



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

PDF version; crosstabs; website:

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY

Siena College Poll:

Cuomo Starts Re-Election Year & Tough Budget Season with All Ratings Up & Best Favorable Rating Since June 2014

Pluralities Say New Federal Tax Law Will Worsen New York's Economy & Have Little Effect on Their Personal Finances

Voters' Top Issue Priorities for the Gov: Taxes & Health Care, Replace Jobs & Education as Top Issues; Strong Support for Many Cuomo SOS Initiatives

Loudonville, NY. Andrew Cuomo begins his eighth year as Governor with his best favorability rating, 62-30 percent, up from 52-43 percent among 2017 likely voters in November, since the middle of his fourth year in office. His job performance rating is 50-48 percent, up from *negative* 45-54 percent in November, and in his strongest showing this cycle, 55 percent of voters are prepared to re-elect him, compared to 36 percent who prefer 'someone else,' according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

A plurality of 43 percent say the new Federal tax law will worsen New York's economy, compared to 24 percent who say it will improve the economy and 21 percent say it will have little effect. A plurality of 45 percent says they will be about the same financially as a result of the new tax law, while 33 percent say they will be worse off, and only 15 percent say they will be better off financially. Taxes and health care are the top two issues voters want the Governor to focus on, replacing perennial favorites, education and jobs.

"Election Day is 42 weeks away. Many political lifetimes. Budgets, trials, legislation, ribbon cuttings, natural or other disasters (hopefully not), Federal issues, and unforeseen events likely to impact the political landscape. That said, Andrew Cuomo enters a re-election year with his best favorability rating since the last re-election campaign, his best job performance rating in eight months, his best re-elect rating in this cycle, and a potpourri of State of the State proposals that are popular with New York voters," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Cuomo's favorability rating is up net 23 points since November's poll of likely 2017 voters, and up net 10 points since the October's Siena College poll of registered voters. He is viewed favorably in every region, including upstate, for the first time since last May, by a 10-point bulge. While a majority of Republicans still views him unfavorably, 41 percent view him favorably, up nine points from November," Greenberg said. "As many watch to see if Cuomo will be challenged from the left again, he has an 80-14 percent favorability rating with liberals."

“Cuomo’s tack to the left has resonated with voters as 41 percent – the highest percentage ever – describe him as a liberal and 40 percent – the lowest percentage ever – identify Cuomo as a moderate, with only 10 percent calling him a conservative,” Greenberg said.

Favorability Ratings – January 2018								
	Total		Dem		Rep		Ind/Other	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav
Andrew Cuomo	62%	30%	76%	18%	41%	56%	58%	30%
Chuck Schumer	59%	32%	74%	19%	37%	56%	51%	36%
Kirsten Gillibrand	51%	23%	62%	12%	35%	45%	45%	25%
Bill de Blasio	44%	37%	61%	25%	17%	59%	39%	39%
NYS Senate	44%	39%	51%	32%	40%	47%	37%	43%
NYS Assembly	42%	36%	49%	30%	36%	45%	38%	38%
Eric Schneiderman	33%	16%	40%	13%	21%	24%	30%	13%
Donald Trump	32%	63%	17%	80%	67%	30%	32%	61%
Tom DiNapoli	27%	12%	25%	12%	28%	10%	28%	13%
John Flanagan	16%	11%	12%	12%	21%	9%	18%	10%
Carl Heastie	12%	11%	14%	10%	12%	13%	9%	10%
Jeff Klein	12%	13%	11%	16%	14%	12%	11%	10%

Siena College Poll – January 16, 2018

“As we start an election year for every statewide office, a US Senate seat, every member of the House and State Legislature, Cuomo sits atop the lineup of New York pols in terms of favorability rating,” Greenberg said. “On the other hand, State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, essentially unknown to more than six in ten voters, is the only one of a dozen officials and institutions to be viewed favorably by Democrats, Republicans and independents.”

NYers on Federal Tax Bill: 24% Say it Will Improve Economy; 15% Say It Will Help Them Financially

“A plurality of Republicans thinks the new Federal tax law will improve the state’s economy, however, a majority or plurality of Democrats, independents and voters from every region thinks the new law will worsen the economy of the state,” Greenberg said.

“And when it comes to how the tax bill affects New Yorkers personally, a plurality of voters from every party, region, gender or age says they will be about the same financially under the law. There are as many Republicans who think they will be better off financially as there are Republicans who think they will be worse off,” Greenberg said. “However, among other parties and regions, as well as genders and age, more voters say they will be worse off financially than say they will be better off as a result of the new law.

“Given how voters feel about the federal tax bill now there has been little political downside for opposing the law, as the Governor spent weeks doing. And given the little difference between how upstaters and downstaters feel on both questions, it will be interesting to see how voters treat three downstate and two upstate Republican House members who voted no, versus the four upstate House GOP members who voted yes,” Greenberg said.

Taxes & Health Care Replace Jobs & Education As Top Priorities for New Yorkers

“Taxes and health care have replaced jobs and education as the top two issues they want the Governor to make priorities this year,” Greenberg said. “Taxes is the top issue for Republicans and independents, while health care is the top issue for Democrats. Similarly, health care is the top

What Issue Should be Cuomo’s Top Priority?			
Issue	2018 Top 2 (Top)	2016 Top 2 (Top)	2015 Top 2 (Top)
Taxes	40% (24%)	31% (18%)	31% (16%)
Health care	38% (20%)	21% (9%)	24% (12%)
Education	33% (14%)	44% (22%)	40% (21%)
Infrastructure	32% (15%)	24% (11%)	22% (9%)
Jobs	29% (14%)	39% (20%)	43% (23%)
State govt. ethics reform	17% (8%)	25% (14%)	19% (9%)
Criminal Justice	9% (4%)	11% (4%)	19% (9%)

Siena College Poll – January 16, 2018

issue for New York City voters, while taxes tops the list for upstate and downstate suburban voters. Jobs, a perennial top two issue for the last decade, has fallen to fifth place, behind even infrastructure.”

Governor’s State of the State Includes Many Proposals with Strong Voter Support

Support/Oppose Gov. Cuomo’s State of the State Proposals					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Pass the Child Victims Act, which would, among other provisions, eliminate the statute of limitations for all sexually-related criminal cases committed against a person less than 18-years old, and extend the statute of limitations for civil litigation	Support	76%	78%	77%	73%
	Oppose	17%	14%	19%	20%
Prohibit public money from being used to settle sexual harassment claims against individuals who work for government agencies	Support	66%	63%	69%	74%
	Oppose	29%	31%	29%	22%
Institute early voting in New York, like exists in dozens of other states	Support	65%	73%	49%	68%
	Oppose	28%	20%	44%	26%
Pass the New York Dream Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education	Support	60%	77%	33%	53%
	Oppose	36%	20%	65%	42%
Make New York’s law on abortion consistent with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade	Support	59%	67%	53%	55%
	Oppose	23%	16%	31%	26%
Sue the Federal government over the recently enacted Federal tax law, because of the loss of the state and local tax deduction	Support	58%	73%	33%	54%
	Oppose	32%	18%	58%	36%
Pass a law to eliminate monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges	Support	57%	65%	44%	54%
	Oppose	35%	27%	49%	36%
Amend the constitution to both change the term of state legislators from 2 to 4 yrs. and implement term limits for state legislators and statewide office holders to 8 yrs.	Support	55%	53%	55%	62%
	Oppose	37%	39%	42%	29%

Siena College Poll – January 16, 2018

“Passing the Child Victims Act, prohibiting public money to settle sexual harassment claims and instituting early voting all have bipartisan support of at least 65 percent. Despite Republican opposition, the Dream Act enjoys the support of 60 percent of New Yorkers, its strongest-ever support in a Siena College poll,” Greenberg said.

“Republicans also oppose suing the Federal government over the tax law and eliminating monetary bail for misdemeanors and non-violent felonies, both supported by independents and strongly supported by Democrats.”

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted January 7-11, 2018 by telephone calls conducted in English to 824 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 ± 4.0 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, 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.



SIENA COLLEGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

Siena College Poll Trends – January 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
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
May 2017	52	33	16
April 2017	52	33	16
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)

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
January 2018	3	27	42	23	5
July 2017	2	27	42	23	5
December 2016	2	28	44	21	4
HIGHEST EVER	3 (several)	29 (7/14)	49 (8/12)	67 (3/22/10)	5 (1/18, 7/17)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc.)	25 (3/22/10)	21 (12/16)	0 (4/11, etc.)

Q. 3 Is the United States on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	33	58	9
October 2017	26	65	9
September 2017	27	62	11
July 2017	33	58	8
May 2017	28	61	11
April 2017	36	51	13
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
May 2017	61	31	8
April 2017	54	37	9
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. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
May 2017	45	34	21
April 2017	45	36	19
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/17, 2/17)	61 (7/10)	21 (5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	34 (5/17)	10 (5/15)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2018 – Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
May 2017	48	35	17
April 2017	46	38	16
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (1/18, 5/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	35 (5/17)	6 (7/09)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	12	11	77
October 2017	11	14	75
April 2017	13	17	70
HIGHEST EVER	14 (2/15)	20 (10/15)	78 (1/17, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	11 (1/18)	69 (4/15)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Flanagan?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	16	11	73
October 2017	14	13	73
April 2017	13	15	71
HIGHEST EVER	17 (5/15)	16 (5/3/16, 10/15)	75 (7/15)
LOWEST EVER	12 (12/15, 7/15)	11 (1/18)	69 (10/15, 5/15)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeff Klein?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	12	13	75
March 2014	17	13	70
HIGHEST EVER	17 (3/14, 4/13)	15 (4/13)	84 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	9 (11/09)	7 (11/09)	68 (4/13)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	33	16	51
September 2017	32	19	49
March 2017	39	19	42
HIGHEST EVER	41 (10/14)	27 (10/31/10)	86 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	8 (11/09)	6 (5/10, 11/09)	39 (10/14)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	27	12	62
September 2017	24	17	59
March 2017	28	14	58
HIGHEST EVER	35 (10/14)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	10 (12/09, 11/08)	37 (10/31/10)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2018 – Page 3

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	32	63	4
November 2017*	31	65	3
October 2017	28	68	4
September 2017	29	66	5
July 2017	34	62	4
May 2017	30	65	5
April 2017	34	61	6
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	51	23	26
November 2017*	58	26	17
October 2017	50	23	28
September 2017	49	23	28
July 2017	43	24	33
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	34 (10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	59	32	9
October 2017	58	31	11
September 2017	58	32	10
July 2017	53	37	9
May 2017	57	33	10
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	37 (7/17)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	53 (7/17)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	44	37	19
July 2017	32	49	18
December 2016	35	45	20
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/18)	49 (7/17)	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	32 (7/17)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

Q. 16 If Kirsten Gillibrand runs for re-election as United States Senator this year, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	50	32	18
November 2017*	54	32	14
October 2017	48	33	19
September 2017	47	32	21
July 2017	43	35	22
HIGHEST EVER	54 (11/17)	35 (7/17)	22 (7/17)
LOWEST EVER	43 (7/17)	32 (1/18, 11/17, 9/17)	14 (11/17)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2018 – Page 4

Q. 17 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
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
May 2017	53	36	10
April 2017	51	39	11
HIGHEST EVER	55 (1/18)	49 (9/16, 5/31/16)	11 (4/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	42 (5/31/16)	36 (1/18, 5/17)	6 (9/16, 6/16)

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
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
May 2017	10	41	31	15	2
April 2017	10	37	33	18	3
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. 21 Based on what you've seen of him as Governor, would you describe Andrew Cuomo as a liberal, a moderate or a conservative?

DATE	LIBERAL	MODERATE	CONSERVATIVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	41	40	10	9
December 2016	39	44	9	9
February 2016	39	42	12	7
July 2015	33	45	13	10
HIGHEST EVER	41 (1/18)	60 (3/11)	15 (4/11, 2/11)	10 (7/15, 4/11, 1/11)
LOWEST EVER	21 (2/11)	40 (1/18)	8 (7/11)	6 (9/13)

Q. 22/23 As Andrew Cuomo begins his eighth year as Governor, which of the following issues do you think should be his top 2018 priority....and his next top priority? ^ (First number reflects combined top and 2nd top priority; number in parentheses is top priority only.) (CHOICES WERE ROTATED.)

ISSUE	JANUARY 2018	FEBRUARY 2016	JANUARY 2015
Jobs	29 (14)	39 (20)	43 (23)
Education	33 (14)	44 (22)	40 (21)
Criminal justice	9 (4)	11 (4)	19 (9)
Taxes	40 (24)	31 (18)	31 (16)
State govt. ethics reform	17 (8)	25 (14)	19 (9)
Health care	38 (20)	21 (9)	24 (12)
Infrastructure	32 (15)	24 (11)	22 (9)
Something else	1 (0)	3 (1)	2 (1)
Don't know/no opinion	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)

Q. 24 Last Wednesday, Governor Cuomo delivered his eighth State of the State address to kick off the new legislative session in Albany. How much have you read or heard about his speech? A great deal, some, not very much or nothing at all? ^

DATE	A GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	NOTHING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	5	21	28	45	1
January 2014	7	24	31	37	0
January 2013	14	29	29	27	0
January 2011	16	33	30	20	0
HIGHEST EVER	16 (1/11)	33 (1/11)	31 (1/14)	45 (1/18)	1 (1/18)
LOWEST EVER	5 (1/18)	21 (1/18)	28 (1/18)	20 (1/11)	0 (1/14, 1/13, 1/11)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2018 – Page 5

Q. 27 In last week’s State of the State speech, Gov. Cuomo laid out his agenda for the 2018 legislative session. I’m going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018: 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? (JUNE 2013 question: Specifically, the Governor’s proposal calls for making New York’s law on abortion consistent with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade. Do you support or oppose making New York State laws consistent with Roe v. Wade?)

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON’T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	59	23	18
June 2013	60	24	15
HIGHEST EVER	60 (6/13)	24 (6/13)	18 (1/18)
LOWEST EVER	59 (1/18)	23 (1/18)	15 (6/13)

Q. 30 In last week’s State of the State speech, Gov. Cuomo laid out his agenda for the 2018 legislative session. I’m going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018: 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
January 2018	60	36	4
March 2017	53	42	5
February 2017	52	46	2
January 2017	52	44	4
February 2016	45	52	3
HIGHEST EVER	60 (1/18)	52 (2/16)	8 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	44 (4/15, 12/14)	36 (1/18)	2 (2/17)

Q. 32 In last week’s State of the State speech, Gov. Cuomo laid out his agenda for the 2018 legislative session. I’m going to ask you about several proposals the Governor said were his priorities for 2018: Do you support or oppose – Amend the State Constitution to both change the term of state legislators from two to four years and implement term limits for state legislators and statewide office holder to eight years?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON’T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2018	55	37	8
February 2017	57	37	6
January 2017	60	34	6
HIGHEST EVER	60 (1/17)	37 (1/18, 2/17)	8 (1/18)
LOWEST EVER	55 (1/18)	34 (1/17)	6 (2/17, 1/17)

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 April 2017.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.