



**NORTHERN ARIZONA
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**MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF REGISTERED VOTERS
UNFAMILIAR WITH VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS;
ONE-IN-TEN NOT SURE THEY HAVE PROPER ID;
VOTER TURNOUT MAY SUFFER**

More than one-third of registered voters statewide say they are unfamiliar with new voter identification requirements in Arizona, according to a recent telephone survey. Most have heard no information on television, in newspapers, or on the radio explaining which forms of ID are required to cast a ballot. When asked if they have the proper identification that will allow them to cast a ballot in Arizona, one-in-ten registered voters say they are not sure, while one percent know they do not have the proper identification. Republicans are more familiar with the new requirements than Democrats and Independents, and are more certain they have proper identification for voting.

Arizona voters are required, for the first time, to show personal identification in order to cast a ballot in Arizona, beginning Tuesday, March 14. This new requirement became law after passage of Proposition 200 in November 2004.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* is a telephone survey conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was conducted with 527 randomly-selected, registered voters in Arizona. Calling took place between March 3 and 7, 2006. Survey results are valid at a +/- 4.3 percent margin of error using a 95 percent confidence level.

LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT VOTER ID

Beginning Tuesday, March 14, Arizona voters need to show proper identification to cast a ballot on Election Day. According to results from a recent survey, 37 percent of registered voters statewide say they are unfamiliar with new voter ID requirements. Almost two-thirds of registered voters statewide (64%) say they have not seen or heard anything on TV, in the newspapers, or on the radio about the new voter identification requirements.

In Maricopa County, one of the few areas to be hosting elections this coming Tuesday, March 14, 61 percent of registered voters say they have not seen or heard anything in the media about the new voter ID requirements. Although the Maricopa County Recorder's Office mailed information about voter ID to registered voters outlining the forms of identification required to vote on Election Day, a majority of registered voters there say they have not received information about voter ID at their home.

Statewide, Republicans are more aware of the new requirements than Democrats and Independents. Sixty-four percent of Republicans say they are very or somewhat familiar with the new system, compared to 59 percent of both Democrats and Independents. Thirty-one percent of Republicans statewide say they have received information about the new program at their homes. Twenty percent of Democrats and 27 percent of Independents have received information at their homes. Thirty-five percent of Republicans statewide have seen or heard

information about the program in the media, compared with 29 percent of Democrats and 24 percent of Independents.

Fred Solop, director of the *Grand Canyon State Poll*, commented, “Arizona is one of the first states in the nation to implement a requirement that voters show personal identification to have their ballots counted. While this new rule is consistent with the will of voters who supported Proposition 200 in 2004, the consequences of the reform are unknown. The eyes of the nation are on Arizona to see to what extent voter ID makes a difference in voter participation and election outcomes.”

MANY VOTERS NOT SURE IF THEY HAVE PROPER ID

Registered voters were asked if they have proper identification that will allow them to vote on Election Day. Statewide, 88 percent say “yes” they do have proper identification, one percent say “no” they do not have proper identification, and 11 percent are “unsure.” Similar figures are seen in Maricopa County where 91 percent of registered voters say they have proper identification, one percent say they do not have proper identification, and nine percent are not sure.

Statewide, Republicans are more certain than Democrats and Independents that they have proper identification for voting. Ninety-three percent of Republicans say they have proper identification, one percent say they do not, and 6 percent are unsure. In comparison, Democrats and Independents are not so certain they have proper identification. For both groups of voters, 86 percent say they have proper identification, one percent say they do not, and 13 percent are not sure.

Solop expressed concern that a significant proportion of voters are unsure whether they have proper identification for voting or know they do not have proper identification. “The history of election reform in the United States is one of removing barriers and encouraging more people to participate. Voter ID challenges this trend. It raises the concern that requiring voters to produce identification at the polls will create a chilling effect on participation. When people either cannot comply with new election rules or are not sure if they can comply, we are likely to see a decline in voter turnout. At least in the next few election cycles, I would not be surprised if electoral participation decreases especially among registered voters who self-identify as Democrats or Independents.”

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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 voters in Arizona, including 309 registered voters in Maricopa County, was asked questions regarding voter identification requirements 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.

How familiar are you with the new voter ID requirements in Arizona?

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Somewhat Unfamiliar	Very Unfamiliar	Don't know Unsure
Registered Voters					
Statewide	22%	38%	16%	21%	3%
Republicans	26%	38%	15%	19%	3%
Democrats	18%	41%	20%	20%	1%
Independents	20%	39%	13%	23%	5%
Maricopa County	24%	39%	13%	21%	3%

Have you received any information at your home explaining which forms of identification are required in order to vote on Election Day?

	Yes	No	Don't Remember/ Unsure
Registered Voters			
Statewide	25%	65%	10%
Republicans	31%	58%	11%
Democrats	20%	70%	10%
Independents	27%	66%	8%
Maricopa County	32%	56%	13%

Have you seen or heard any information on TV, in newspapers, or on the radio explaining which forms of identification are required in order to vote on Election Day?

	Yes	No	Don't Remember/ Unsure
Registered Voters			
Statewide	30%	64%	6%
Republicans	35%	60%	5%
Democrats	29%	64%	7%
Independents	24%	71%	5%
Maricopa County	33%	61%	6%

Do you have proper identification that will allow you to vote on Election Day?

	Yes	No	Don't Remember/ Unsure
Registered Voters			
Statewide	88%	1%	11%
Republicans	93%	1%	6%
Democrats	86%	1%	13%
Independents	86%	1%	13%
Maricopa County	91%	1%	9%