



# SIENA COLLEGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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Contact:

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Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

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**Siena College Poll:**

## **Voters Give Cuomo His Best Favorability & Job Performance Ratings in More than Two Years**

**Support Remains Strong for Millionaire's Tax, Uber/Lyft Ride Sharing, Child Care Tax Credit, Limiting Legislators' Outside Income, Free SUNY/CUNY Tuition for Those Earning Under \$125K, Term Limits**  
***Trump's Favorability Rating Continues to Fall with New Yorkers; Overall Job Performance Rating More than Two-to-One Negative***

**Loudonville, NY.** For the first time since January 2015, 60 percent of New Yorkers have a favorable view of Governor Andrew Cuomo, and his job performance rating is now positive for the first time since July 2014, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today. Cuomo's favorability rating is 60-34 percent, up from 56-37 last month. His job performance rating is 50-48 percent, up from a negative 45-53 percent last month. And for the first time, half of voters now say they are prepared to re-elect him. Support remains strong for several of the Governor's budget proposals.

For the second month in a row, President Trump's favorability rating fell. He now has a *negative* 36-59 percent favorability rating, down from a *negative* 37-55 percent favorability rating last month. Only 29 percent of New Yorkers give him a positive job performance rating, while 68 percent rate his job performance negatively. On nine specific issues, between 59 and 72 percent of voters give the President a negative job performance rating.

"Voters like Cuomo more now than at any time since his second term began. Maybe it's because they like his 2017 agenda, or perhaps it's a comparison with the President, or it might simply be because it's been quiet the last few months on the corruption front. Whatever the reason, Cuomo is riding high with New Yorkers right now," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "Sixty percent of voters view him favorably, half give him a positive job performance rating and half say they are prepared to re-elect the Governor next year.

"More than three-quarters support Cuomo's proposals to both extend the millionaire's tax and allow ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft to operate across New York," Greenberg said. "On ridesharing, at least 70 percent of voters from every region and party are supportive. At least 70 percent of voters from every region support the millionaire's tax, as do 85 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents and 57 percent of Republicans."

<b>Proposals from Governor Cuomo – Support or Oppose?</b>				
	<b>February 27, 2017</b>		<b>January 30, 2017</b>	
	<b>Sup</b>	<b>Opp</b>	<b>Sup</b>	<b>Opp</b>
Extending the millionaire’s tax, which was scheduled to expire at the end of 2017	77%	21%	74%	23%
Allowing ride sharing services like UBER and LYFT to operate across NYS, as they do now in NYC	76%	16%	77%	15%
Enhancing middle-class child care tax credit by doubling for families making between \$60K & \$100K	65%	28%	66%	26%
Amending state constitution: limit legislators’ outside income to 15% of salary, currently allow about \$12K	61%	30%	61%	28%
Making college tuition free at SUNY and CUNY for New York families making less than \$125,000	58%	39%	60%	37%
Amending state constitution: change term of legislators from 2 to 4 years & implement term limits for state legislators and statewide office holders to 8 years	57%	37%	60%	34%
Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age	53%	45%	46%	49%
The New York Dream Act	52%	46%	52%	44%
Completing a 750-mile biking and hiking pathway from NYC to Canada and from Albany to Buffalo	38%	57%	43%	52%
<b>Siena College Poll – February 27, 2017</b>				

“The Governor also enjoys strong bipartisan support for enhancing the middle-class child care tax credit, limiting legislators’ outside income and imposing term limits on both legislators and statewide office holders,” Greenberg said. “His proposal to make SUNY/CUNY tuition free for families earning less than \$125,000 per year has support from both Democrats and independents, and is opposed by Republicans.

“Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 is now supported by a small majority of voters, with Democrats strongly supportive, independents closely divided and Republicans opposed. Similarly, the Dream Act enjoys overwhelming Democratic support, while independents narrowly oppose it and three-quarters of Republicans oppose it,” Greenberg said. “Voters from every party and region are agreed in their opposition to the Governor’s proposal to complete a 750-mile biking and hiking pathway across the state.”

**Partisan Divide on Voters’ View of Trump; Two-Thirds of NYers Rate His Job Performance Negatively**

“In this deep blue state, Trump enjoys support from his fellow New York Republicans – 71 percent, down from 77 percent last month, view him favorably and 61 percent of Republicans give him a positive job performance rating,” Greenberg said. “However, 79 percent of Democrats view him unfavorably and 85 percent give him a negative job performance rating, while 53 percent of independents view him unfavorably and 64 percent rate his job performance negatively.

“Voters from every region of the state view Trump unfavorably, although it’s only a plurality of downstate suburbanites, and at least 62 percent of voters from every region give the President a negative job performance rating,” Greenberg said. “While 54 percent of white voters view Trump unfavorably, 83 percent of black voters and 77 percent of Latino voters have an unfavorable view of him. Similarly, 62 percent of white voters give him a negative job performance rating, compared to 96 percent of black voters and 86 percent of Latino voters.”

<b>Trump Job Performance</b>								
	<b>Total</b>		<b>Dem</b>		<b>Rep</b>		<b>Ind/ Other</b>	
	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>
How would you rate the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you rate it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?	29%	68%	12%	85%	61%	39%	36%	64%
<b>President Trump is doing so far on each of the following issues as excellent, good, fair, or poor?</b>								
	<b>Total</b>		<b>Dem</b>		<b>Rep</b>		<b>Ind/ Other</b>	
	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>	<b>Excel/ Good</b>	<b>Fair/ Poor</b>
Creating jobs	36%	59%	20%	76%	64%	32%	42%	55%
Keeping Americans safe from terrorism	36%	60%	19%	77%	65%	33%	41%	54%
Filling the vacant seat on the Supreme Court	34%	59%	20%	75%	66%	28%	34%	59%
Improving our immigration system	30%	68%	16%	83%	60%	37%	32%	65%
Improving relations between the United States and Russia	30%	63%	18%	75%	47%	47%	40%	56%
Making Americans feel like country is moving in right direction	28%	70%	13%	85%	56%	42%	34%	65%
Working collaboratively with Congress	26%	70%	14%	82%	50%	43%	25%	71%
Advancing the peace process in the Middle East	25%	70%	10%	85%	51%	41%	27%	67%
Representing the United States on the world stage	25%	72%	10%	89%	51%	49%	30%	69%
<b>Siena College Poll – February 27, 2017</b>								

“On eight of nine specific issues, between 50 and 66 percent of Republicans give the President a positive job performance rating. However, between 54 and 71 percent of independents give him a negative job performance rating on all nine issues, and among Democrats, between 75 and 89 percent rate him negatively,” Greenberg said.

**Eight Months Before Vote, Most New Yorkers Have Heard Nothing About a ConCon; However, Support for a ConCon Continues to Remain Strong**

“Although 71 percent of voters say they have read or heard nothing about the vote this November on whether New York should hold a Constitutional Convention, and only 11 percent saying they’ve read or heard at least some about it, a strong majority of voters continues to say they support having a ConCon,” Greenberg said. “Voters say they support a ConCon by a 63-24 percent margin, down a little from 68-19 percent support last June. About two-thirds of Democrats, independents, New York City voters and upstaters call themselves ConCon supporters, while support among Republicans – 53 percent – and downstate suburbanites – 54 percent – is strong but considerably weaker.”

**New Yorkers Like State Legislature; Dislike Congress**

“By a 10-point margin, voters view the State Senate favorably, and they view the State Assembly favorably by an eight-point margin,” Greenberg said. “However, by 18-point margins, New Yorkers have unfavorable views of both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted February 19-23, 2017 by telephone calls conducted in English to 723 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  $\pm 4.2$  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. SRI, 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 2017

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	60	34	5
January 2017	56	37	7
December 2016	56	36	8
October 2016*	56	41	3
September 2016*	57	39	4
August 2016	53	40	7
<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. 12** 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 2017	9	41	33	15	2
January 2017	9	36	36	17	2
December 2016	7	37	37	17	2
September 2016*	5	36	36	21	2
August 2016	6	37	39	16	3
<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. 11** If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor next 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 2017	50	41	9
January 2017	47	44	9
December 2016	47	44	10
September 2016*	45	49	6
August 2016	46	47	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>50 (2/17)</b>	<b>49 (9/16, 5/31/16)</b>	<b>10 (12/16)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>42 (5/31/16)</b>	<b>41 (2/17)</b>	<b>6 (9/16, 6/16)</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 2017	46	38	16
January 2017	45	35	20
December 2016	43	40	17
September 2016*	44	40	16
August 2016	41	40	19
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>46 (2/17)</b>	<b>61 (7/10)</b>	<b>20 (1/17, 12/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (7/10)</b>	<b>35 (1/17)</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 2017	50	40	10
January 2017	49	36	16
December 2016	48	39	14
September 2016*	48	41	11
August 2016	41	45	14
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>50 (2/17)</b>	<b>74 (7/09)</b>	<b>16 (1/17, 12/15, 10/15)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (7/09)</b>	<b>36 (1/17)</b>	<b>6 (7/09)</b>

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- Q. 13** Do you support or oppose: Making college tuition free at SUNY and CUNY for New York families making less than \$125,000, at an estimated cost to state taxpayers of \$163 million per year?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	58	39	3
January 2017	60	37	2
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>60 (1/17)</b>	<b>39 (2/17)</b>	<b>3 (2/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (2/17)</b>	<b>37 (1/17)</b>	<b>2 (1/17)</b>

- Q. 14** Do you support or oppose: Extending the millionaire's tax, which was scheduled to expire at the end of 2017, so that individuals earning more than \$1 million a year and families earning more than \$2 million a year continue to be taxed at a rate of about nine percent, rather than dropping to about seven percent?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	77	21	2
January 2017	74	23	4
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (2/17)</b>	<b>23 (1/17)</b>	<b>4 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>74 (1/17)</b>	<b>21 (2/17)</b>	<b>2 (2/17)</b>

- Q. 15** Do you support or oppose: Allowing ride sharing services like UBER and LYFT to operate across New York State, as they do now in New York City?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	76	16	8
January 2017	77	15	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (1/17)</b>	<b>16 (2/17)</b>	<b>8 (2/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>76 (2/17)</b>	<b>15 (1/17)</b>	<b>7 (1/17)</b>

- Q. 16** Do you support or oppose: Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age so 16- and 17-year-olds are treated as minors rather than as adults in criminal cases?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	53	45	3
January 2017	46	49	5
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>53 (2/17)</b>	<b>49 (1/17)</b>	<b>5 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>46 (1/17)</b>	<b>45 (2/17)</b>	<b>3 (2/17)</b>

- Q. 17** Do you support or oppose: Completing a 750-mile biking and hiking pathway, called the Empire State Trail, from New York City to Canada and from Albany to Buffalo, at a cost of \$200 million?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	38	57	5
January 2017	43	52	5
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>43 (1/17)</b>	<b>57 (2/17)</b>	<b>5 (2/17, 1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>38 (2/17)</b>	<b>52 (1/17)</b>	<b>5 (2/17, 1/17)</b>

- Q. 18** Do you support or oppose: Enhancing the middle class child care tax credit by doubling the credit for families making between \$60,000 and \$100,000 per year, at an estimated annual cost of \$42 million?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	65	28	6
January 2017	66	26	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>66 (1/17)</b>	<b>28 (2/17)</b>	<b>7 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (2/17)</b>	<b>26 (1/17)</b>	<b>6 (2/17)</b>

- Q. 19** Do you support or oppose: Amending the state constitution to limit state legislators' outside income to 15 percent of their salary, which would currently allow about \$12,000 in outside income? (In February 2016, the question was the same, without the beginning "Amending the state constitution to")

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	61	30	9
January 2017	61	28	10
February 2016	59	35	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>61 (2/17, 1/17)</b>	<b>35 (2/16)</b>	<b>10 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>59 (2/16)</b>	<b>28 (1/17)</b>	<b>6 (2/16)</b>

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**Q. 20** Do you support or oppose: Amending 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 holders to eight years?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	57	37	6
January 2017	60	34	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>60 (1/17)</b>	<b>37 (2/17)</b>	<b>6 (2/17, 1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (2/17)</b>	<b>34 (1/17)</b>	<b>6 (2/17, 1/17)</b>

**Q. 21** 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 2017	52	46	2
January 2017	52	44	4
February 2016	45	52	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (2/17, 1/17)</b>	<b>52 (2/16)</b>	<b>8 (12/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>44 (4/15, 12/14)</b>	<b>44 (1/17)</b>	<b>2 (2/17)</b>

**Q. 22** 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
February 2017	4	7	18	71	0
June 2016	2	8	22	66	1
May 3, 2016	2	5	20	72	1
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>4 (2/17)</b>	<b>8 (6/16)</b>	<b>22 (6/16)</b>	<b>75 (7/15)</b>	<b>1 (6/16, 5/3/16, 10/15)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>2 (several)</b>	<b>4 (7/15)</b>	<b>18 (2/17)</b>	<b>66 (6/16)</b>	<b>0 (2/17, 7/15)</b>

**Q. 23** 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	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	63	24	13
June 2016	68	19	13
May 3, 2016	69	19	12
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>69 (5/3/16, 7/15)</b>	<b>26 (6/10)</b>	<b>16 (7/15, 6/10)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (6/10)</b>	<b>15 (7/15)</b>	<b>12 (5/3/16, 8/09)</b>

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	36	59	5
January 2017	37	55	8
December 2016	41	53	6
November 2016*	34	63	3
October 2016*	26	69	4
September 2016*	29	68	3
August 2016	24	72	4
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (12/16)</b>	<b>72 (8/16)</b>	<b>10 (10/13)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (8/16)</b>	<b>53 (12/16)</b>	<b>2 (9/15)</b>

**Q. 24** Looking at Washington and the new Trump Administration, how optimistic or pessimistic would you say you are about the country's future under President Trump over the next four years. Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic? (Last month, the wording was “the incoming Trump Administration.”)

DATE	VERY OPTIMISTIC	SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC	SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC	VERY PESSIMISTIC	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	20	24	17	37	2
January 2017	24	23	15	36	3
December 2016	24	25	16	32	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (1/17, 12/16)</b>	<b>25 (12/16)</b>	<b>17 (2/17)</b>	<b>37 (2/17)</b>	<b>3 (1/17, 12/16)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (2/17)</b>	<b>23 (1/17)</b>	<b>15 (1/17)</b>	<b>32 (12/16)</b>	<b>2 (2/17)</b>



## Siena College Poll Trends – February 2017 – Page 4

**Q. 7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	64	31	6
January 2017	63	29	9
December 2016	67	23	10
October 2016*	63	28	9
September 2016*	64	26	10
August 2016	58	31	11
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>70 (7/05)</b>	<b>32 (5/3/16, 10/31/10, 9/10, 6/10)</b>	<b>17 (2/05)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>54 (6/10)</b>	<b>20 (2/05, 11/06)</b>	<b>4 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2017	46	24	29
December 2016	51	22	27
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>61 (12/12)</b>	<b>34 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>56 (1/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>26 (3/09)</b>	<b>14 (1/09)</b>	<b>14 (10/31/10)</b>

**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
February 2017	34	56	10
January 2017	39	48	13
December 2016	34	56	10
October 2016*	40	54	6
September 2016*	41	51	8
August 2016	36	54	10
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>62 (5/09)</b>	<b>74 (10/13, 8/11)</b>	<b>17 (9/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (10/13, 10/08)</b>	<b>24 (12/09)</b>	<b>5 (1/13)</b>

**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 2017	55	38	7
January 2017	54	34	12
December 2016	48	38	14
October 2016*	51	41	8
September 2016*	53	38	9
August 2016	47	40	13
<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>

**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 August 2016.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.