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**ARIZONA VOTERS SUPPORT MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE  
& NO-SMOKING INITIATIVES;  
VOTERS DIVIDED OVER MARRIAGE AMENDMENT**

A recent telephone survey of registered voters in Arizona indicates widespread support for four initiatives likely to appear on the November ballot. These initiatives would raise the state minimum wage, regulate treatment of confined farm animals, fund children's health programs, and prohibit smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces. Three additional ballot measures are facing a more uncertain future. These initiatives would amend the Arizona Constitution to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, require elections to be conducted almost entirely by mail, and amend the Constitution to change the title of "Secretary of State" to "Lieutenant Governor."

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University between March 3 and 7, 2006. The survey was conducted with 527 randomly-selected, registered voters living in Arizona and Arizonans saying they will register before the next election. Survey results are valid at a +/- 4.3 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

**STRONG SUPPORT FOR FOUR INITIATIVES**

Registered voters in Arizona were recently asked whether they support or oppose seven initiatives that may appear on the November statewide election ballot. The *Grand Canyon State*

*Poll* found widespread support for four of the seven measures. Eighty-one percent of survey respondents say they support an initiative that would raise the minimum wage in Arizona. Sixty-two percent say they “strongly support” this initiative while 19 percent “somewhat support” this initiative, known as “The Raise the Minimum Wage for Working Arizonans Act.” Currently, the minimum wage in Arizona is \$5.15 per hour. If passed, the Arizona minimum wage would rise to \$6.75 per hour in 2007. A cost-of-living adjustment would increase the minimum wage each year after 2007.

Arizonans also express strong support for an initiative mandating better treatment of confined farm animals. Currently, most industrial farms house veal calves in confined areas called “veal crates” and house pregnant pigs in “gestation crates.” Seventy-eight percent of registered voters say they would vote for an initiative requiring pregnant pigs and veal calves to be given enough room to turn around and lie down freely in their pens. The “Humane Treatment of Farm Animals Act” is strongly supported by 57 percent of registered voters and somewhat supported by 21 percent of voters.

Two initiatives that would raise taxes on tobacco are each supported by 70 percent of registered voters. One initiative, known as “First Things First for Arizona’s Children,” would raise tobacco taxes to fund children’s health and early-childhood development programs in Arizona. The second initiative, known as the “Smoke-Free Arizona Act,” would prohibit smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces statewide, and add a cigarette tax of two cents per pack to pay for enforcement of these new restrictions. Several individual communities have already initiated public smoking prohibition ordinances.

### **THREE INITIATIVES WITH UNCERTAIN SUPPORT**

Three initiatives that may appear on the November ballot in Arizona face uncertain futures. One ballot measure, known as “Protect Marriage Arizona,” would amend the Arizona constitution to define marriage as a union only between one man and one woman, and would prohibit benefits to domestic partners of government workers. “Protect Marriage Arizona” is the first initiative of this type to impact all domestic partners, including heterosexual and homosexual, in the state. Fifty-two percent of registered voters support this initiative and 40

percent oppose it. Survey respondents register very strong attitudes toward this initiative with 39 percent strongly supporting the initiative and 31 percent strongly opposing it.

Registered voters in Arizona are also conflicted about an initiative known as “Your Right to Vote.” This initiative would require elections in Arizona to be conducted primarily by mail. Every voter would receive a ballot in the mail, and only a small number of polling places would be kept open. Forty-six percent of registered voters support this initiative and 47 percent oppose it.

Another measure that may appear on the ballot would amend the Arizona Constitution to change the title of Arizona’s Secretary of State to “Lieutenant Governor.” This measure is supported by 45 percent of registered voters and opposed by 25 percent. Thirty percent of registered voters say they “don’t know” much about this initiative.

Fred Solop, survey director, commented, “Arizonans are beginning to evaluate initiatives likely to appear on the November ballot. Four of these initiatives are starting out on solid footing with strong support from registered voters in the state. One of the most controversial of the initiatives calls for amending the state Constitution to define what constitutes ‘marriage’ and would prevent domestic partners of government workers from receiving benefit coverage. The public is very conflicted over this measure. I expect a significant amount of money will be expended on both sides of this issue and the public will be inundated with campaign publicity.”

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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL  
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2006

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between March 3 and 7, 2006. A random sample of 527 registered Arizona voters and Arizona adults likely to register to vote before the next election was asked questions regarding politics in Arizona. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.3 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.

In addition to voting for candidates in November, you may also be able to vote on a series of initiatives. I will read a short description of initiatives that may appear on the ballot. Please tell me if you would support or oppose each if the election was held today.

[Order of initiatives rotated.]

One initiative would raise the minimum wage in Arizona to \$6.75 per hour in 2007 and add a cost-of-living adjustment once a year after that. If the election was held today, would you support or oppose this initiative? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

Support	Oppose
81%	14%

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Don't know/Depends
62%	19%	5%	9%	5%

One ballot initiative relates to the treatment of confined farm animals. It would require that pregnant pigs and veal calves be given enough room to turn around and lie down freely in their pen. If the election was held today, would you support or oppose this initiative? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>78%</b>	<b>13%</b>

<b>Strongly Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Opposed</b>	<b>Strongly Opposed</b>	<b>Don't know/ Depends</b>
57%	21%	4%	9%	9%

One initiative would raise taxes on tobacco in order to fund programs for children's health and early-childhood development around the state. If the election was held today, would you support or oppose this initiative? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>70%</b>	<b>26%</b>

<b>Strongly Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Opposed</b>	<b>Strongly Opposed</b>	<b>Don't know/ Depends</b>
56%	14%	7%	19%	4%

One ballot initiative would prohibit smoking in enclosed public places and workplaces, and would add a cigarette tax of two cents per pack to pay for enforcement of these new restrictions. If the election was held today, would you support or oppose this initiative? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>70%</b>	<b>23%</b>

<b>Strongly Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Opposed</b>	<b>Strongly Opposed</b>	<b>Don't know/ Depends</b>
58%	12%	19%	4%	7%

One ballot initiative would amend the Arizona constitution to define marriage as a union only between one man and one woman, and would prohibit benefits to the domestic partners of government workers. If the election was held today, would you support or oppose this initiative? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

Support	Oppose
52%	40%

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Don't know/Depends
39%	13%	9%	31%	8%

Another initiative would require that elections in Arizona be conducted almost entirely by mail. If the election was held today, would you support or oppose this initiative? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

Support	Oppose
46%	47%

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Don't know/Depends
25%	21%	15%	32%	7%

A proposed amendment to the Arizona Constitution may appear on the ballot in November. This amendment would change the title of Arizona's Secretary of State to "Lieutenant Governor." If the election were held today, would you support or oppose this amendment? (Asked of people registered to vote or intending to register before the next election.)

Support	Oppose
45%	25%

Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Opposed	Strongly Opposed	Don't know/Depends
16%	29%	12%	13%	30%