



# SIENA COLLEGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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## Siena College Poll:

# **Strong Support For Many Cuomo Proposals; Huge Support for \$2B Clean Water Act; Buy American, Uber/Lyft & Millionaire's Tax Extension**

Voters Say Trump's Actions Will Make Nation's Infrastructure & Relationship with Russia Better; Overwhelmingly Say on Race Relations & Environment His Actions Will Make the Country Worse

***Trump's Favorability Rating, Already Under Water, Falls a Little; Obama Leaves Stage Very Popular with NYers; State Assembly & Senate Have Best Ever Favorability Ratings in Siena College Poll; Cuomo Ratings: Flat***

Loudonville, NY. Many of Governor Andrew Cuomo's State of the State and Executive Budget proposals enjoy widespread support from New Yorkers. And while the State Senate and Assembly saw their favorability ratings rise to their best level ever, Cuomo's ratings with voters are essentially unchanged since last month, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

New Yorkers think President Donald Trump, with a *negative* 37-55 percent favorability rating, down from *negative* 41-53 percent last month, will make America better through his infrastructure policies and his policies dealing with the relationship between the United States and Russia. On seven other issues, New Yorkers think he will make America worse, including large majorities when it comes to the environment and race relations.

"Cuomo's agenda for 2017 is chock full of proposals – some new, some old – and many of them enjoy strong bipartisan support, while several others are supported by a majority of New Yorkers despite Republican opposition," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "His four most popular proposals are creating a \$2 billion clean water infrastructure fund, giving preference in state purchases to American-made goods, allowing ride sharing services like Uber and Lyft to operate across the state, and extending the millionaire's tax, which even has the support of 61 percent of Republicans.

"There is also bipartisan support for the middle class child care tax credit, renovating JFK Airport, and constitutional amendments to limit state legislators' outside income and implement term limits," Greenberg said. "Minus Republican support, voter support free SUNY/CUNY tuition and closing LLC loophole proposals."

Proposals from Governor Cuomo – Support or Oppose?								
	Total		Dem		Rep		Ind/ Other	
	Sup	Opp	Sup	Opp	Sup	Opp	Sup	Opp
Creating a \$2 billion clean water infrastructure act	89%	8%	94%	3%	83%	13%	87%	10%
Giving preference in all state purchases over \$100,000 to American-made goods and products	82%	10%	79%	11%	87%	7%	85%	12%
Allowing ride sharing services like UBER and LYFT to operate across NYS, as they do now in NYC	77%	15%	77%	14%	76%	18%	82%	13%
Extending the millionaire’s tax, which was scheduled to expire at the end of 2017	74%	23%	81%	16%	61%	35%	70%	27%
Renovating JFK airport in Queens at a total cost of \$10 billion, with private funding estimated at 70%	66%	27%	69%	25%	64%	29%	70%	25%
Enhancing middle-class child care tax credit by doubling for families making between \$60K & \$100K	66%	26%	74%	19%	58%	35%	65%	30%
Amend state constitution: limit legislators’ outside income to 15% of salary, currently allow about \$12K	61%	28%	68%	21%	51%	39%	63%	30%
Amend state constitution: change term of legislators from 2 to 4 years & implement term limits for state legislators and statewide office holders to 8 years	60%	34%	62%	29%	58%	40%	60%	34%
Making college tuition free at SUNY and CUNY for New York families making less than \$125,000	60%	37%	76%	22%	34%	65%	53%	43%
Eliminate the LLC loophole that allows corporations or individuals to donate almost unlimited amounts of money to candidates in New York	55%	40%	63%	30%	42%	52%	56%	43%
Closing the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Westchester County in 2021	54%	30%	61%	23%	43%	40%	55%	33%
The New York Dream Act	52%	44%	68%	27%	23%	73%	50%	47%
Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age	46%	49%	57%	36%	33%	64%	37%	59%
Completing a 750-mile biking and hiking pathway from NYC to Canada and from Albany to Buffalo	43%	52%	49%	44%	36%	62%	40%	55%

Siena College Poll – January 30, 2017

Cuomo has a 56-37 percent favorability rating, from 56-36 percent in December. His job performance rating is a negative 45-53 percent, little changed from negative 44-54 percent last month. Currently, 47 percent are prepared to re-elect Cuomo in 2018, while 44 percent would prefer ‘someone else,’ unchanged from December.

“While voters like his proposals and he traveled the state promoting them, it did not help boost Cuomo’s ratings, which continue a two-year trend of little fluctuation. Since March 2015, Cuomo’s favorability rating has been between 49 and 57 percent every month and his positive job performance rating has been between 39 and 45 percent,” Greenberg said. “By 50-42 percent, voters say Cuomo should *not* be a leader in the opposition to Trump. Only a majority of Democrats, black and young voters think he should be a leader in the opposition.

### State Senate & Assembly Hit Best Ever Favorability Ratings

The State Senate has a 49-36 percent favorability rating, up from 48-39 percent in December, while the Assembly has 45-35 percent favorability rating, up from 43-40 percent last month. For both houses, it’s both the highest favorability and lowest unfavorability rating ever in a Siena College Poll.

“Perhaps it’s a result of coming off an election season where legislators were successful in promoting themselves and their accomplishments. Perhaps it’s because no legislator has been indicted or convicted with a new scandal in the last few months. Whatever the cause, the result is the Assembly has a plus 10 favorability rating and the Senate has a plus 13 favorability rating – the best ever for each house,” Greenberg said.

**NYers: Trump Will Improve America on Infrastructure & US-Russia Relations; Worsen America on Other Issues; Most Negative on Environment & Race Relations**

“A strong majority of New Yorkers believes that the actions Trump takes on infrastructure will make America better, including a majority of Democrats. That’s the only issue, however, that Democrats think Trump will make America better. A plurality of voters say the President will make America better regarding the relationship between the United States and Russia,” Greenberg said. “The two issues where voters say Trump will make the country worse by two-to-one margins, are the environment and race relations.

“A large majority of Republicans think he will make America better on all nine issues tested, while a majority of independents say he will make America better on infrastructure and a plurality say he will make America better on health care and US-Russia relations,” Greenberg said.

<b>Trump Administration Actions – Make the country better or worse?</b>								
	<b>Total</b>		<b>Dem</b>		<b>Rep</b>		<b>Ind/ Other</b>	
	Better	Worse	Better	Worse	Better	Worse	Better	Worse
The nation’s infrastructure	64%	26%	52%	37%	86%	5%	70%	24%
The relationship between the US and Russia	49%	37%	35%	51%	75%	14%	49%	35%
Health care	41%	50%	19%	73%	74%	15%	49%	43%
Immigration policies	41%	53%	21%	75%	78%	15%	47%	47%
Appointment of new Supreme Court Justices	40%	49%	22%	69%	76%	11%	42%	47%
Education	40%	49%	23%	66%	75%	16%	42%	49%
America’s standing in the world	40%	53%	21%	71%	81%	16%	39%	55%
Environmental issues	30%	60%	20%	75%	56%	31%	29%	60%
Race relations	30%	62%	15%	80%	59%	32%	32%	58%

**Siena College Poll – January 30, 2017**

“As Trump begins his presidency with a negative 37-55 favorability rating, Barack Obama leaves the presidency with his best favorability rating, 67-30 percent, since August 2009. Only Republicans, conservatives and Catholics have a favorable view of Trump, while only Republicans and conservatives have an unfavorable view of Obama,” Greenberg said. “A small majority of New Yorkers, 51-47 percent are pessimistic about the country’s future under President Trump; last month voters were nearly evenly divided, 49-48 percent optimistic.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted January 22-26, 2017 by telephone calls conducted in English to 812 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, 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 – January 2017

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
June 2016	56	38	6
May 31, 2016	54	40	6
May 3, 2016	54	41	5
February 2016	52	43	5
<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
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
June 2016	7	33	40	19	1
May 31, 2016	8	34	39	19	1
May 3, 2016	7	36	37	19	2
February 2016	8	34	34	24	0
<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 in two years, 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 2017	47	44	9
December 2016	47	44	10
September 2016*	45	49	6
August 2016	46	47	7
June 2016	46	48	6
May 31, 2016	42	49	9
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>47 (1/17, 12/16)</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>44 (1/17, 12/16)</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
January 2017	45	35	20
December 2016	43	40	17
September 2016*	44	40	16
August 2016	41	40	19
June 2016	39	46	15
May 31, 2016	32	49	19
May 3, 2016	39	47	14
February 2016	37	49	15
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>45 (1/17, 1/13)</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>

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**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	9	13	78
December 2016	10	15	75
June 2016	13	16	72
May 3, 2016	10	16	74
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (2/15)</b>	<b>20 (10/15)</b>	<b>78 (1/17, 9/15)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>8 (9/15)</b>	<b>13 (1/17)</b>	<b>69 (4/15)</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
January 2017	49	36	16
December 2016	48	39	14
September 2016*	48	41	11
August 2016	41	45	14
June 2016	41	47	12
May 31, 2016	34	52	14
May 3, 2016	42	48	9
February 2016	38	49	13
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>49 (1/17)</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>

**Q. 7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Flanagan?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	14	12	73
December 2016	15	13	73
June 2016	15	15	71
May 3, 2016	14	16	70
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (5/15)</b>	<b>16 (5/3/16, 10/15)</b>	<b>75 (7/15)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>12 (12/15, 7/15)</b>	<b>12 (1/17)</b>	<b>69 (10/15, 5/15)</b>

**Q. 23** 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 2017	52	44	4
February 2016	45	52	3
May 2015	47	50	3
April 2015	44	50	5
December 2014	44	48	8
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (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>3 (2/16, 5/15)</b>

**Q. 24** Do you support or oppose: Eliminate the so-called LLC loophole that allows corporations or individuals to donate almost unlimited amounts of money to candidates in New York?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	55	40	5
February 2016	62	35	2
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>62 (2/16)</b>	<b>40 (1/17)</b>	<b>5 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>55 (1/17)</b>	<b>35 (2/16)</b>	<b>2 (2/16)</b>

**Q. 25** Do you support or oppose: Amend 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 “Amend the state constitution to”)

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	61	28	10
February 2016	59	35	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>61 (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>

## Siena College Poll Trends – January 2017 – Page 3

**Q. 9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
June 2016	28	68	4
May 31, 2016	27	68	4
May 3, 2016	26	70	4
March 2016	29	67	4
February 2016	25	71	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. 27** 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
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>16 (12/16)</b>	<b>36 (1/17)</b>	<b>3 (1/17, 12/16)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (1/17, 12/16)</b>	<b>23 (1/17)</b>	<b>15 (1/17)</b>	<b>32 (12/16)</b>	<b>3 (1/17, 12/16)</b>

**Q. 28** Do you think a Trump presidency will be good for New Yorkers or bad for New Yorkers?

DATE	GOOD	BAD	BOTH/NEITHER/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	43	45	12
December 2016	47	45	8
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>47 (12/16)</b>	<b>45 (1/17, 12/16)</b>	<b>12 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>43 (1/17)</b>	<b>45 (1/17, 12/16)</b>	<b>8 (12/16)</b>

**Q. 29** Overall, do you think Democrats in Congress should work collaboratively with President Trump on his agenda or do you think Democrats in Congress should oppose President Trump's agenda?

DATE	WORK WITH TRUMP	OPPOSE TRUMP'S AGENDA	BOTH	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	58	29	7	6
December 2016	65	23	6	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (12/16)</b>	<b>29 (1/17)</b>	<b>7 (1/17)</b>	<b>6 (1/17, 12/16)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (1/17)</b>	<b>23 (12/16)</b>	<b>6 (12/16)</b>	<b>6 (1/17, 12/16)</b>

**Q. 10** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
June 2016	60	28	12
May 31, 2016	59	30	10
May 3, 2016	57	32	11
February 2016	60	29	10
<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>

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

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2017	67	30	2
December 2016	63	33	3
October 2016*	64	36	0
September 2016*	61	37	2
August 2016	62	37	1
March 2016	59	36	4
February 2016	59	38	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>81 (1/09)</b>	<b>46 (9/14, 10/31/10)</b>	<b>40 (11/06)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>48 (11/06)</b>	<b>10 (1/09)</b>	<b>0 (10/16)</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
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
June 2016	33	58	9
May 31, 2016	34	57	9
March 2016	35	52	13
February 2016	36	52	11
<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
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
June 2016	44	43	13
May 31, 2016	43	46	12
May 3, 2016	43	46	10
February 2016	47	43	10
<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 (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 February 2016.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.