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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo Ratings All Drop; Favorability Lowest Since Feb 2016

Voters Give MTA Negative Job Rating and Rate Cuomo & de Blasio Negatively for MTA Mass Transit; Hold Cuomo More Accountable; Strongly Believe State & City Should Invest More to Improve Service
Plurality Oppose Naming Tappan Zee for Mario Cuomo; Divided on Legalizing Recreational Pot; Narrower Support for ConCon

Loudonville, NY. Governor Andrew Cuomo's ratings dropped significantly since May. His favorability rating (52-41 percent, down from 61-31 percent in May, or 19 points) hit its lowest level since February 2016 and his job performance and re-elect ratings hit their lowest levels this year, according to a Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today. Now, 46 percent of voters say they're prepared to re-elect Cuomo and 46 percent prefer someone else, down from 53-36 percent (net 17 points) in support of his re-election in May.

Overall, Cuomo has a *negative* 43-55 percent job performance rating, down from a positive 51-46 percent job performance rating in May (down net 17 points). When it comes to Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) mass transit issues, voters give Cuomo a *negative* 26-59 percent job performance rating, slightly better than Mayor Bill de Blasio's *negative* 20-63 percent rating. By a 52-33 percent margin, voters say they hold Cuomo or not de Blasio or more accountable for overseeing the MTA. And approximately three-quarters of voters say both New York State and New York City should invest more to improve MTA services.

“With his lowest favorability rating in a year and a half, since May, Cuomo's favorability rating sank by double digits with all parties and in all regions. However, the drops in his job performance and re-elect ratings or which both fell by double digits with Democrats, Republicans, independents or are wholly from downstate voters,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “While his job performance rating dropped 25 points with New York City voters and 32 points with downstate suburban voters, his rating with upstate voters ticked up two points.

“It appears likely that a major reason for Cuomo's lower poll numbers relate to issues surrounding the MTA, for which only about one-quarter of voters or downstate and upstate or rate Cuomo positively,” Greenberg said. “While Cuomo's re-elect and job performance ratings fell by 23 and 27 points, respectively, among voters in the MTA region*, they both ticked down only a single point among voters not in the MTA region.”

“While voters outside the MTA region hold Cuomo more accountable for overseeing MTA mass transit than de Blasio by 13 points, voters in the MTA region hold Cuomo more accountable by 21 points,” Greenberg said.

“Three-quarters of upstate voters and 96 percent of downstate voters say it’s important that the New York City area has a world-class mass transit system, yet only one-quarter of downstate voters and one-third of upstate voters give the MTA a positive job performance rating for managing New York City area mass transit.

“When it comes to investing money in the MTA to improve services, 72 percent of all voters – including 47 percent of those outside the MTA region – say New York State should invest more, and 76 percent of all voters – including 64 percent of those outside the MTA region – say New York City should invest more,” Greenberg said.

“Those in the MTA region say the state should be primarily responsible for providing funding by a 59-33 percent margin, while those outside the MTA region say the city should be primarily responsible, 67-26 percent.”

Plurality of Voters Oppose Naming New Tappan Zee Bridge for Mario Cuomo

“New Yorkers oppose naming the new Tappan Zee bridge – currently named for Governor Malcolm Wilson – the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge 47-37 percent. While a small plurality of Democrats supports the new name, a larger plurality of independents opposes it, as does a large majority of Republicans,” Greenberg said. “Other than Democrats, every demographic group opposes the new name, with the exception of black voters, who support it 48-39 percent, and Jewish voters, who support it 43-39 percent.”

New Yorkers Closely Divided on Legalizing Recreational Marijuana in the Empire State

“Legalizing and regulating marijuana for recreational use in New York is supported by 49 percent of voters and opposed by 47 percent. Democrats strongly support it, 58-39 percent, while Republicans strongly oppose it, 60-34 percent, and independents are closely divided,” Greenberg said. “Not surprisingly, younger voters overwhelmingly support recreational pot 68-28 percent, while older voters oppose it 56-39 percent. Interestingly, downstate voters are virtually evenly divided, while upstate voters are mildly in support, 53-45 percent.”

Knowledge of a ConCon Vote Remains Extraordinarily Low; Plurality Support for ConCon

“Two-thirds of New Yorkers have heard –nothing at all– about the November vote on a State Constitutional Convention, and only 14 percent have heard a great deal or some about it, virtually unchanged from May, and comparable to what it’s been for the last two years,” Greenberg said.

“In previous Siena College polls, support for ConCon has been overwhelming, including a 62-22 percent bulge in May. Now, however, with a newly worded question which includes what voters will see on the November ballot, support for ConCon is only 47-34 percent. A strong majority of Democrats and a plurality of independents support it, while a plurality of Republicans opposes it. A plurality of voters from every region of the state also support it,” Greenberg said. “Voters from every region and party strongly support the constitutional amendment on the ballot to reduce or revoke the pensions of public officers convicted of felonies related to their duties.”

New Yorkers Continue to View Direction of the State Positively – But Down from May

By a 46-40 percent margin – down from 52-33 percent in both April and May – voters say New York is headed on the right track, rather than in the wrong direction, Greenberg said. Democrats strongly say the state is headed on the right track. Republicans strongly say the state is headed in the wrong direction. Independents are closely divided. A plurality of downstate voters says the state is on the right track, while upstaters are closely divided.

With virtually no change over the last three years, only 29 percent of New Yorkers describe the fiscal condition of the state as excellent or good, while 65 percent say it's fair or poor, Greenberg said.

Like Cuomo and Direction of the State, Legislature Also Takes a Hit from Voters

The State Assembly is viewed favorably by 41 percent of voters and unfavorably by 41 percent of voters, down from a 45-34 percent favorability rating in May. The State Senate has a 44-43 percent favorability rating, down from 48-35 percent in May.

Both the Senate and Assembly, which had each been viewed favorably by voters every month so far this year, saw their ratings drop to even splits, Greenberg said. A plurality of Democrats views each house favorably, however, pluralities of Republicans and independents view each house unfavorably. There is little difference among the regions for how they feel about either the Assembly or the Senate.

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* The MTA region is defined as: New York City and Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties.



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Siena College Poll Trends – July 2017

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	52	41	8
May 2017	61	31	8
April 2017	54	37	9
March 2017	54	40	6
February 2017	60	34	5
January 2017	56	37	7
December 2016	56	36	8
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	44 (7/15, 5/15)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/16, 10/20/10)

Q. 15 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	7	36	37	18	2
May 2017	10	41	31	15	2
April 2017	10	37	33	18	3
March 2017	9	38	35	17	2
February 2017	9	41	33	15	2
January 2017	9	36	36	17	2
December 2016	7	37	37	17	2
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	25 (10/14)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	32 (12/15, etc.)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 14 If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor in 2018, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else? ^

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	46	46	8
May 2017	53	36	10
April 2017	51	39	11
March 2017	48	41	11
February 2017	50	41	9
January 2017	47	44	9
December 2016	47	44	10
HIGHEST EVER	53 (5/17)	49 (9/16, 5/31/16)	11 (4/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	42 (5/31/16)	36 (5/17)	6 (9/16, 6/16)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	41	41	18
May 2017	45	34	21
April 2017	45	36	19
March 2017	46	36	18
February 2017	46	38	16
January 2017	45	35	20
December 2016	43	40	17
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/17, 2/17)	61 (7/10)	21 (5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	35 (1/17)	10 (5/15)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	44	43	13
May 2017	48	35	17
April 2017	46	38	16
March 2017	45	39	17
February 2017	50	40	10
January 2017	49	36	16
December 2016	48	39	14
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (5/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	35 (5/17)	6 (7/09)

Q. 26 The last New York State Constitutional Convention was held in 1967. Since then, New Yorkers have twice voted against having a constitutional convention in both 1977 and 1997. In 2017, New Yorkers will again have an opportunity to vote on whether or not there should be a State Constitutional Convention. How much have you heard about that vote in 2017 on whether or not to have a constitutional convention. Would you say you have heard a great deal, some, not very much, or nothing at all?

DATE	GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	NOTHING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	5	9	18	67	1
May 2017	4	9	19	67	1
April 2017	5	8	24	61	2
February 2017	4	7	18	71	0
June 2016	2	8	22	66	1
HIGHEST EVER	5 (7/17, 4/17)	9 (7/17, 5/17)	24 (4/17)	75 (7/15)	2 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	2 (several)	4 (7/15)	18 (7/17, 2/17)	61 (4/17)	0 (2/17, 7/15)

Q. 27 Specifically, the November ballot question on a Constitutional Convention will ask, "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" Will you vote "yes" to have a Constitutional Convention or "no" to not have a Constitutional Convention? (PRIOR TO JULY 2017, WORDING OF THIS QUESTION WAS: "Do you support or oppose having a New York State Constitutional Convention in which delegates propose changes to the State Constitution for voters to approve or reject?")

DATE	YES/ SUPPORT	NO/ OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	47	34	19
May 2017	62	22	17
April 2017	59	22	18
February 2017	63	24	13
June 2016	68	19	13
HIGHEST EVER	69 (5/3/16, 7/15)	34 (7/17)	19 (7/17)
LOWEST EVER	47 (7/17)	15 (7/15)	12 (5/3/16, 8/09)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	32	49	18
December 2016	35	45	20
May 31, 2016	34	48	18
HIGHEST EVER	41 (11/13)	49 (7/17)	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	32 (7/17)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

Q. 2 How would you describe the fiscal condition of New York State right now? Would you describe it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	2	27	42	23	5
December 2016	2	28	44	21	4
June 2016	2	26	42	26	4
HIGHEST EVER	3 (12/14, 8/13)	29 (7/14)	49 (8/12)	67 (3/22/10)	5 (7/17)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc.)	25 (3/22/10)	21 (12/16)	0 (4/11, etc.)

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Q. 1 Is New York State on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2017	46	40	14
May 2017	52	33	16
April 2017	52	33	16
March 2017	49	39	13
February 2017	55	38	7
January 2017	54	34	12
December 2016	48	38	14
October 2016*	51	41	8
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (2/17, 5/13)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: September thru November 2016, July thru October 2014, August/October 2012, October 2010, September/October 2008, and September/October 2006, which are polls of likely voters.

Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since December 2016.

“Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” are provided at the bottom of each question.

^ Inconsequential wording change.