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# Poll: Voters against government intrusion rejected Prop. 107

**By Howard Fischer**

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PHOENIX — Arizonans rejected Proposition 107 not because they want gays to wed but because they didn't like the idea of government intrusion, a new statewide survey shows.

Pollster Bruce Merrill said Tuesday only 8 percent of those who voted against the measure earlier this month said they support same-sex weddings.

Gay marriages already are illegal in Arizona and state law forbids recognition of weddings performed in other states where they are legal. Proposition 107 would have made that prohibition a constitutional amendment.

But Merrill, who conducted the survey of 962 registered voters for KAET-TV, the Phoenix PBS affiliate, said more than half of those questioned said they believed the measure was unfair or was improper government involvement in individual rights. Another 30 percent specifically cited provisions barring governments from offering domestic partner benefits.

On the other side of the issue, Merrill found 54 percent of those who supported Proposition 107 said they did so because they believe marriage should be limited to one man and one woman. Another 39 percent backed the measure for personal or religious reasons.

Merrill also reported Tuesday that Jim Pederson lost his bid to become the state's newest U.S. senator because he couldn't hang on to members of his own party, a new survey shows.

He said 20 percent of those who said they are registered Democrats supported the re-election of Jon Kyl . By contrast, Pederson managed to snag the votes of just 10 percent of registered Republicans.

In fact, Merrill said party affiliation played only a small role in the outcome of the race.

He said 36 percent of those who voted for Kyl cited his record or experience. By contrast, only 19 percent said they backed Kyl because he was the GOP nominee.

Similarly, 55 percent of Pederson's vote came from people who said they were voting against Kyl, against the war, against Bush or in reaction to the ethical scandals in Washington. Another 29 percent of his vote came from those who said they backed him because he was the Democratic party choice.

And Merrill said the last-minute war of expensive commercials by the two contenders, who together may have spent \$30 million on the race, may have had little effect.

He said 52 percent of those questioned said they knew all along for whom they would vote, with another 19 percent deciding by the middle of the race and 21 percent toward the end. Only 4 percent said they finally made up their minds on election day.

On Gov. Janet Napolitano's victory over Republican challenger Len Munsil, Merrill said Napolitano got the votes of 40 percent of Republicans and 80 percent of those who are not registered with either of the two major parties.

And Merrill said Munsil, who had been the head of a "family values" organization for a decade before running for office, even failed to hang on to his own core voters. Napolitano got the backing of 60 percent of those who said they regularly attend church, 53 percent of those who say they are "pro life," and 40 percent of self-described political conservatives.

The survey has a margin of error of 3 percent.

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