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For Immediate Release: Contact:

Monday, February 1, 2016 Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

PDF version; crosstabs; website: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY

Siena College Poll:

Albany Corruption Is Serious Problem, 89% of NYers Say; 2/3 Say Serious Problem with Legislators from Their Area; Majority: (1) Full Time State Legislature; (2) No Pay Raise

Huge Support for Paid Family Leave & Stripping Pensions from Convicted Legislators; Strong Support for Minimum Wage Increase, \$300M for EPF, Closing LLC Loophole; Limit LegislatorsqOutside Income, \$200M Airport Fund

Majority of New Yorkers Oppose Penn Station Plan and Dream Act

Loudonville, NY. Eighty-nine percent of New Yorkers say corruption in state government in Albany is a serious problem ó 53 percent call it very serious ó and two-thirds say corruption is a serious problem among legislators from their area. It is time to make the job of state legislator full time and ban outside income, 60 percent say, while 55 percent do not want state legislators to get a raise from the current base salary of \$79,500 even if outside income is banned, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Many of the proposals outlined by Governor Andrew Cuomo in his combined budget and State of the State address are very popular with voters. There is overwhelming support for stripping pensions from convicted legislators and enacting paid family leave. More than 60 percent of voters support gradually increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, allocating \$300 million to the state Environmental Protection Fund, and eliminating the LLC loophole in campaign contributions. Majorities also support limiting state legislatorsø outside income to 15 percent and creating a \$200 million fund for upstate airports. But a majority of voters oppose both the Governorøs plan for renovating Penn Station and enacting the Dream Act.

õNew Yorkersøconfidence in state government in Albany hovers at historic low levels. Nearly nine in ten voters say corruption is a serious problem in Albany, with more than half saying itøs ÷veryøserious. Nearly two-thirds think corruption among state legislators from their area is a serious problem. The Senate and the Assembly are each viewed favorably by fewer than 40 percent of voters,ö said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

õBy a nearly two-to-one margin, 60-34 percent, voters support making legislators full time and banning outside employment,ö Greenberg said. õA majority of voters from every party and region support making the Legislature full time and banning outside income, with support greatest in New York City.ö

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ŏEven if the Legislature was full time ó and all outside income banned ó by a 55-42 percent margin, voters give thumbs down to a raise for legislators from their current \$79,500 base pay. It an issue Democrats, Republicans and independents agree on and while New York City voters are closely divided, downstate suburban and upstate voters are strongly opposed to a pay raise for legislators, even with a ban on outside income,ö Greenberg said.

õTwo of the Governorøs proposals related to this are strongly supported by voters,ö Greenberg said. õBy a 70-point margin, 84-14 percent voters support stripping pension payments from state legislators convicted of crimes related to their public service, regardless of when the official was first elected. And by a 59-35 percent margin voters support limiting legislatorsøoutside income to 15 percent of their salary, or about \$12,000 currently.

õAs we move into a legislative election year, ethics reform has become a more important issue for voters than it was at the beginning of last year. One-quarter of voters say it one of the top two issues they want the Governor to address ó up from 19 percent last year, and nearly half of voters say the recent corruption scandals make it less likely that they will re-elect their state legislators, ö Greenberg said.

Many Cuomo State of the State/Budget Proposal Enjoy Widespread Support

Voters' Views on Some Cuomo Proposals			
Initiative	Support	Oppose	
Strip pension payments from state legislators convicted of crimes related to their public service regardless of when that official was first elected	84%	14%	
Enact paid family leave through an employee-funded program that provides up to 12 weeks of job-protected paid leave to bond with a new child or care for a sick relative	80%	18%	
Gradually increase the minimum wage for all workers in New York, reaching \$15 per hour by 2019	65%	33%	
Allocate \$300 million for the states Environmental Protection Fund, the highest amount ever for the fund	63%	32%	
Eliminate the so-called LLC loophole that allows corporations or individuals to donate almost unlimited amounts of money to candidates in New York	62%	35%	
Limit state legislatorsquotside income to 15 percent of their salary, which would currently allow about \$12,000 of outside income	59%	35%	
Create a \$200 million fund that upstate airports can compete for to help revitalize upstate airports	55%	38%	
The Dream Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education	45%	52%	
Renovate the Penn Station complex in New York City, at a cost of \$3 billion	40%	53%	
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õCuomos paid family leave and minimum wage proposals are strongly supported by New Yorkers,ö Greenberg said. õRepublicans are the key reason why paid family leave is supported by 80 percent of all voters, while minimum wage is supported by 65 percent. Republicans oppose the Governors minimum wage proposal 62-36 percent ó differing sharply from Democrats and independents ó they support his family leave proposal 69-29 percent, only a little less strongly than Democrats and independents. Employee-funded paid family leave is supported by at least three-quarters of voters from every region. The minimum wage increase is strongly supported downstate and by a much closer 52-46 percent margin among upstate voters.ö

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õTwo Cuomo proposals ó the Dream Act and a \$3 billion renovation of Penn Station ó get a thumbs down from voters,ö Greenberg said. õThe Dream Act continues to be strongly supported by Democrats and more strongly opposed by Republicans. Strongly supported by New York City voters and strongly opposed by voters outside the City, the overall narrow opposition to the Dream Act has been largely consistent over the last three years.

õRenovating Penn Station ó one of the Governorøs high profile, high dollar infrastructure proposals ó is strongly opposed by upstate voters, Republicans and independents,ö Greenberg said. õAmong New York City and downstate suburban voters, as well as Democrats, the results are mixed, as all three are closely divided.ö

Education Edges Out Jobs; Ethics Reform Moves Up on List of Most Important Issues

õEducation edges past jobs as the most important issue voters want the Governor to focus on. Taxes remains the

third most important issue. However, ethics reform has moved up the list and is now the fourth most important issue, moving up from tied for last place last year,ö Greenberg said. õOne-quarter of voters ó Democrats, Republicans and independents ó say that ethics reform is one of the top two issues. That one-quarter number among independents is largely

What Issue Should be Cuomo's Top Priority?				
leave	2016	2015		
Issue	Top 2 (Top)	Top 2 (Top)		
Education	44% (22%)	40% (21%)		
Jobs	39% (20%)	43% (23%)		
Taxes	31% (18%)	31% (16%)		
State government ethics reform	25% (14%)	19% (9%)		
Infrastructure	24% (11%)	22% (9%)		
Health care	21% (9%)	24% (12%)		
Criminal Justice	11% (4%)	19% (9%)		
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unchanged from last year, while Republicans and Democrats are both up nine points from last year.

õThe top three issues for Democrats are education, jobs and ethics; for Republicans are taxes, jobs and education; and for independents are education, taxes and jobs. Regionally, New York City voters see education and jobs as far and away the top two, with health care a distant third; downstate suburbanites focus on education and taxes, with ethics and jobs tied for the third spot; while upstaters say education, with jobs and taxes closely behind,ö Greenberg said.

Half of Voters Agree with Gov's Proposed Ed. Increase; More than Half Say NY Spends Too Little on Ed.

Nearly half of voters, 47 percent, think New York should spend what the Governor is proposing to spend on education aid this year (\$24 billion; 4.3 percent increase), while 27 percent want to spend more than the Governor proposes and 23 percent want to spend less. When it comes to overall state spending on education right now, 56 percent say New York spends too little, 27 percent say the right amount and 14 percent say too much.

õA plurality of voters from every region, along with Democrats and independents agree with spending what the Governor proposes for education aid this year, while Republicans are divided between what the Governor proposes and less than what the Governor proposes,ö Greenberg said.

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õTwo-thirds of Democrats, nearly half of independents and a plurality of Republicans think New York spends too little on education, as do a nearly two-thirds of New York City voters, a majority of upstaters and a plurality of downstate suburban voters,ö Greenberg said. õHalf of white voters say New York spends too little, while more than two-thirds of New Yorkers of color say that.

of The Governor can rightly point to the fact that half of New Yorkers agree with his proposed spending level on education. However, the Legislature traditionally looks to add more money to education and they can correctly point out that a clear majority of New Yorkers think the state spends too little on education, of Greenberg said.

Cuomo Standing with Voters Continues on Plateau of Last Several Months

Cuomo has a 52-43 percent favorability rating, down a little from 51-38 percent in December, and his job performance rating is a negative 42-58 percent, up a little from negative 39-59 percent in December.

ŏEven with a long agenda of proposals and an aggressive media strategy to support that agenda, votersøview of Cuomo has not moved out of the range theyøve been hovering in for the last several months. Since July, his favorability rating has been between 49 and 52 percent and his positive job performance rating has been between 39 and 42 percent, ö Greenberg said. ŏVoters, however, have noticed his swing to the left, with more voters calling him liberal, 39 percent, and fewer calling him moderate, 42 percent, than at any time since he took office.

õCuomo continues to be viewed more favorably than New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio ó both statewide and among New York City voters,ö Greenberg said. õStatewide, de Blasio has a negative 38-46 percent favorability rating, little changed from 37-43 percent in July. Among New York City voters, de Blasio has a 51-45 percent favorability rating, compared to Cuomo 66-29 percent. Cuomo also has a stronger favorability rating than de Blasio with Democrats, black and Latino voters.ö

Schumer – With No Identified Opponent – Is Viewed Favorably and Supported for Re-Election

Senator Chuck Schumer 60-29 percent favorability rating is up slightly from 57-28 percent in December. Fifty-three percent are prepared to re-elect him while 37 percent prefer someone else, øup slightly from 51-37 percent.

õTwo-thirds of Democrats, half of independents and one-third of Republicans say they are prepared to re-elect Schumer, as are a majority of downstaters and a plurality of upstaters,ö Greenberg said. õThe election is still nine months away, however, with no identified challenger, Republicans face an uphill battle to unseat Schumer, who is seeking a fourth term and is in line to become the Democratic leader of the Senate if heøs re-elected.ö

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This Siena College Poll was conducted January 24-28, 2016 by telephone calls conducted in English to 805 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 4.0 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample provided by Survey Sampling International of landline and cell phone telephone numbers 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/SRI/SNY.



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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	52	43	5
December 2015	51	38	11
October 2015	50	42	8
September 2015	50	42	8
July 2015	49	44	7
May 2015	53	44	3
April 2015	56	39	5
March 2015	57	39	4
February 2015	59	37	4
January 2015	60	35	5
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 (10/20/10)

Q. 11 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 2016	8	34	34	24	0
December 2015	7	32	38	21	2
October 2015	9	32	35	23	1
September 2015	6	33	36	23	1
July 2015	7	32	40	20	1
May 2015	9	32	36	23	0
April 2015	9	35	35	20	1
March 2015	6	37	37	19	1
February 2015	9	35	38	17	1
January 2015	11	36	35	16	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (7/15, 12	2/14) 25 (10	0/14) 28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	6 (9/15, 3	3/15) 32 (12/15, etc.)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/	11, 1/11) 0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 12 Based on what youøve seen of him as Governor so far, would you describe Andrew Cuomo as a liberal, a moderate or a conservative?

DATE	LIBERAL	MODERATE	CONSERVATIVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	39	42	12	7
July 2015	33	45	13	10
July 2014*	33	47	11	9
HIGHEST EVER	<mark>39 (2/1</mark> 0	<mark>6)</mark> 60 (3/11)	15 (4/11,	2/11) 10 (7/15, 4/11, 1/11)
LOWEST EVER	21 (2/1	1) <mark>42 (2/16)</mark>	8 (7/11)	6 (9/13)

Q.3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	Don't Know/No Opinion
February 2016	37	49	15
December 2015	33	49	18
October 2015	36	44	19
July 2015	37	49	14
May 2015	43	46	10
April 2015	38	49	13
March 2015	41	46	14
February 2015	43	45	12
January 2015	42	41	17
HIGHEST EVER	45 (1/13)	61 (7/10)	20 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	40 (12/12)	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
February 2016	38	49	13
December 2015	38	47	16
October 2015	42	42	16
July 2015	38	50	12
May 2015	41	49	9
April 2015	42	48	10
March 2015	44	46	10
February 2015	45	44	11
January 2015	45	44	11
HIGHEST EVER	46 (1/14, 5/12)	74 (7/09)	16 (12/15, 10/15)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	41 (12/12)	6 (7/09)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	33	21	46
December 2015	30	22	49
October 2015	31	21	48
July 2015	30	21	50
March 2015	35	19	46
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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	29	18	53
October 2015	29	19	52
July 2015	27	16	57
March 2015	29	18	53
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. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	38	46	15
July 2015	37	43	20
November 2013	41	27	32
HIGHEST EVER	41 (11/13)	<mark>46 (2/16)</mark>	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	37 (7/15)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

Q. 13/14 As Andrew Cuomo begins his sixth year as Governor, having just delivered his annual state of the state address to kick off the legislative session, which of the following issues do you think should be his top 2016 priorityí .and his next top priority? ^ (First number reflects combined top and 2nd top priority; number in parentheses is top priority only.) (CHOICES WERE ROTATED.)

	FEBRUARY	JANUARY
ISSUE	2016	2015
Jobs	39 (20)	43 (23)
Education	44 (22)	40 (21)
Criminal justice	11 (4)	19 (9)
Taxes	31 (18)	31 (16)
State govt. ethics reform	25 (14)	19 (9)
Health care	21 (9)	24 (12)
Infrastructure	24 (11)	22 (9)
Something else	3(1)	2(1)
Dongt know/no opinion	2(1)	2(1)

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Q. 15 How serious a problem would you say corruption is in state government in Albany? Would you say itos very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

	VERY	SOMEWHAT	NOT VERY	Not at Ali	
DATE	SERIOUS	SERIOUS	SERIOUS	SERIOUS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	53	36	7	1	4
December 2015	52	37	5	2	4
July 2015	51	39	6	1	3
May 2015	50	40	7	1	2
April 2015	49	39	7	2	4
March 2015	49	38	7	2	4
February 2015	51	41	4	2	2
HIGHEST EVER	53 (2/1	16) 41 (2/15)	8 (8/14)	2 (12/	(15, etc.) 5 (8/14)
LOWEST EVER	47 (8/	14) 36 (2/16)	4 (2/15)	1 (Se	veral) 2 (5/15, 2/15)

Q. 16 How serious a problem would you say corruption is among state legislators from your areas? Would you say it serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

	VERY S	SOMEWHAT	NOT VERY	NOT AT ALL	
DATE	SERIOUS	SERIOUS	SERIOUS	SERIOUS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	26	39	20	10	5
May 2015	21	41	25	9	4
April 2015	21	37	27	8	8
March 2015	23	34	24	11	7
February 2015	21	39	24	9	7
HIGHEST EVER	<mark>26 (2/16</mark>	41 (5/15)	27 (4/15)	11 (3/1	5) 8 (4/15)
LOWEST EVER	21 (5/15,	etc.) 34 (3/15)	20 (2/16)	8 (4/1:	5) 4 (5/15)

Q. 17 Currently, state legislators are part time and can have other jobs. Some have suggested that one way to reduce corruption in state government is to make the job of state legislator full time and ban outside employment. Do you support keeping the current system of part time legislators, OR do you support making legislators full time with a ban on outside employment? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED.)

DATE	CURRENT/PART TIME	FULL TIME	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	34	60	6
February 2015	35	59	6
HIGHEST EVER	35 (2/15)	60 (2/16)	6 (2/16, 2/15)
LOWEST EVER	34 (2/16)	59 (2/15)	6 (2/16, 2/15)

Q. 18 If the State Legislature were to become full time with outside employment banned, would you support or oppose giving state legislators a pay raise from their current base salary of \$79,500?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	42	55	2
February 2015	40	57	3
HIGHEST EVER	42 (2/16)	57 (2/15)	3 (2/15)
LOWEST EVER	40 (2/15)	55 (2/16)	2 (2/16)

Q. 19 Will the recent corruption scandals make you more likely to re-elect your state legislators next year, less likely to re-elect your state legislators next year, or will the scandals have no effect on your vote for state legislators next year?

	MORE LIKELY	LESS LIKELY	NO EFFECT	Don't Know/
DATE	TO RE-ELECT	TO RE-ELECT	ON VOTE	NO OPINION
February 2016	8	49	40	4
December 2015	10	46	37	7
July 2015	11	49	34	6
July 2014*	11	37	49	3
HIGHEST EVER	11 (7/15, 5/	(15) 49 (2/16, 7/	15) 49 (5/15)	7 (12/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (2/16)	37 (5/15)	34 (7/15)	3 (5/15)

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Q. 29 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 õundocumented immigrantsö and half being asked about õillegal aliens.ö)

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	45	52	3
May 2015	47	50	3
April 2015	44	50	5
December 2014	44	48	8
HIGHEST EVER	48 (4/14)	52 (2/16)	8 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	44 (4/15, 12/14)	47 (4/14)	3 (2/16, 5/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable I	Oon't Know/No Opinion
February 2016	60	29	10
December 2015	57	28	15
October 2015	58	30	13
September 2015	61	29	10
July 2015	62	27	12
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	32 (10/31/10, 9/10,	6/10) 17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	54 (6/10)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 10 If Chuck Schumer runs for re-election as United States Senator in 2016, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	53	37	10
December 2015	51	37	12
October 2015	49	38	13
September 2015	49	37	13
HIGHEST EVER	53 (2/16)	38 (10/15)	13 (10/15, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	49 (10/15, 9/15)	37 (2/16, 12/15, 9/	15) 10 (2/16)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	55	20	25
July 2015	54	18	28
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. 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 2016	47	43	10
December 2015	42	43	15
October 2015	46	39	15
September 2015	41	49	10
July 2015	40	45	15
May 2015	44	46	10
April 2015	46	42	12
March 2015	46	42	12
February 2015	49	41	10
January 2015	46	45	9
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (5/13)

Poll Trend Notes:

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 January 2015.

^{*} All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of July thru October 2014, August/October 2012, October 2010, September/October 2008, and September/October 2006, which are polls of likely voters.

[&]quot;Highest Everö and õLowest Everö are provided at the bottom of each question.

[^] Inconsequential wording change.