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RICK RENZI EXTENDS LEAD OVER CHALLENGERS

Rick Renzi's reelection campaign is pulling away from challengers Paul Babbitt (Democrat) and John Crockett (Libertarian) in Arizona's First Congressional District, according to results of a recent telephone survey. Renzi currently leads Babbitt 53 percent to 30 percent. John Crockett is supported by 3 percent of likely voters in the congressional district, while 14 percent of likely voters have yet to decide for whom to vote.

The survey of likely First Congressional District voters was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory of Northern Arizona University. Survey fielding took place between October 15 and 17 with 411 likely voters. Results are accurate within a margin of error of +/- 4.9 percent, at a 95 percent confidence level.

RENZI HOLDS LEAD WITHIN MOST DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS

According to recent survey results, incumbent Rick Renzi has a 23 percentage point lead over challenger Paul Babbitt. Renzi's reelection is supported by 53 percent of likely voters in Arizona's First Congressional District. Paul Babbitt, the Democratic challenger, is supported by 30 percent of likely voters. John Crockett, the Libertarian candidate, is supported by 3 percent of voters. Fourteen percent of voters remain undecided. Results from a survey taken in September had Renzi leading Babbitt by 11 percentage points.

Rick Renzi is leading among both men (57%) and women (50%), and among voters within all age groups. Renzi is holding on to his natural base of voters: eighty percent of Republicans in the

district and 81 percent of conservatives say they will vote for Rick Renzi. Babbitt, on the other hand, is having trouble holding on to his base. Fifty-three percent of Democrats and 63 percent of liberals say they will vote for Babbitt, while 31 percent of Democrats and 16 percent of liberals say they will vote for Renzi. Middle-of-the-road voters are splitting their vote, with 42 percent supporting Renzi and 40 percent supporting Babbitt.

Fred Solop, survey director, said, “As people tune in to the First Congressional District race and learn more about the candidates, they think of Rick Renzi more favorably than his competitors. Renzi has delivered on many promises to the District. On the other hand, one in five voters say they still do not know much about Paul Babbitt and another two in five voters have a negative impression of him. Renzi has a secure lead at this point in the election, and Babbitt has more work ahead if he is going to mount a competitive challenge.”

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Social Research Laboratory, Northern Arizona University

October 18, 2004

**ARIZONA FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SURVEY
BACKGROUND MEMO**

The *Arizona First Congressional District Survey* was conducted between October 15 and 17, 2004. A random sample of 411 likely voters living in Arizona's First Congressional District was asked questions regarding the upcoming congressional election. 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.

IMPRESSIONS OF CANDIDATES

Overall, do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative impression of Rick Renzi?

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know
October	24%	33%	16%	11%	15%
September	23%	41%	13%	14%	9%
April	14%	33%	15%	12%	26%

Overall, do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative impression of Paul Babbitt?

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know
October	9%	26%	29%	13%	22%
September	14%	28%	14%	6%	31%
April	11%	19%	14%	9%	48%

Overall, do you have a very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative impression of John Crockett?

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know
October	1%	4%	4%	1%	91%
September	1%	4%	2%	1%	92%

CANDIDATE PREFERENCE

If the Congressional election were held today, would you vote for Paul Babbitt, the Democratic candidate, John Crockett, the Libertarian candidate, or Rick Renzi, the Republican candidate?
[names rotated]

	Paul Babbitt	John Crockett	Rick Renzi	Don't Know
Total	30%	3%	53%	14%
<i>Gender</i>				
--Female	32%	3%	50%	15%
--Male	28%	3%	57%	13%
<i>Party Affiliation</i>				
--Democrat	53%	4%	31%	12%
--Republican	7%	1%	80%	13%
--Independent/ Other	27%	7%	45%	21%
<i>Ideology</i>				
--Conservative	7%	3%	81%	9%
--In-between	40%	3%	42%	15%
--Liberal	63%	4%	16%	16%
<i>Age</i>				
--18 – 35	21%	---	58%	21%
--36 – 55	35%	4%	53%	8%
--56 +	29%	3%	53%	17%
<u>PAST SURVEYS</u>				
September 2004	40%	1%	51%	8%
April 2004	38%	---	49%	12%