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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

By 2-to-1, New Yorkers Support SAFE Act & Banning Assault Weapon Sales Nationally; Two-Thirds Oppose Arming Teachers

**Cuomo – Despite Job Performance Rating Slip – Is Strongly Favored By Dems Over Nixon (66-19%); Has 2-to-1 Leads Over Both DeFrancisco & Molinaro (Half of Reps Don't Know Who They'd Support in that Primary)
*Trump Remains Solidly Under Water with Voters; Still Strong with Reps***

Loudonville, NY. Five years after its passage, the New York SAFE Act remains very popular with voters, who now support it 61-28 percent (up from 59-33 percent in October 2015). Voters strongly to overwhelmingly support six measures to address guns and/or school safety – three passed by the State Senate and three passed by the State Assembly – though none have yet passed both houses. By a 65-32 percent margin, voters support a ban on the sale of assault weapons nationally. And voters oppose, 69-28 percent, allowing teachers to be licensed to carry concealed firearms in school, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters.

Governor Andrew Cuomo's favorability rating held steady, though his job performance and re-elect ratings fell a little this month, the second month in a row that they dropped. Cuomo is overwhelmingly favored by Democrats over a potential Democratic primary opponent, actor/activist Cynthia Nixon, 66-19 percent. And Cuomo holds early leads over two potential Republican opponents – Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro (57-29 percent) and State Senator John DeFrancisco (57-28 percent).

"The SAFE Act continues to enjoy overwhelming support among Democrats, independents and downstaters. A small plurality of upstate voters supports it, while Republicans are virtually evenly divided," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "Voters who claim to have a gun or rifle in their home – about one in five voters statewide – oppose the SAFE Act by a relatively narrow 49-42 percent. More than two-thirds of voters in households with no gun support the SAFE Act.

"Banning assault weapon sales nationally is supported by more than three-quarters of Democrats and small majorities of Republicans and independents. It is supported by more than two-thirds of downstaters and 57 percent of upstaters. Gun owners are evenly divided," Greenberg said. "While by 11 points Republicans support allowing teachers to be armed, Democrats, independents and downstaters overwhelmingly oppose it, as do a majority of upstaters and a narrow majority of gun owners."

“The Assembly passed three gun control measures – increasing the waiting period to up to 10 days for background checks, prohibiting sale of guns to people convicted of domestic violence crimes and banning the sale of bump stocks – that all enjoy strong bipartisan support of between 78 and 90 percent. The Senate passed three school safety measures – half of school lock down drills must be ‘active shooter’ drills, provide for school resource officers at schools outside New York City and NYPD officers at City schools – that all enjoy strong bipartisan support of between 69 and 78 percent,” Greenberg said. “Voters clearly support all six of these bills.”

New York Voters on Gun & School Safety Proposals						
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	Gun Owners
In 2013, the Gov and Leg enacted what some have called the toughest gun control law in the country that was named the SAFE Act by Gov. Cuomo. Now, 5 years later, do you support or oppose the SAFE Act, the gun control law passed in 2013?	Support	61%	74%	41%	56%	42%
	Oppose	28%	17%	42%	34%	49%
Establish waiting period of up to 10 days - up from 3 - before person could purchase a gun in NY, to ensure a background check can be completed before the gun is sold	Support	90%	95%	87%	85%	86%
	Oppose	9%	4%	11%	13%	13%
Prohibit the sale of guns to individuals convicted of a domestic violence crime	Support	85%	88%	84%	82%	87%
	Oppose	13%	12%	12%	14%	10%
Mandate that two of the four required annual “lock down drills” conducted by schools be held as “active shooter drills”	Support	78%	74%	84%	81%	80%
	Oppose	15%	18%	11%	13%	15%
Ban the sale in New York of “bump stocks” or similar devices, which can turn semi-automatic weapons into weapons that operate like machine guns	Support	78%	82%	75%	74%	77%
	Oppose	20%	17%	25%	21%	20%
Provide state funding for schools outside of NYC to hire a school resource officer, who would be an active or retired police officer, deputy sheriff, or state trooper	Support	75%	70%	87%	78%	79%
	Oppose	22%	27%	12%	19%	19%
Require a New York City police officer to be stationed at all public and private schools in NYC from one hour before till one hour after school is in session	Support	69%	67%	75%	69%	72%
	Oppose	26%	29%	22%	24%	24%
Do you support or oppose banning the sale of assault weapons in the United States?	Support	65%	78%	51%	55%	49%
	Oppose	32%	21%	43%	42%	48%
Do you support or oppose allowing teachers to be licensed to carry concealed firearms in schools?	Support	28%	12%	53%	36%	45%
	Oppose	69%	86%	42%	60%	50%

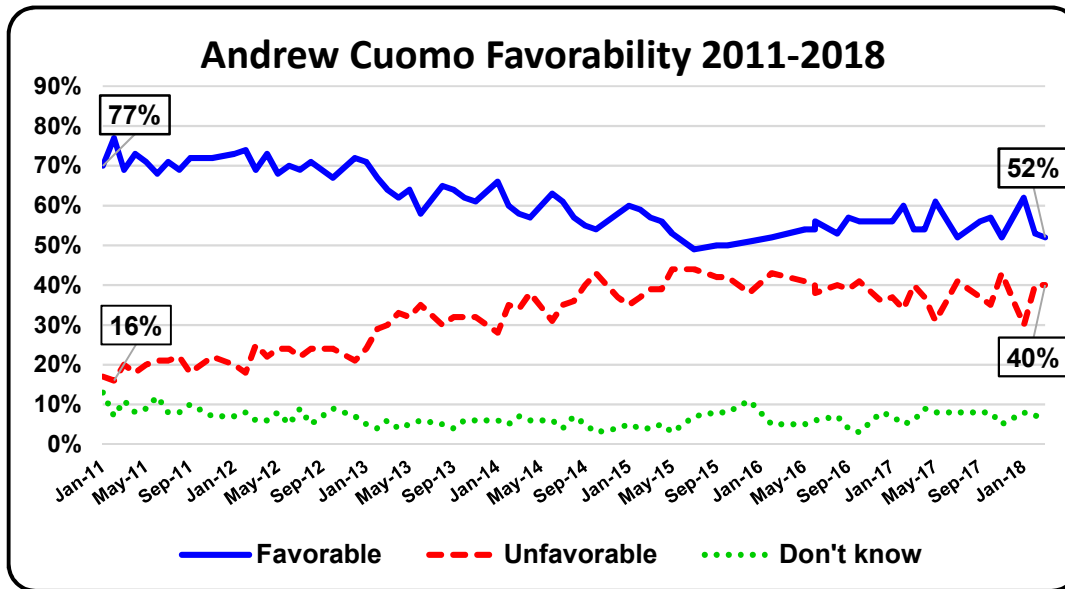
Siena College Poll – March 19, 2018

Cuomo Has Large Early Primary & General Election Leads; Job Rating Lowest Since September 2016

“With an overall 20-19 percent favorability rating – 26-16 percent among Democrats – Cynthia Nixon is far from a household name in New York, though she is better known than either Molinaro or DeFrancisco,” Greenberg said. “Among registered Democrats (not likely primary voters) Cuomo is favored over Nixon by a huge 66-19 percent margin, including among self-identified liberals, 63-18 percent. While Nixon does a little better among younger and upstate Democrats, she doesn’t have the support of more than one-quarter of either group.

“Looking at potential general election matchups, Cuomo has strong early leads over both declared but little-known Republicans, DeFrancisco and Molinaro. Cuomo has the support of more than 80 percent of Democrats against either, while two-thirds of Republicans would support either over Cuomo,” Greenberg said. “Cuomo has the support of a small plurality of independents against either and strong support from downstate voters, while upstate voters are closely divided between Cuomo and either Republican.

“In an early look at how Republicans feel about their candidates – both are unknown to more than three-quarters of Republicans – DeFrancisco has the support of 21 percent to Molinaro’s 17 percent. Half of Republicans are undecided between the two, while 13 percent said they wouldn’t vote for either,” Greenberg said.



“Cuomo’s favorability rating is down just one point from last month,” Greenberg said. “More voters, 46 percent, now describe Cuomo as a liberal, than at any time since he’s been Governor. While Democrats see him as a moderate, a majority of Republicans and independents describe him as a liberal.”

Trump – Still Very Strong with Republicans – Remains Very Unpopular with New Yorkers

President Trump’s favorability rating, *negative* 33-63 percent, is unmoved from last month’s *negative* 33-62 percent. Trump’s overall job performance rating is *negative* 29-69 percent, unmoved from *negative* 29-70 percent last month. While his job performance ratings on specific issues remain solidly under water on six issues, on three – jobs, working with Congress and addressing North Korea – he’s made double digit gains since October.

“Two-thirds of Republicans give Trump a positive job performance rating and 70 percent view him favorably. But New York’s Democrats and independents remain decidedly negative to the first President from New York since FDR,” Greenberg said. “Between 60 and 65 percent of voters give him a negative rating on his handling of jobs, terrorism, North Korea, and trade policy. He gets a negative rating from about three-quarters of voters on working with Congress and protecting US elections from foreign interference. Even Republicans give him a negative grade working with Congress, and they’re closely divided on his handling of protecting our elections.”

Gillibrand Currently Has Smooth Sailing Toward a Second Full Term as a Senator

“While nine-year Senator Kirsten Gillibrand remains unknown to a quarter of voters, she has 49-25 percent favorability rating, compared to her virtually unknown opponent, Chele Chiavacci Farley, who has an anemic 5-9 percent *negative* favorability rating,” Greenberg said. “With a 79-point lead with Democrats, an 18-point lead with independents, and a 36-point deficit with Republicans, Gillibrand has a more-than-comfortable early 60-24 percent lead over Farley, who currently does not get more than one-third support in any region of the state.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted March 11-16, 2018 by telephone calls conducted in English to 772 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 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.



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Siena College Poll Trends – March 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
March 2018	46	42	12
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
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 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
March 2018	33	58	9
February 2018	34	59	7
January 2018	33	58	9
October 2017	26	65	9
September 2017	27	62	11
July 2017	33	58	8
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. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	52	40	8
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
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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	41	38	20
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
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/17, 2/17)	61 (7/10)	21 (2/18, 5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	34 (5/17)	10 (5/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	39	44	16
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
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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John DeFrancisco?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	11	13	76
February 2018	10	9	81
HIGHEST EVER	11 (3/18)	13 (3/18)	81 (2/18)
LOWEST EVER	10 (2/18)	9 (2/18)	76 (3/18)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	49	25	25
February 2018	48	27	25
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. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	54	36	11
February 2018	52	39	9
January 2018	59	32	9
October 2017	58	31	11
September 2017	58	32	10
July 2017	53	37	9
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	39 (2/18)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	52 (2/18)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chele Chiavacci Farley?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	5	9	86
February 2018	6	6	89
HIGHEST EVER	6 (2/18)	9 (3/18)	89 (2/18)
LOWEST EVER	5 (3/18)	6 (2/18)	86 (3/18)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	33	63	4
February 2018	33	62	4
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
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

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Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	34	21	45
January 2018	33	16	51
September 2017	32	19	49
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. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	28	14	58
January 2018	27	12	62
September 2017	24	17	59
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)

Q. 15 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
March 2018	50	33	17
February 2018	47	35	18
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 (2/18, 7/17)	22 (7/17)
LOWEST EVER	43 (7/17)	32 (1/18, 11/17, 9/17)	14 (11/17)

Q. 16 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
March 2018	48	46	6
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
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 (3/18, 9/16, 6/16)

Q. 22 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
March 2018	8	34	32	25	1
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
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	25 (3/18, 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)

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Q. 23 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
March 2018	46	41	6	8
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	46 (3/18)	60 (3/11)	15 (4/11, 2/11)	10 (7/15, 4/11, 1/11)
LOWEST EVER	21 (2/11)	40 (1/18)	6 (3/18)	6 (9/13)

Q. 24 In 2013, the Governor and Legislature enacted what some have called the toughest gun control law in the country that was named the SAFE Act by Governor Cuomo. Now, five years later, do you support or oppose the SAFE Act, the gun control law passed in 2013? ^ (Slight wording changes to reflect the timeframe in which the question was asked.)

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	61	28	11
October 2015	59	33	8
May 2015	62	33	6
December 2014	58	33	9
March 2014	63	32	5
HIGHEST EVER	63 (3/14)	33 (10/15, 5/15, 12/14)	11 (3/18)
LOWEST EVER	58 (12/14)	28 (3/18)	5 (3/14)

Q. 33 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
March 2018	23	39	27	10
February 2018	25	37	29	8
January 2018	24	43	21	11
HIGHEST EVER	25 (2/18)	43 (1/18)	29 (2/18)	11 (1/18)
LOWEST EVER	23 (3/18)	37 (2/18)	21 (1/18)	8 (2/18)

Q. 34 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
March 2018	20	28	46	6
February 2018	19	27	47	7
January 2018	15	33	45	7
HIGHEST EVER	20 (3/18)	33 (1/18)	47 (2/18)	7 (2/18, 1/18)
LOWEST EVER	15 (1/18)	27 (2/18)	45 (1/18)	6 (3/18)

Q. 35 How would you rate the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	14	15	15	54	1
February 2018	12	17	14	56	1
October 2017	8	15	14	63	0
September 2017	8	14	18	59	1
July 2017	11	19	16	52	2
HIGHEST EVER	14 (3/18)	19 (7/17)	20 (2/17)	63 (10/17)	3 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	8 (10/17, 9/17)	14 (9/17)	14 (2/18, etc.)	48 (2/17)	0 (10/17)

Q. 36 Specifically, how would you rate the job that President Trump is doing on creating jobs? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	21	17	21	39	2
October 2017	11	17	22	46	3
September 2017	12	18	26	40	4
February 2017	19	17	24	35	5
HIGHEST EVER	21 (3/18)	18 (9/17)	26 (9/17)	46 (10/17)	5 (2/17)
LOWEST EVER	11 (10/17)	17 (3/18, 10/17, 2/17)	21 (3/18)	35 (2/17)	2 (3/18)

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Q. 37 Specifically, how would you rate the job that President Trump is doing on working collaboratively with Congress? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	8	14	18	57	2
October 2017	5	11	17	64	2
September 2017	3	11	21	61	4
February 2017	6	20	27	43	5
HIGHEST EVER	8 (3/18)	20 (2/17)	27 (2/17)	64 (10/17)	5 (2/17)
LOWEST EVER	3 (9/17)	11 (10/17, 9/17)	17 (10/17)	43 (2/17)	2 (3/18, 10/17)

Q. 38 Specifically, how would you rate the job that President Trump is doing on keeping America safe from terrorism? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	18	19	20	41	2
October 2017	17	19	17	46	2
September 2017	14	20	22	41	3
February 2017	18	18	20	40	4
HIGHEST EVER	18 (3/18, 2/17)	20 (9/17)	22 (9/17)	46 (10/17)	4 (2/17)
LOWEST EVER	14 (9/17)	18 (2/17)	17 (10/17)	40 (2/17)	2 (3/18, 10/17)

Q. 39 Specifically, how would you rate the job that President Trump is doing on addressing the conflict between the United States and North Korea? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2018	14	19	16	48	3
October 2017	9	16	12	61	2
September 2017	11	16	17	51	5
HIGHEST EVER	14 (3/18)	19 (3/18)	17 (9/17)	61 (10/17)	5 (9/17)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/17)	16 (10/17, 9/17)	12 (10/17)	48 (3/18)	2 (10/17)

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 July 2017.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.