



# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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## Siena College Poll:

### **Cuomo Favorability/Job Performance Ratings Fall from January**

NYers Have Strong Level of Trust for Supreme Court, FBI, Mueller;

Little Trust for Trump; More for Congressional Dems than Reps

***70% Say Mueller Investigation Is Being Conducted by Non-Partisan Pros  
And Should Continue Without White House/Congressional Interference***

***Strong Support for Child Victims Act, Early Voting, Dream Act & Roe v Wade;***

***A Small Majority Supports Legalizing Recreational Use of Marijuana***

Loudonville, NY. After a bounce in January, Governor Andrew Cuomo's favorability, job performance and re-elect ratings all fell by double digits this month, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters. Cuomo's favorability rating is 53-40 percent, down from 62-30 percent last month, and his job performance rating is *negative* 45-53 percent, down from positive 50-48 percent.

The Supreme Court and the FBI are overwhelmingly trusted by Democrats, Republicans and independents. Special counsel Robert Mueller is strongly trusted by Democrats and independents and breaks even with Republicans. Democrats trust Democrats in Congress and Republicans trust Congressional Republicans. While Republicans strongly trust President Trump, independents do not, and Democrats do not even more.

More than two-thirds of voters are paying at least some attention to the Mueller investigation – 35 percent a great deal of attention – and 70 percent of New Yorkers say the investigation should continue without interference from the White House or Congress, compared to 24 percent who say they believe President Trump about Russian collusion and the investigation should be quickly brought to a close.

“After hitting his second-term high favorability rating last month, Governor Cuomo's favorability, job performance and re-elect ratings all hit significant speed bumps this month. With his favorable rating down to 53 percent from 62 percent and his unfavorable rating jumping to 40 percent from 30 percent, Cuomo's net favorability rating is down 19 points,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “He's down with Democrats, more with Republicans, and even more with independents.

“In all three measures, Cuomo is down with voters in New York City, down big upstate and essentially unchanged in the downstate suburbs. The drop was much bigger with men than with women,” Greenberg said.

“Cuomo’s drop this month comes as there was little change in how voters viewed the Legislature, just a modest drop in voters’ optimism about the direction of the state and, largely, continued strong support for many of the Governor’s high-profile proposals,” Greenberg said. “Of course, much of what Cuomo has been talking about over the last several weeks has been overshadowed by the ongoing coverage of the Federal corruption trial in Manhattan, in which the Governor has been featured prominently.

“The good news for Cuomo is that the two Republicans still seeking to run against him are both unknown to more than three-quarters of New York voters,” Greenberg said. “State Senator John DeFrancisco is viewed favorably by 10 percent and unfavorably by nine percent. Former Erie County Executive Joel Giambra has a comparable 7-9 percent favorability rating. Both have a lot of work to do to become known to voters over the next eight months.

**Supreme Court, FBI, Mueller Strongly Trusted by NYers; Pols Not Nearly as Much**

“Democrats, Republicans and independents all agree – as do voters from every region of the state: the Supreme Court and the FBI are both highly trustworthy. Democrats and independents feel similarly about Mueller, although Republicans are closely divided on their view of his trustworthiness,” Greenberg said.

<b>Trustworthy Score *</b>				
	<b>All</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Ind</b>
The Supreme Court	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>
The FBI	<b>67</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>
Special Counsel Robert Mueller	<b>65</b>	<b>73</b>	49	<b>63</b>
Democrats in Congress	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	33	45
Republicans in Congress	37	27	<b>57</b>	36
President Trump	32	16	<b>65</b>	31
<b>Siena College Poll – February 12, 2018</b>				

“When it comes to the pols, independents lean toward not trusting Democrats in Congress and they are much less trusting of the Republicans in Congress. Republicans trust Congressional Republicans but not Democrats. Not surprisingly, Democrats feel the same in reverse. Trump is strongly distrusted by independents and Democrats have virtually no trust in Trump. Republicans place a high level of trust in the President,” Greenberg said.

**New York Voters: Mueller Probe Should Continue Without Interference**

“Two-thirds of independents and 84 percent of Democrats say the Mueller investigation should continue unimpeded, while Republicans are closely divided, with a small plurality, 47 percent, saying they believe the President when he says there was no collusion and the investigation should be quickly brought to a close,” Greenberg said. “New Yorkers are paying attention to the news about the Mueller investigation and a broad consensus – at least 63 percent of voters regardless of region, gender, age, race, religion, or income – says the investigation should be allowed to continue without interference.”

– more –

\* **Trustworthy Score:** Designed to consider the intensity of sentiment, not just the positive or negative assessment of the respondents. If 100 percent of respondents indicated 'completely trustworthy,' the score would be 100. If 100 percent indicated 'not at all trustworthy,' the score would be 0. A score of 50 indicates the collective assessment of trustworthiness of that institution/person is halfway between 'not very' and 'somewhat' trustworthy. Scores above 50 show positive trustworthiness; scores below 50 show negative trustworthiness.

<b>Support/Oppose Several Cuomo 2018 Priorities</b>			
		<b>Feb</b>	<b>Jan</b>
Pass the Child Victims Act: among other provisions, eliminates statute of limitations for all sexually-related criminal cases committed against a person less than 18, extends the statute of limitations for civil litigation	Support	<b>79%</b>	<b>76%</b>
	Oppose	14%	17%
Institute early voting in New York, like exists in dozens of other states	Support	<b>67%</b>	<b>65%</b>
	Oppose	27%	28%
Prohibit public money from being used to settle sexual harassment claims against individuals who work for government agencies	Support	<b>65%</b>	<b>66%</b>
	Oppose	31%	29%
Pass the New York Dream Act, which would allow children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education	Support	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>
	Oppose	37%	36%
Make New York’s law on abortion consistent with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade	Support	<b>60%</b>	<b>59%</b>
	Oppose	22%	23%
Pass a law to eliminate monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges	Support	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>
	Oppose	35%	35%
Sue the Federal govt. over the recently enacted Federal tax law, because of the loss of the state and local tax deduction	Support	<b>49%</b>	<b>58%</b>
	Oppose	39%	32%
<b>Siena College Poll – February 12, 2018</b>			

**Support Remains Strong for Several Cuomo 2018 Priorities**

“New Yorkers of every stripe continue to overwhelmingly support the Child Victims Act and strongly support prohibiting public money for settling sexual harassment cases involving government employees. Democrats, independents and voters from every region also continue to strongly support early voting and codifying Roe vs. Wade. Republicans are equally divided on early voting and a plurality supports codifying Roe vs. Wade,” Greenberg said. “The Dream Act gets strong support from Democrats, independents and New York City voters.

“With strong support from Democrats and independents, and support from every region, by a 56-40 percent margin, New Yorkers support legalizing the recreational use of marijuana,” Greenberg said. “Voters 55 and older are closely divided, while three-quarters of voters under 35 support legalization.”

**Voters Trust Albany More than DC on Tax Policy; Less Negative Toward Federal Tax Cut Law**

“Voters, by a 52-22 percent margin, trust state government more than the Federal government to create tax policy that treats them fairly. A majority of independents and two-thirds of Democrats feel that way, while a plurality of Republicans trusts Washington over Albany,” Greenberg said.

“By a 12-point margin – down from 19 points last month – voters say the new Federal tax law will worsen New York’s economy, and by an 8-point margin – down from 18 points – they will be worse off financially because of the new Federal tax law,” Greenberg said. “Additionally, support for the Governor’s proposal to sue the Federal government over the tax law has withered, with only 49 percent supporting it, down from 58 percent last month.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted February 5-8, 2018 by telephone calls conducted in English to 823 New York State registered voters. Respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest male in the household. It has an overall margin of error of  $\pm 3.9$  percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers (both from Survey Sampling International) from within New York State weighted to reflect known population patterns. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party by region, and gender to ensure representativeness. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey cross-tabs: [www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY](http://www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY).



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## Siena College Poll Trends – February 2018

**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
February 2018	48	39	13
January 2018	50	35	15
November 2017*	48	40	12
October 2017	50	37	13
September 2017	50	36	14
July 2017	46	40	14
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (1/13)</b>	<b>76 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>30 (1/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (10/10)</b>	<b>26 (1/07)</b>	<b>7 (2/17, 5/13)</b>

**Q. 3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	53	40	7
January 2018	62	30	8
November 2017*	52	43	5
October 2017	57	35	8
September 2017	56	37	8
July 2017	52	41	8
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (2/11)</b>	<b>44 (7/15, 5/15)</b>	<b>24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>44 (8/06, 10/06)</b>	<b>14 (8/09)</b>	<b>3 (10/16, 10/20/10)</b>

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	44	35	21
January 2018	42	36	22
November 2017*	39	44	18
October 2017	43	37	20
September 2017	43	36	20
July 2017	41	41	18
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>46 (3/17, 2/17)</b>	<b>61 (7/10)</b>	<b>21 (2/18, 5/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (7/10)</b>	<b>34 (5/17)</b>	<b>10 (5/15)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	44	40	16
January 2018	44	39	17
November 2017*	37	48	15
October 2017	47	37	15
September 2017	43	41	16
July 2017	44	43	13
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>50 (2/17)</b>	<b>74 (7/09)</b>	<b>17 (1/18, 5/17, 3/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (7/09)</b>	<b>35 (5/17)</b>	<b>6 (7/09)</b>

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Brian Kolb?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	8	8	84
January 2013	11	11	78
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>11 (1/13)</b>	<b>11 (1/13)</b>	<b>84 (2/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>8 (2/18)</b>	<b>8 (2/18)</b>	<b>78 (1/13)</b>

## Siena College Poll Trends – February 2018 – Page 2

**Q. 19** If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor this year, 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
February 2018	50	42	8
January 2018	55	36	10
November 2017*	48	44	8
October 2017	52	41	7
September 2017	48	44	9
July 2017	46	46	8
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>55 (1/18)</b>	<b>49 (9/16, 5/31/16)</b>	<b>11 (4/17, 3/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>42 (5/31/16)</b>	<b>36 (1/18, 5/17)</b>	<b>6 (9/16, 6/16)</b>

**Q. 20** 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
February 2018	7	38	32	21	2
January 2018	11	39	33	15	2
November 2017*	8	37	31	23	1
October 2017	11	37	33	17	2
September 2017	9	34	35	20	2
July 2017	7	36	37	18	2
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (1/12)</b>	<b>47 (4/12, etc.)</b>	<b>40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)</b>	<b>25 (10/14)</b>	<b>28 (1/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>5 (9/16)</b>	<b>32 (12/15, etc.)</b>	<b>24 (1/11)</b>	<b>4 (2/11, 1/11)</b>	<b>0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)</b>

**Q. 21** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Sue the Federal government over the recently enacted Federal tax law, because of the loss of the state and local tax deduction?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	49	39	12
January 2018	58	32	9
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (1/18)</b>	<b>39 (2/18)</b>	<b>12 (2/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>49 (2/18)</b>	<b>32 (1/18)</b>	<b>9 (1/18)</b>

**Q. 22** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Prohibit public money from being used to settle sexual harassment claims against individuals who work for government?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	65	31	4
January 2018	66	29	5
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>66 (1/18)</b>	<b>31 (2/18)</b>	<b>5 (1/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (2/18)</b>	<b>29 (1/18)</b>	<b>4 (2/18)</b>

**Q. 23** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Make New York's law on abortion consistent with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade? ^

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	60	22	18
January 2018	59	23	18
June 2013*	60	24	15
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>60 (2/18, 6/13)</b>	<b>24 (6/13)</b>	<b>18 (2/18, 1/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>59 (1/18)</b>	<b>22 (2/18)</b>	<b>15 (6/13)</b>

**Q. 24** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Pass a law to eliminate monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	55	35	10
January 2018	57	35	9
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (1/18)</b>	<b>35 (2/18, 1/18)</b>	<b>10 (2/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>55 (2/18)</b>	<b>35 (2/18, 1/18)</b>	<b>9 (1/18)</b>

## Siena College Poll Trends – February 2018 – Page 3

**Q. 25** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Pass the Child Victims Act, which would, among other provisions, eliminate the statute of limitations for all sexually-related criminal cases when committed against a person less than 18 years old, and extend the state of limitations for civil litigation?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	79	14	7
January 2018	76	17	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>79 (2/18)</b>	<b>17 (1/18)</b>	<b>7 (2/18, 1/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>76 (1/18)</b>	<b>14 (2/18)</b>	<b>7 (2/18, 1/18)</b>

**Q. 26** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Pass the New York Dream Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education? (PREVIOUS WORDING: In general, do you support or oppose the New York Dream Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education? (In 2014, this question was asked with a split sample of half of respondents being asked about “undocumented immigrants” and half being asked about “illegal aliens.”))

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	61	37	3
January 2018	60	36	4
March 2017	53	42	5
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>61 (2/18)</b>	<b>52 (2/16)</b>	<b>8 (12/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>44 (4/15, 12/14)</b>	<b>36 (1/18)</b>	<b>2 (2/17)</b>

**Q. 27** I'm going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018 and I'd like you to tell me whether you support or oppose that proposal: Do you support or oppose – Institute early voting in New York, like exists in dozens of other states?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	67	27	6
January 2018	65	28	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>67 (2/18)</b>	<b>28 (1/18)</b>	<b>7 (1/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (1/18)</b>	<b>27 (2/18)</b>	<b>6 (2/18)</b>

**Q. 30** Do you think the recently passed Federal tax law will improve the economy here in New York State, worsen the economy in New York, or have no real effect?

DATE	IMPROVE	WORSEN	NO REAL EFFECT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	25	37	29	8
January 2018	24	43	21	11
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (2/18)</b>	<b>43 (1/18)</b>	<b>29 (2/18)</b>	<b>11 (1/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (1/18)</b>	<b>37 (2/18)</b>	<b>21 (1/18)</b>	<b>8 (2/18)</b>

**Q. 31** And you personally, do you think you will be better off financially, worse off financially, or about the same under the new Federal tax law?

DATE	BETTER	WORSE	ABOUT THE SAME	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2018	19	27	47	7
January 2018	15	33	45	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (2/18)</b>	<b>33 (1/18)</b>	<b>47 (2/18)</b>	<b>7 (2/18, 1/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>15 (1/18)</b>	<b>27 (2/18)</b>	<b>45 (1/18)</b>	<b>7 (2/18, 1/18)</b>

**Poll Trend Notes:** \* All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: November 2017, 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 July 2017.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.