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### **BUSH RE-ELECTION FAVORED BY ARIZONANS; VOTERS REJECT ELECTION LOTTERY**

Despite a decline in public approval, President George W. Bush is favored for re-election by Arizona voters. Almost half of registered voters in the state say they would re-elect President Bush to another four-year term as president, if the presidential election was held today. One-third of registered voters say they would vote for the Democratic candidate for president.

One proposition likely to appear on the November 2004 election ballot calls for a statewide lottery to be held after each statewide election and one randomly selected voter in Arizona would receive \$1 million. The goal is to create an incentive that encourages voter participation. Though novel, more than three-quarters of registered voters say this plan would make no difference as to whether they do or do not vote. In fact, only 22 percent of registered voters say they would be in favor of such a proposition.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. Calling took place between October 3 and October 20, 2003. Four hundred and seventy four randomly-selected registered voters in Arizona participated in the survey. Survey results are accurate within a +/- 4.6 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

## **BUSH IS EARLY FAVORITE IN ELECTION RACE**

The 2004 presidential election campaign is well underway. Despite daily stories of Democratic Party debates and candidate fund-raising, one-third of registered voters in Arizona say they have heard 'little' or 'nothing at all' about the upcoming 2004 presidential election and the candidates who will be running. Sixty-four percent say they have heard 'a lot' or 'some' about the election. This does not prevent all registered voters from expressing an opinion, however.

Statewide, President Bush's job approval rating among adults has declined from record high levels following the events of September 11, 2001. Two years ago, 86 percent of adults in Arizona approved of the job President Bush was doing. Today, 50 percent of adults approve of Bush's job performance, while 44 percent disapprove.

Still, when it comes to thinking about the presidential election, just about half of registered voters in the state (48%) say they would vote to re-elect President Bush to office if the election was held today. Thirty-three percent say they would vote for the Democratic nominee. Eleven percent remain undecided.

"Arizona has a long tradition of voting Republican in presidential elections," said Dr. Fred Solop, director of Northern Arizona University's Social Research Laboratory. "Even though the Democratic Party candidates are paying attention to Arizona this year, this survey says Arizona is still Bush-Country."

## **VOTERS CRITICAL OF ELECTION LOTTERY**

Mark Osterloh has filed paperwork to add a proposition calling for an election lottery to the 2004 ballot. If passed, one randomly-selected voter in each statewide election would be rewarded with one million dollars. This concept is unique, with no other states having something similar in place.

The lottery concept is not gaining much traction among registered voters in Arizona. More than three-quarters of registered voters (77%) say an election lottery would make no difference as to whether they do or do not vote in an election. Only 12 percent of registered voters say a lottery of this type would encourage them to cast a ballot. Just less than three-

quarters of registered voters (74%) say they would vote against this proposition if the election was held today. Twenty-two percent say they would vote for this proposition.

Solop commented, “Registered voters in Arizona are not buying the idea that one million dollars should be given to a randomly selected voter. People are saying that a lottery of this type would not increase voter participation. Some people do not want to see the sacred act of voting cheapened by turning democratic participation into a lottery. For others, \$1 million may not be enough to get them to vote on Election Day.”

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Social Research Laboratory, Northern Arizona University

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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL  
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Fall 2003

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between October 3 and October 20, 2003. A random sample of 474 registered voters of Arizona was asked questions regarding the 2004 presidential election and a possible ballot proposition. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.6 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 George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [Asked of all Arizona Adult Residents]

	<b>Fall 2003</b>	<b>Spring 2003</b>	<b>Spring 2002</b>	<b>Fall 2001</b>
Approve	50%	57%	74%	86%
Disapprove	44%	36%	18%	8%
Don't know/refused	6%	7%	8%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

How much have you heard or seen about the upcoming 2004 presidential election and the candidates who will be running: a lot, some, a little, or nothing at all?

	<b>Percent</b>
A lot	30%
Some	34%
A little	25%
Nothing at all	11%
Don't know/refused	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>101%</b> (473)

Suppose the election for president was held today and you had to choose right now-- would you vote to re-elect George W. Bush, the Republican candidate, or would you vote for the Democratic Party candidate, the Libertarian Party candidate or the Green Party candidate?

	<u>Percent</u>	
George W. Bush	48%	
Democratic candidate	33%	
Libertarian candidate	2%	
Green party candidate	2%	
Other party's candidate	2%	
Will not vote	2%	
Don't know/refused	11%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(468)</b>

In each election, people are asked to vote on propositions that appear on the ballot. In the next election, voters in Arizona may be asked to vote for or against a proposal that would reward one randomly-selected voter in each statewide election with one million dollars. If one Arizona voter was to be randomly selected to win one million dollars, would you be more likely to vote, less likely to vote, or would it make no difference?

	<u>Percent</u>	
More likely to vote	12%	
Less likely to vote	10%	
Would make no difference	77%	
Don't know/refused	2%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>N = 466</b>

If the 2004 election was being held today, would you vote for or against this proposition?

	<u>Percent</u>	
For proposition	22%	
Against proposition	74%	
Don't know/refused	4%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 468</b>