



# 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:**

## **By Two-to-One Margin, New Yorkers Opposed AHCA; Two-Thirds Say Keep and Improve Obamacare Rather than Repeal and Replace; Sharp Partisan Divides**

**Favorability & Job Performance Ratings Drop for Trump & Cuomo**

***Strong Support Remains for Millionaire's Tax, Uber/Lyft & Free SUNY/CUNY Tuition; Raise the Age & Dream Act Still Supported; Voters: Mid-Year Budget Cuts Should be Cuomo & Legislature***

Loudonville, NY. Despite the strong efforts by President Donald Trump, Speaker Paul Ryan and many House Republicans to pass the American Health Care Act (AHCA), a majority of New Yorkers would see the failure last week to pass the bill as a victory. By a 56-27 percent margin, New Yorkers said they were opposed to the passage of the AHCA. By an even larger 67-30 percent margin, New Yorkers say they favor keeping and improving the Affordable Care Act ó Obamacare ó rather than repealing and replacing it, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today. Democrats and independents strongly opposed the AHCA and strongly support keeping and improving Obamacare. A majority of Republicans supported the AHCA and more than two-thirds want Obamacare repealed and replaced.

Trump's favorability rating, falling for the third consecutive month, now stands at a *negative* 33-63 percent, down from a *negative* 36-59 percent in February. His job performance rating is a *negative* 26-71 percent, down from *negative* 29-68 percent last month. Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 54-40 percent favorability rating, down from 60-34 percent in February, and his job performance rating is *negative* 47-52 percent, down from 50-48 percent.

“New York voters look a lot like Congress: Democrats strongly opposed the AHCA and overwhelmingly support keeping and improving Obamacare. A majority of Republicans supported the AHCA ó with a sizeable minority who opposed it ó and strongly support repealing and replacing Obamacare. Independent voters are much closer to the views of Democrats,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“At least 50 percent of voters from every region opposed the AHCA and at least 60 percent from every region say Obamacare should be kept and improved,” Greenberg said. “Half of all New Yorkers both opposed the AHCA and favor keeping/improving Obamacare; only 17 percent both want Obamacare repealed and supported AHCA.”

Has Obamacare helped or hurt with each of these issues?							
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	Repeal & Replace	Keep & Improve
Access to health care	Helped	73%	86%	49%	71%	37%	90%
	Hurt	19%	9%	42%	21%	51%	6%
The ability to purchase affordable health insurance	Helped	63%	80%	34%	57%	19%	83%
	Hurt	29%	13%	60%	34%	73%	10%
The cost of health care	Helped	46%	65%	15%	38%	7%	64%
	Hurt	43%	24%	77%	45%	87%	24%
The ability to see the doctor of your choice	Helped	45%	57%	21%	44%	16%	59%
	Hurt	37%	25%	63%	37%	69%	22%
The ability to run a profitable small business	Helped	29%	40%	15%	22%	10%	38%
	Hurt	49%	35%	69%	57%	79%	35%

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Do you think it is likely or unlikely that a new health care law will succeed in the following objectives?							
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	Support AHCA	Oppose AHCA
Improve the ability to run a profitable small business	Likely	44%	30%	71%	47%	70%	30%
	Not Likely	41%	54%	19%	37%	22%	54%
Increase the ability to see the doctor of your choice	Likely	38%	24%	70%	39%	69%	20%
	Not Likely	50%	66%	21%	47%	24%	69%
Increase access to health care	Likely	38%	25%	68%	39%	72%	20%
	Not Likely	53%	69%	21%	53%	19%	76%
Increase the ability to purchase affordable health insurance	Likely	38%	25%	71%	36%	75%	17%
	Not Likely	55%	69%	23%	55%	19%	78%
Lower the cost of health care	Likely	31%	19%	60%	27%	60%	14%
	Not Likely	62%	74%	35%	65%	35%	81%

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Not surprisingly, voters who want to keep and improve Obamacare overwhelmingly believe it has helped with the ability to access health care and purchase affordable health insurance. They also strongly believe it has helped the cost of health care and the ability to see a doctor of choice. These voters are closely divided on whether Obamacare has helped or hurt the ability to operate a profitable small business, Greenberg said. A majority of voters who want to repeal and replace Obamacare say it has hurt all of those issues.

By large majorities, voters who supported AHCA said it would likely have improved cost and access to health care and health insurance, and increase the ability to see a doctor of choice and run a profitable small business. AHCA opponents say the opposite; AHCA would not likely have helped these issues, Greenberg said.

Voters were clearly paying attention to this issue. Nearly two-thirds say they had heard or read a great deal or at least some about the AHCA. New Yorkers' strong opposition to it may be a contributing factor to Trump's ratings going down for the third consecutive month, Greenberg said. The only groups of New Yorkers that now view Trump favorably are Republicans (73 percent) and conservatives (65 percent). With the exception of Catholics (46 percent), Trump is not viewed favorably by more than 38 percent of any demographic group.

**Cuomo Ratings Fall this Month; Still Strong Support for Many of His Proposals**

“Cuomo, who last month enjoyed his best ratings with voters in more than two years, saw his numbers drop some this month. Interestingly, the drop in his favorability rating was more with Democrats than Republicans, although he is still viewed favorably by two-thirds of Democrats and unfavorably by nearly two-thirds of Republicans,” Greenberg said.

“While Cuomo’s favorability rating fell by a net 12 points and his job performance rating fell by a net seven points, there was little movement in his re-elect number. Currently, 48 percent are prepared to re-elect Cuomo next year, while 41 percent would prefer “someone else,” down slightly from 50-41 percent last month,” Greenberg said. “Voters do, however, give the Governor strong marks for his handling of the major snowstorm two weeks ago, with 63 percent giving him a positive rating and only 28 percent a negative rating.”

<b>Proposals from Governor Cuomo – Support or Oppose?</b>						
	<b>March 27, 2017</b>		<b>February 27, 2017</b>		<b>January 30, 2017</b>	
	<b>Sup</b>	<b>Opp</b>	<b>Sup</b>	<b>Opp</b>	<b>Sup</b>	<b>Opp</b>
<b>Extending the millionaire’s tax, which was scheduled to expire at the end of 2017</b>	80%	18%	77%	21%	74%	23%
<b>Allowing ride sharing services like UBER and LYFT to operate across NYS, as they do now in NYC</b>	76%	16%	76%	16%	77%	15%
<b>Making college tuition free at SUNY and CUNY for New York families making less than \$125,000</b>	60%	36%	58%	39%	60%	37%
<b>The New York Dream Act</b>	53%	42%	52%	46%	52%	44%
<b>Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age</b>	51%	44%	53%	45%	46%	49%

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“Overwhelming support continues “from every party and from every region “for the Governor’s proposal to extend the millionaire’s tax and allow ride sharing services to operate throughout New York,” Greenberg said. “Free SUNY/CUNY tuition is strongly supported by Democrats and New York City voters, supported by independents and downstate suburbanites, narrowly opposed by upstaters, and strongly opposed by Republicans.

“Narrow support “because of strong support from Democrats “continues as well for raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 and the New York Dream Act,” Greenberg said. “One budget proposal that voters strongly disagree with the Governor is how to make mid-year budget cuts if they need to be made. While his budget seeks authority to do it unilaterally “a proposal dropped from both houses“one-house budget bills “a whopping 87 percent of voters say mid-year budget cuts should be made by the Governor and Legislature together, compared to only 11 percent who support the Governor’s position.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted March 19-23, 2017 by telephone calls conducted in English to 791 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 – March 2017

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2017	54	40	6
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
March 2017	9	38	35	17	2
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
March 2017	48	41	11
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>11 (3/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>42 (5/31/16)</b>	<b>41 (3/17, 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
March 2017	46	36	18
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 (3/17, 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
March 2017	45	39	17
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>17 (3/17)</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
March 2017	60	36	4
February 2017	58	39	3
January 2017	60	37	2
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>60 (3/16, 1/17)</b>	<b>39 (2/17)</b>	<b>4 (3/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (2/17)</b>	<b>36 (3/17)</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
March 2017	80	18	2
February 2017	77	21	2
January 2017	74	23	4
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>80 (3/17)</b>	<b>23 (1/17)</b>	<b>4 (1/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>74 (1/17)</b>	<b>18 (3/17)</b>	<b>2 (3/17, 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
March 2017	76	16	8
February 2017	76	16	8
January 2017	77	15	7
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (1/17)</b>	<b>16 (3/17, 2/17)</b>	<b>8 (3/17, 2/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>76 (3/17, 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
March 2017	51	44	4
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>44 (3/17)</b>	<b>3 (2/17)</b>

- Q. 17** 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
March 2017	53	42	5
February 2017	52	46	2
January 2017	52	44	4
February 2016	45	52	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>53 (3/17)</b>	<b>52 (2/16)</b>	<b>8 (12/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>44 (4/15, 12/14)</b>	<b>42 (3/17)</b>	<b>2 (2/17)</b>

- Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Preet Bharara?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2017	37	13	50
June 2016	23	13	64
May 31, 2016	21	10	69
December 2015	18	9	73
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>37 (3/17)</b>	<b>13 (3/17, 6/16)</b>	<b>81 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>11 (8/14)</b>	<b>8 (8/14)</b>	<b>50 (3/17)</b>

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

**Q. 9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2017	28	14	58
December 2016	26	14	60
June 2016	25	18	56
February 2016	29	18	53
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>35 (10/14)</b>	<b>36 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>80 (6/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (6/07, 5/07)</b>	<b>10 (12/09, 11/08)</b>	<b>37 (10/31/10)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2017	39	19	42
December 2016	30	19	50
June 2016	35	21	44
February 2016	33	21	46
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (10/14)</b>	<b>27 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>86 (11/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>8 (11/09)</b>	<b>6 (5/10, 11/09)</b>	<b>39 (10/14)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2017	33	63	4
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. 20** 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 2017	10	16	14	57	2
February 2017	12	17	20	48	2
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>12 (2/17)</b>	<b>17 (2/17)</b>	<b>20 (2/17)</b>	<b>57 (3/17)</b>	<b>2 (3/17, 2/17)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>10 (3/17)</b>	<b>16 (3/17)</b>	<b>14 (3/17)</b>	<b>48 (2/17)</b>	<b>2 (3/17, 2/17)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2017	60	33	7
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>33 (3/17)</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 – March 2017 – Page 4

**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 2017	31	61	8
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
March 2017	49	39	13
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.