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## Vote split on rival smoking measures

### Both propositions hold majorities in Arizona poll

By Howard Fischer

CAPITOL MEDIA SERVICES

Arizona voters are just about evenly divided between two competing ballot measures that would restrict where people can smoke.

A new statewide poll conducted earlier this month shows 57 percent of those asked said they would support Proposition 201, a measure backed by several health advocacy groups, which would ban smoking in virtually all public places.

Meanwhile, 55 percent also supported Proposition 206, a similar measure that would ban smoking in all public places except bars and separately ventilated areas of restaurants that serve alcohol. The measure was placed on the ballot by a bar owners and has financial backing from the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Proposals to impose an 80-cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to pay for early-childhood development and one to increase the minimum wage in Arizona from \$5.15 to \$6.75 an hour both had even more solid voter support, according to the poll.

But a pair of measures aimed at preserving some state trust lands both fell short of garnering 50 percent support from poll respondents, although a measure placed on the ballot by a coalition of environmentalists was faring far better than one put on the ballot by the Legislature at the behest of developers.

The poll of 882 likely voters statewide was done for the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and KAET-TV, the Phoenix PBS affiliate, by pollster Bruce Merrill. It was conducted Sept. 21-24, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

Merrill said the similar levels of support for the two smoking bans indicate many voters may have trouble understanding how the propositions differ.

The smoking bans also had similar levels of opposition, with 33 percent against the total ban and 34 percent against the exemption for bars, with other voters undecided.

If both measures are approved, the one with the most votes takes precedence in areas where the laws conflict.

Increasing the minimum wage was by far the most popular proposal among the eight propositions included in the poll results, released Thursday.

#### Poll questions:

- Proposition 201, to ban smoking in virtually all public places:

For — 57%

Against — 33%

Undecided — 10%

- Proposition 206, to ban smoking in most public places with exceptions for bars:

For — 55%

Against — 34%

Undecided — 11%

- Proposition 105, to set aside 43,000 acres of state trust land and procedures for another 400,000 acres of rural land:

For — 36%

Against — 34%

Undecided — 30%

- Proposition 106, to set aside up to 694,000 acres of state trust land:

For — 49%

Against — 21%

Undecided — 30%

- Proposition 200, to create a \$1 million lottery among people who

Nineteen propositions will be on the Nov. 7 ballot. Controversial proposals to ban gay marriage and deny numerous benefits to illegal entrants were not included.

Proposition 202, to raise the minimum wage, was favored by 77 percent of those questioned, and 16 percent opposed it. Arizona currently has no state minimum wage. But federal law, which covers virtually all state employers, requires that they pay at least \$5.15 per hour.

And 62 percent of respondents said they would support Proposition 203, to raise cigarette taxes to bring in an estimated \$150 million a year for programs for early-childhood development, with 28 percent opposed.

Elsewhere on the ballot, 49 percent of people backed Proposition 106. The measure, pushed by environmental groups, would place up to 694,000 acres of state land off-limits to development. A large block of voters — 30 percent — hadn't decided, while 21 percent opposed it.

The initiative, which also has the backing of the Arizona Education Association, also would allow the State Land Department to partner with developers for projects on other state land parcels.

In comparison, Proposition 105, put on the ballot by legislators as an alternative, had the backing of only 36 percent of those polled, while 34 percent opposed it and 30 percent were undecided.

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For — 49%

Against — 21%

vote:

For — 40%

Against — 47%

Undecided — 13%

- Proposition 202, to impose a \$6.75-an-hour minimum wage with increases for inflation:

For — 77%

Against — 16%

Undecided — 7%

- Proposition 203, to raise tobacco taxes by 80 cents a pack for programs for early-childhood development:

For — 62%

Against — 28%

Undecided — 10%

- Proposition 204, to ban small pens for calves and pregnant pigs:

For — 65%

Against — 16%

Undecided — 19%

Source: KAET-TV

Undecided — 30%

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- *The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

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