

THE SHOOTINGS IN TUCSON, ARIZONA
January 9-10, 2011

In the wake of the shootings of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and others in Tucson, Arizona this past weekend, there has been speculation as to whether a heated political atmosphere might have contributed to the shooting. Most Americans, however, reject the idea that the political rhetoric of recent political campaigns encouraged the violence.

57% do not think the recent harsh political tone had anything to do with the Arizona shootings, while 32% think the harsh tone was a factor. Republicans, Democrats, and independents are all more likely to think that the tone of recent political campaigns was not a factor. Still, Democrats are more than twice as likely as Republicans to think the harsh political tone could have contributed to the shootings in Arizona.

Did Harsh Political Tone have Anything to do with Arizona Shootings?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	32%	19%	42%	33%
No	57	69	49	56

This poll was conducted by telephone on January 9-10, 2011 among 673 adults nationwide first interviewed by CBS News December 17-20, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Poll.