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CENTER FOR THE
FUTURE OF ARIZONA

NEWS RELEASE

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GALLUP ARIZONA POLL FINDS STRONG CONSENSUS AMONG ARIZONANS REGARDING PUBLIC POLICY, COMMUNITY ISSUES

Center for the Future of Arizona Announces *The Arizona We Want*, a Citizens' Agenda

PHOENIX — Gallup and the Center for the Future of Arizona on Friday, October 2, offered a surprising look into the hearts and minds of Arizona citizens. Findings from the Arizona Gallup Poll report entitled “The Arizona We Want” were presented to Arizona community leaders at a breakfast meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Phoenix.

According to CFA Chairman/CEO Lattie Coor, the Gallup Arizona Poll offers a clear and compelling picture of what citizens think about life in Arizona communities and what they want for the future.

“Despite the perception that Arizonans have very different perspectives and interests, the Gallup Arizona Poll found there is a remarkable consensus among our citizens on a broad range of issues and public policy positions,” Coor noted. “The findings were surprisingly consistent regardless of the citizens’ age, income, education, ethnicity, gender or whether they live in an urban environment, a small city or a rural area.”

Coor also announced an eight-point citizens’ agenda based upon the poll’s findings, and outlined a plan of action for mobilizing citizens and leaders across the state in a concerted and sustained effort to accomplish the report’s recommendations and goals. In addition, *The Arizona We Want* Institute will be established under CFA’s umbrella to lead the implementation process and “quarterback” community and public policy initiatives.

The Center for the Future of Arizona is an independent, Phoenix-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization led by former Arizona State University President Lattie Coor. CFA is a “do tank” that combines research with collaborative partnerships and initiatives that serve the public interest and the common good.

Gallup Arizona Poll Findings

Polling was conducted between mid-November 2008 and late January 2009. Findings include:

-Arizonans have an unusually high level of attachment to the communities in which they live. Arizonans’ loyalty and passion for their communities rank very near the top when compared with those for 26 other U.S. geographic areas.

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-Only 10 percent of Arizonans believe that their elected officials represent their interests. The same percent rate their elected officials' leadership as "very good."

-Citizens want Arizona high schools to graduate students who are career and college-ready, and for students to be academically competitive as measured by national and international—not state—standards.

-When asked if their community was "very good" for different groups of people, the group that fared least well—worse than immigrants, racial and ethnic minorities, creative people, and gay and lesbian people—were young, talented college graduates looking to enter the job market.

The Citizens' Agenda

The poll's findings serve as the foundation for *The Arizona We Want*, a citizens' agenda, which has the following goals, and issues to be resolved.

Goals

1. Create quality jobs for all Arizonans.
2. Prepare Arizonans of all ages for careers in the 21st century workforce.
3. Make Arizona "the place to be" for talented young people.
4. Provide health insurance for all, with payment assistance for those who need it.
5. Protect Arizona's natural environment, water supplies and open spaces.
6. Build a modern, effective transportation system and infrastructure.
7. Empower citizens and increase civic involvement.
8. Foster citizen well-being and sense of connection to one another.

Issues to be Resolved

1. Arizona needs fully prepared leadership and governance structures appropriate to the 21st century.
2. Arizona needs an investment strategy.
3. Arizona needs a clear and sustained commitment to global competitiveness.
4. A constructive solution to illegal immigration must be found and implemented.
5. Arizona needs a balanced and stable tax system.

Next steps will include developing short-term and long-term plans for achieving the report goals; establishing strategic alliances with leadership and community organizations around the state to align their organizational goals with those recommended by the report; identifying metrics and creating scorecards to measure progress towards each of the eight goals; partnering with national organizations that are committed to strengthening communities and institutions; and seeking resources to accomplish the implementation plan.

"*The Arizona We Want* brings democracy to the planning process," said Gallup Senior Partner Warren Wright. "The people of Arizona are truly setting the agenda, not just a handful of influencers. It is an ideal springboard that allows local leaders and civic organizations to create community-focused programs that have real and sustained positive impact to the lives of Arizona's citizens."

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Also participating in the October 2 event were panelists representing Greater Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff who discussed what the findings mean to their communities. They included Arizona State University President Michael Crow, Flagstaff Mayor Sara Presler, and Ron Shoopman, president of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, which is based in Tucson.

Support for *The Arizona We Want* research was provided by SCF Arizona, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona, Helios Education Foundation, the Arizona Board of Regents, Arizona State University, the Northern Arizona University Foundation, the University of Arizona, the Lodestar Foundation, the Arizona Investment Council, Pivotal Group, Hensley Brewing Company and the Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation.

The Gallup Arizona Poll report is available on a new, highly interactive Web site www.thearizonawewant.org. Visitors to the Web site can take the Gallup Arizona Poll online and see how similar or different their responses are from those of their fellow citizens. In addition, the Web site will offer additional short surveys and blogging sites on an ongoing basis. These will assess citizen opinion, provide information, and create social networking opportunities that stimulate community discussions.

Additional information about the Center for the Future of Arizona can be found at www.arizonafuture.org.

About Gallup

Gallup has studied human nature and behavior for more than 70 years. Gallup's reputation for delivering relevant, timely, and visionary research on what people around the world think and feel is the cornerstone of the organization. Gallup employs many of the world's leading scientists in management, economics, psychology, and sociology, and our consultants assist leaders in identifying and monitoring behavioral economic indicators worldwide. Gallup consultants also help organizations boost organic growth by increasing customer engagement and maximizing employee productivity through measurement tools, coursework, and strategic advisory services. Gallup's 2,000 professionals deliver services at client organizations, through the Web, at Gallup University's campuses, and in 40 offices around the world. For more information go to www.gallup.com.

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