	<b>48%</b>	48%	43%	44%	36%	18%	8%
Don't know	<b>4%</b>	5%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Arizona state legislature is doing?

	<b>Fall 2005</b>	Spring 2005	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003	Spring 2002	Fall 2001
Approve	<b>40%</b>	38%	32%	32%	28%	38%	47%
Disapprove	<b>30%</b>	32%	35%	34%	38%	40%	28%
Don't know	<b>30%</b>	30%	33%	34%	35%	23%	25%

In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Arizona today?

	<b>Fall 2005</b>	Spring 2005	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003
Border issues/immigration	<b>34%</b>	27%	16%	13%	6%
Budget deficit/the economy	<b>15%</b>	11%	14%	22%	29%
Environment/Growth	<b>14%</b>	4%	4%	3%	3%
Education	<b>13%</b>	20%	17%	30%	32%
Gas/Gas Lines/Transportation	<b>7%</b>	3%	6%	2%	--
Crime	<b>3%</b>	1%	2%	2%	1%
Health Care	<b>2%</b>	2%	4%	6%	4%

If the election were held today, would you vote to re-elect Janet Napolitano, a Democrat, to the Governor's office, would you vote for a Republican candidate, would you vote for another party's candidate, or are you unsure of how you would vote at this time? [Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.]

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Janet Napolitano	43%	148
Unnamed Republican opponent	14%	48
Another candidate	4%	12
Don't know/refused	39%	134
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 343</b>