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**BAN CELL PHONE USE AND TEXT MESSAGING  
WHILE DRIVING, ARIZONANS SAY;  
STATE DIVIDED ON CARRYING LOADED WEAPONS IN VEHICLES**

When it comes to driving, Arizonans believe there is a role for laws that promote safe behavior, according to the results of a recent statewide telephone survey. There is widespread consensus in the state that some activities such as text messaging or reading while driving should be prohibited. A majority of Arizonans also support the legislature passing a law against talking on a cell phone while driving. When it comes to prohibiting drivers from carrying loaded weapons in their vehicles, however, the state is divided. Half of Arizonans support a prohibition against carrying loaded weapons in a car while driving and half oppose this type of prohibition.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted April 13-19, 2007 by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was conducted with 602 randomly-selected adults Arizona residents. Survey results are valid at a +/- 4.1 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

**BAN DRIVING DISTRACTIONS**

Arizonans are concerned that some drivers are engaging in dangerous behaviors while driving motor vehicles. Just under two-thirds of Arizonans (62%) would support laws prohibiting dangerous behaviors such as text messaging or reading a newspaper while driving. Slightly more than a third of Arizonans (37%) oppose laws of this type.

A majority of Arizonans (54%) would support a law prohibiting talking on a cell phone while driving. Forty-four percent would not support a law of this type. Support for such a prohibition is declining over time. In 2002, the *Grand Canyon State Poll* found that 72 percent of Arizonans supported a ban on cell phone use while driving, except in case of emergency.

### **STATE SPLIT OVER PROHIBITING LOADED WEAPONS IN CAR**

Despite regular reports of road rage in Arizona, the state is divided over whether drivers should be prohibited from carrying loaded weapons in their vehicles. Forty-eight percent of Arizonans would support a law prohibiting drivers from carrying loaded weapons in their vehicles, while 49 percent would oppose a law of this type. A slightly larger proportion of men (51%) oppose this type of law than women (46%).

Fred Solop, study director, commented on the survey results: “Arizonans support laws ensuring safety on state roads, but when it comes to having loaded weapons in cars, there’s a different story. My advice is to all drivers is ‘Be Careful.’ The driver of the car you cut off next could be armed and dangerous.”

-- 30 --



Thursday, April 26, 2007

**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL  
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2007

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between April 13-19, 2007. A sample of 602 randomly selected adult Arizona residents was asked questions regarding politics in Arizona. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.1 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.

Some people suggest that drivers should be prohibited from certain activities while driving a motor vehicle. Please tell me if you support or oppose laws prohibiting the following activities. Do you support or oppose a law prohibiting...[Probe for strongly or somewhat] [randomize]

	Support	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	DK
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Text messaging while driving a motor vehicle?	62	56	6	37	31	6	2
Reading a newspaper or other materials while driving a motor vehicle?	62	56	6	37	33	4	1
Talking on a cell phone while driving a motor vehicle?	54	41	13	44	30	14	2
Drivers from carrying loaded weapons while driving a motor vehicle?	48	40	8	49	11	38	3
(Men)	47	38	9	51	40	11	2
(Women)	49	42	7	46	36	10	5