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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

Likely Voters Oppose ConCon More Than Two-to-One, 57-25%

By Similar 60-29% Margin, Voters Say About ConCon: Nothing Good Will Get Done, Rather than Chance to Improve Lives of NYers

***Pension Forfeiture Amendment Has Huge 82-14% Support;
Adirondack Land Bank Amendment Has Tepid 46-35% Support***

Loudonville, NY. By a wide margin, 57-25 percent, likely voters say they will vote *no* on the Constitutional Convention proposal on next week's ballot. By a similar 60-29 percent margin, likely voters say it *will* be an expensive waste of time, rather than a *once in a generation* opportunity to bring our State Constitution into the 21st Century, according to a new Siena College Poll of likely 2017 New York State voters released today.

More than one-third of likely voters say they *have* heard or read a great deal about ConCon and another 27 percent say they *have* read or heard some. Only 19 percent say they *have* read or heard nothing about ConCon. The proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot related to pension forfeiture for public officers convicted of felonies related to their official duties has overwhelming support, 82-14 percent, including at least 76 percent support from every region and party. The amendment related to the land bank for the Adirondacks and Catskills is supported 46-35 percent, with support from a plurality of voters from every region and party.

If history is any guide, the turnout in next week's elections figures to be very light. In 2013, fewer than one in three registered New York voters cast their ballots. So, the decision of whether or not New York should hold a Constitutional Convention in 2019 will likely be decided by a small minority of New Yorkers *—* those who both vote in Tuesday's election, *and* remember to flip the ballot to the back to vote on ConCon, said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. *With* less than a week till election day, those likely voters are decidedly negative about supporting ConCon. In fact, only one-quarter of likely voters say they *are* prepared to vote *yes*.

While a small plurality of likely New York City voters opposes ConCon, strong majorities of downstate suburbanites and upstate voters oppose it. Democrats and independents oppose ConCon by about two-to-one, while Republicans oppose it better than three-to-one, Greenberg said. *Interestingly*, ConCon unites voters across the ideological spectrum. It is opposed by 55 percent of moderates, 56 percent of liberals and 60 percent of conservatives. Non-union households oppose ConCon by 23 points and union households oppose it by 50 points.

“Upstaters, downstaters and voters from all parties also strongly agree that ConCon is more likely to be an expensive waste of time where nothing good will get done than it is to be a once in a generation opportunity to improve the lives and safeguard the rights of New Yorkers,” Greenberg said. “On this question as well, there is no ideological difference as 59 percent of liberals and moderates and 63 percent of conservatives say ConCon will be an expensive waste of time.”

Strong Support for Several Issues that Could be ConCon Topics of Discussion

Issues regarding NYS & its government that could be discussed at a ConCon				
	Nov 1, 2017		Oct 6, 2017	
	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Members of the NYS Legislature should be subject to term limits	84%	13%	81%	16%
Statewide offices . Gov., AG, Comptroller . should be subject to term limits	79%	19%	81%	17%
The LLC loophole should be eliminated	77%	19%	73%	24%
NY should allow vote on proposed laws through a ballot initiative process	74%	17%	78%	14%
Legislators should be full-time and not be permitted outside employment	65%	26%	66%	25%
The recreational use of marijuana should be legalized	46%	50%	N/A	N/A
Policies in Adirondacks should be revised to increase economic development	37%	55%	43%	49%
The collective bargaining rights of public employees should be limited	36%	57%	41%	53%
<i>November poll of likely voters. October poll of registered voters.</i>				
Siena College Poll – November 1, 2017				

“Whether or not ConCon is approved, these likely voters ó regardless of party, geography, gender, race, income, or ideology ó overwhelmingly support term limits for legislators and state elected officials, eliminating the LLC loophole, creating a system of initiative and referendum, and making the State Legislature full-time, with a ban on outside employment,” Greenberg said. “Likely voters are closely divided on legalizing recreational use of marijuana, and they oppose limiting collective bargaining rights for public employees and revising state policies to allow increased economic development in the Adirondacks.”

Likely 2017 Voters Give Lower Ratings to Cuomo & Legislature; Better Ratings to Trump & Gillibrand

Governor Andrew Cuomo’s favorability rating is 52-43 percent with likely voters, down from 57-35 percent last month among registered voters. The Assembly has a *negative* 39-44 percent favorability with likely voters, down from 43-37 percent last month among registered voters. The Senate has a *negative* 37-48 percent favorability with likely voters, down from 47-37 percent last month among registered voters. President Donald Trump has a *negative* 31-65 percent favorability with likely voters, up a little from *negative* 28-68 percent last month among registered voters. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has a 58-26 percent favorability with likely voters, up a little from 50-23 percent last month among registered voters.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted October 25-29, 2017 by telephone calls conducted in English to 814 New York State likely voters. Calls were made to a stratified weighted sample of voters from the L-2 Voter File via both land and cell phones. It has an overall margin of error of ± 3.4 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. A likely-to-vote probability was computed for each respondent based on their responses to a five question likely-to-vote screen. This probability to vote score was applied as a weight along with a weight that considered age, gender, race and 2013 voter turnout by party and region. 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 – November 2017

Q. 2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
March 2017	54	40	6
February 2017	60	34	5
January 2017	56	37	7
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. 9 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
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
March 2017	9	38	35	17	2
February 2017	9	41	33	15	2
January 2017	9	36	36	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. 8 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
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
March 2017	48	41	11
February 2017	50	41	9
January 2017	47	44	9
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. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
March 2017	46	36	18
February 2017	46	38	16
January 2017	45	35	20
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/17, 2/17)	61 (7/10)	21 (5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	34 (5/17)	10 (5/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
March 2017	45	39	17
February 2017	50	40	10
January 2017	49	36	16
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. 10 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
November 2017*	35	27	19	19	0
October 2017	10	16	24	49	1
September 2017	8	11	21	58	1
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	35 (11/17)	27 (11/17)	24 (10/17, 4/17)	75 (7/15)	2 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	2 (several)	4 (7/15)	18 (7/17, 2/17)	19 (11/17)	0 (11/17, 2/17, 7/15)

Q. 11 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
November 2017*	25	57	18
October 2017	44	39	17
September 2017	45	33	22
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)	57 (11/17)	22 (9/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (11/17)	15 (7/15)	12 (5/3/16, 8/09)

Q. 12 If a Constitutional Convention were to be held, which of the following statements is closest to your view on how the convention would proceed (choices were rotated): It will be an expensive waste of time run by the same politicians, lobbyists, and special interest groups who have controlled Albany for decades. Nothing good will get done. OR It will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring our State Constitution into the 21st Century, with real public input, to improve the lives and safeguard the rights of New Yorkers.

DATE	NOTHING GOOD WILL GET DONE	ONCE IN GENERATION OPPORTUNITY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	60	29	11
October 2017	45	44	11
HIGHEST EVER	60 (11/17)	44 (10/17)	11 (11/17, 10/17)
LOWEST EVER	45 (10/17)	29 (11/17)	11 (11/17, 10/17)

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Lead in to questions 13-19: There are many issues regarding New York State and its government that could be discussed at a Constitutional Convention. I am going to ask you about several specific proposals and for each I want you to tell me whether you strongly support it, somewhat support it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it.

- Q. 13** Current state policies that limit development in the Adirondacks for conservation purposes should be revised to allow for increased economic development.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	15	22	16	39	8
October 2017	22	21	15	34	8
HIGHEST EVER	22 (10/17)	22 (11/17)	16 (11/17)	39 (11/17)	8 (11/17, 10/17)
LOWEST EVER	15 (11/17)	21 (10/17)	15 (10/17)	34 (10/17)	8 (11/17, 10/17)

- Q. 14** Members of the New York State Legislature should be subject to term limits, only allowing them to serve a limited number of terms in the Assembly and Senate.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	61	23	8	5	2
October 2017	60	21	8	8	3
HIGHEST EVER	61 (11/17)	23 (11/17)	8 (11/17, 10/17)	5 (11/17)	3 (10/17)
LOWEST EVER	60 (10/17)	21 (10/17)	8 (11/17, 10/17)	8 (10/17)	2 (11/17)

- Q. 15** Statewide officials ó Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General ó should be subject to term limits, only allowing someone to serve two terms in that office.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	58	21	11	8	2
October 2017	56	25	10	7	2
HIGHEST EVER	58 (11/17)	25 (10/17)	11 (11/17)	8 (11/17)	2 (11/17, 10/17)
LOWEST EVER	56 (10/17)	21 (11/17)	10 (10/17)	7 (10/17)	2 (11/17, 10/17)

- Q. 16** Similar to some other states, New York should allow citizens to vote directly on proposed laws through a ballot initiative process.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	42	32	10	7	10
October 2017	47	31	8	6	8
HIGHEST EVER	47 (10/17)	32 (11/17)	10 (11/17)	7 (11/17)	10 (11/17)
LOWEST EVER	42 (11/17)	31 (10/17)	8 (10/17)	6 (10/17)	8 (10/17)

- Q. 17** The so-called LLC loophole that allows corporations or individuals to donate almost unlimited amounts of money to candidates in New York should be eliminated.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	61	16	7	12	4
October 2017	58	15	11	13	3
HIGHEST EVER	61 (11/17)	16 (11/17)	11 (10/17)	13 (10/17)	4 (11/17)
LOWEST EVER	58 (10/17)	15 (10/17)	7 (11/17)	12 (11/17)	3 (10/17)

- Q. 18** The job of state legislator should be changed from a part-time position that allows for outside employment to a full-time position that does not permit outside employment.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	39	26	14	12	9
October 2017	38	28	13	12	10
HIGHEST EVER	39 (11/17)	28 (10/17)	14 (11/17)	12 (11/17, 10/17)	10 (10/17)
LOWEST EVER	38 (10/17)	26 (11/17)	13 (10/17)	12 (11/17, 10/17)	9 (11/17)

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Q. 19 The collective bargaining rights of public employees should be limited.

DATE	STRONGLY SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	18	18	15	42	8
October 2017	19	22	18	35	6
HIGHEST EVER	19 (10/17)	22 (10/17)	15 (11/17)	42 (11/17)	8 (11/17)
LOWEST EVER	18 (11/17)	18 (11/17)	18 (10/17)	35 (10/17)	6 (10/17)

Q. 21 Another question on the November ballot for New York voters proposes to amend the State Constitution. Specifically, voters will be asked whether they approve the following amendment: "The proposed amendment to section 7 of Article 2 of the State Constitution would allow a court to reduce or revoke the pension of a public officer who is convicted of a felony that has a direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer's duties." Will you vote "yes" or "no" on this proposed amendment to the State Constitution?

DATE	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	82	14	5
October 2017	81	15	4
July 2017	75	18	17
HIGHEST EVER	82 (11/17)	18 (7/17)	17 (7/17)
LOWEST EVER	75 (7/17)	14 (11/17)	4 (10/17)

Q. 22 A third ballot proposal on the November ballot for New York voters proposes to amend the State Constitution regarding land use in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Specifically, voters will be asked whether they approve the following amendment: "The proposed amendment will create a land account with up to 250 acres of forest preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to suing forest preserve land to address specific public health and safety concerns; as a substitute for the land removed from the forest preserve, another 250 acres of land, will be added to the forest preserve, subject to legislative approval." Will you vote "yes" or "no" on this proposed amendment to the State Constitution?

DATE	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	46	35	18
October 2017	52	33	14
HIGHEST EVER	52 (10/17)	35 (11/17)	18 (11/17)
LOWEST EVER	46 (11/17)	33 (10/17)	14 (10/17)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
March 2017	33	63	4
February 2017	36	59	5
January 2017	37	55	8
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2017*	58	26	17
October 2017	50	23	28
September 2017	49	23	28
July 2017	43	24	33
February 2017	46	24	29
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	34 (10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

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Q. 7 If Kirsten Gillibrand runs for re-election as United States Senator in 2018, 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
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 (11/17, 9/17)	14 (11/17)

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
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
March 2017	49	39	13
February 2017	55	38	7
January 2017	54	34	12
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: 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 December 2016.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.