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Voters say Arapahoe County going in the right direction *Telephone poll shows 68 percent satisfied with county government*

Voters gave their strong approval of Arapahoe County government with 68 percent agreeing that the County is going in the right direction, and 62 percent who say County services are better than those rendered by other Denver-area counties, according to a recent survey conducted by Hill Research Consultants.

The survey of 503 registered voters was conducted July 5-7 to help Arapahoe County determine citizen perceptions of county government, and to get feedback on ideas that would help address the County's budget concerns.

While voters are satisfied with Arapahoe County and other local governments overall, the survey did not indicate strong support for potential ballot proposals that could help ease the County's budget constraints, such as consolidating bonds on two County buildings. After discussion and review of the survey results, the Board of County Commissioners decided not to move forward with any ballot proposals this fall.

Arapahoe County, like other local governments, is facing the pressure of a shrinking budget as the result of TABOR, changes in population, and unfunded mandates. The County continues to look at efficiencies and new ways to deliver services in order to address the many requirements that have been passed down to the County by the State and Federal government.

The County's 2005 \$285.6 million budget is feeling the impact of declining growth in revenue sources, reductions in State and Federal grant funding, and a reduced budget for capital projects. Costs for non-discretionary expenses, such as energy and fuel, also continue to impact the County's budget.

The survey also showed that citizens value the work of the Sheriff's Office and Road and Bridge division, and gave the highest ratings to their local fire department and Arapahoe Library District.

"We are pleased to see voters are satisfied with Arapahoe County," said Commissioner Lynn Myers, Board Chair. "Our goal is continue to provide quality services in all county departments in the most efficient manner possible."
