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SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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Siena College Poll:

## **Voters Say Corruption is Serious Problem but Are Paying Little Attention to Moreland or Federal Investigation**

**Cuomo Lead Over Astorino Drops a Bit; Still Leads by 32 Points  
Only 13 Percent Think Actions of Cuomo/Staff Are Potentially Criminal  
DiNapoli Extends Lead to 34 Points; Schneiderman Ups Lead to 27 Points**

Loudonville, NY. The last three weeks have produced extensive media coverage about United States Attorney Preet Bharara's investigation into Governor Andrew Cuomo's now defunct Moreland Commission. Voters say corruption in state government is a serious problem, yet, two-thirds are unfamiliar with the Moreland Commission or its work and nearly two-thirds say they've heard little or nothing about Bharara's investigation. Despite the political swirl, Cuomo continues to lead Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino by 32 points, down a little from 37-points three weeks ago, according to today's Siena College Poll of likely New York gubernatorial voters.

While 13 percent of likely voters say the actions of the Governor and his staff regarding Moreland are potentially criminal, 16 percent say they are inappropriate but not a crime and four percent say they are perfectly appropriate, 63 percent say they don't have enough information to make a decision. Nearly half of voters say they believe the recent newspaper report concluding that the Governor's office interfered with the Moreland Commission, while only one-quarter say they believe the Governor's explanation that his office was simply providing information.

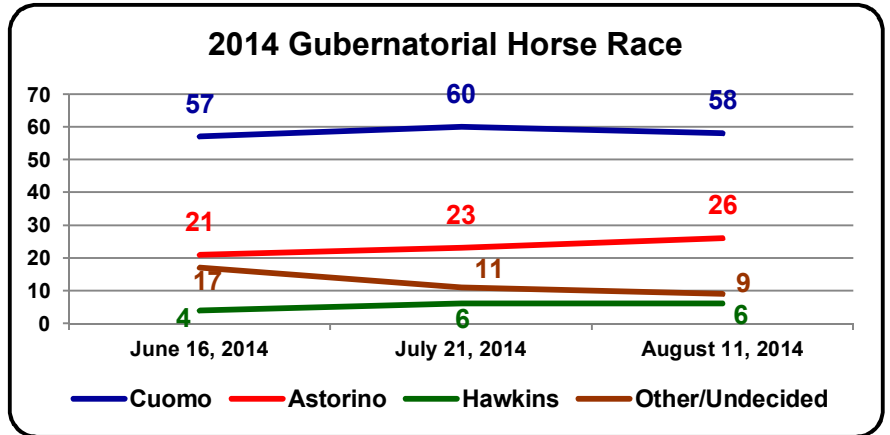
State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli leads Onondaga County Comptroller Bob Antonacci by 34 points, up from 31 points, while Attorney General Eric Schneiderman extended his lead to 27 points over John Cahill, from 22 points.

Albany insiders and political junkies are certainly talking lots about Moreland, Bharara, investigations, and the like, but most New York voters are spending their summer *not* following any of that news, said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "Voters see corruption as a serious problem but not one they pay a lot of attention to."

"While 32 percent say they're familiar with Moreland or its work, 67 percent are not. Sixty-four percent say they've heard nothing or not very much about the federal investigation of the Moreland Commission. And a similar 63 percent say they don't have enough information to judge whether actions by the Governor and his staff should be characterized as potentially criminal, simply inappropriate, or perfectly appropriate," Greenberg said.

“When given a choice, by a two-to-one margin, or 49 to 25 percent, voters say they believe newspaper reports that the Governor and his office interfered with the Moreland Commission’s work, rather than believing the Governor’s explanation that they were appropriately providing information to the commission,” Greenberg said.

“Democrat Cuomo continues to have a commanding lead over Republican Astorino, although it is down slightly from last month,” Greenberg said. “Cuomo has the support of more than three-quarters of Democrats, more than half of independents and one-third of Republicans. Astorino has made up little ground, trailing Cuomo by

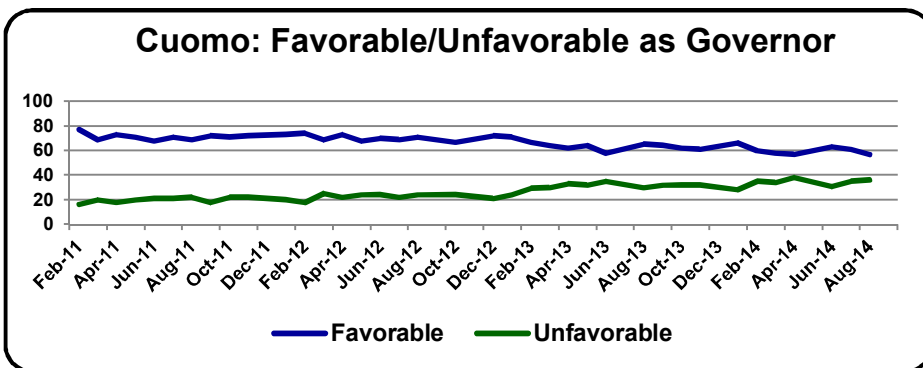


60 points in New York City, 25 points in the downstate suburbs and 14 points among upstate voters. Among the 67 percent of likely voters unfamiliar with Moreland, Cuomo leads 62-19 percent, however, among the 32 percent familiar with Moreland, Cuomo only leads 49-41 percent.

“Which candidate do voters trust to do a better job cleaning up Albany corruption? About half of voters say neither one of them. Only 14 percent of voters, including 28 percent of Republicans, say they trust Astorino to do the better job, while 29 percent, including 42 percent of Democrats, say they trust Cuomo,” Greenberg said.

“Corruption is far from the top issue for voters when deciding who to support for governor. Jobs is number one at 28 percent, followed by taxes at 21 percent, education at 20 percent and government corruption at 17 percent. Among Astorino voters, the top two are taxes and corruption, while Cuomo voters say the top two are jobs and education.”

Cuomo’s favorability rating is 57-36 percent (down a little from 61-35 percent last month) and his job



performance is 44-55 percent (down from 50-49 percent). By a 51-38 percent margin, voters say they are prepared to re-elect Cuomo compared to preferring “someone else” (54-38 percent in June). Astorino has a 24-20 percent favorability rating, with 57

percent having no opinion (20-19-61 percent last month). Howie Hawkins has a 7-7-86 percent favorability rating (9-11-81 in July). Prosecutor Bharara has an 11-8-81 percent favorability rating.

“Cuomo continues to be liked by voters and a majority are still inclined to want to re-elect him. Astorino remains unknown to more than half of voters, with only a slightly net positive favorability rating,” Greenberg said.

“Voters continue to believe that Cuomo has made New York a better place to live in the last four years, a view held by 55 percent, down slightly from 59 percent last month. Only 16 percent say he’s made New York a worse place to live and 23 percent say it’s about the same now as it was then,” Greenberg said.

“Despite several weeks of bad press and the inability to control the federal prosecutor’s investigation, for the moment, with now 12 weeks until election day, Cuomo remains in electoral control of the election. Astorino has yet to be able to gain traction with voters for either himself or his arguments against Cuomo,” Greenberg said.

### **DiNapoli & Schneiderman Extend Already Large Leads Over Largely Unknown Opponents**

DiNapoli has 26-13-61 percent favorability rating (from 28-16-56 percent last month). Currently, 41 percent say they are prepared to re-elect him, with 25 percent preferring “someone else” (up from 36-34 percent last month). Antonacci, has a 9-9-82 percent favorability rating (from 9-12-79 percent in July).

Schneiderman has a 25-16-59 percent favorability rating (from 26-18-56 percent last month). He has a 39-25 percent re-elect rating (from 39-33 percent last month). Cahill has a 10-9-80 percent favorability rating (from 14-12-74 percent in July).

“While Astorino was able to tighten the gubernatorial race by five points, his Republican running mates for Comptroller and Attorney General saw their races move a little in the opposite direction. DiNapoli widened his lead over Antonacci to 58-24 percent, up a bit from 57-26 percent last month. And Schneiderman’s lead over Cahill also edged up, from 53-31 percent in July to 54-27 percent today,” Greenberg said.

### **Plurality of Voters Still Say State is on Right Track; Republicans and Upstaters Disagree**

“By a 47-40 percent margin, likely voters say New York is on the right track, not headed in the wrong direction, little changed from 49-40 percent last month,” Greenberg said. “A majority of Democrats, independents and New York City voters say the state is on the right track. However, by two-to-one, Republicans say the state is headed in the wrong direction, and by a 10-point margin upstaters agree with them. Downstate suburbanites are evenly divided. Not surprisingly, by a 67-21 percent margin, voters supporting Cuomo say the state is on the right track, while by a 74-19 percent margin, voters supporting Astorino say the state is headed in the wrong direction.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted August 4-7, 2014 by telephone calls to 863 likely New York State registered voters. It has an overall margin of error of  $\pm 3.3$  percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, region, race/ethnicity, and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing to landline and cell phones weighted to reflect known population patterns and historic New York State gubernatorial turnout. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in New York State. 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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).



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## Siena College Poll Trends – August 2014

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	57	36	7
July 2014*	61	35	4
June 2014	63	31	6
April 2014	57	38	6
March 2014	58	34	7
February 2014	60	35	5
January 2014	66	28	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (2/11)</b>	<b>42 (10/06)</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 (10/20/10)</b>

**Q. 14** 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
August 2014*	9	35	38	17	1
July 2014*	9	41	31	18	1
June 2014	8	41	34	16	1
April 2014	9	36	36	18	1
March 2014	7	39	35	19	1
February 2014	7	41	38	13	1
January 2014	10	44	35	11	1
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (1/12)</b>	<b>47 (4/12, etc.)</b>	<b>39 (11/13)</b>	<b>19 (3/14)</b>	<b>28 (1/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (Several)</b>	<b>34 (1/11)</b>	<b>24 (1/11)</b>	<b>4 (2/11, 1/11)</b>	<b>1 (many)</b>

**Q. 11** Andrew Cuomo is running for re-election as Governor this year. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else? ^

DATE	RE-ELECT CUOMO	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	51	38	12
July 2014*	54	38	8
June 2014	57	35	8
April 2014	50	41	9
March 2014	49	41	10
February 2014	54	37	9
January 2014	57	33	10
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>62 (12/12)</b>	<b>41 (4/14, 3/14, 11/13, 6/13)</b>	<b>12 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>49 (3/14)</b>	<b>29 (12/12)</b>	<b>7 (6/13, 4/13)</b>

**Q. 3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	24	20	57
July 2014*	20	19	61
June 2014	18	12	69
April 2014	18	16	66
March 2014	17	19	65
February 2014	11	15	73
January 2014	14	10	76
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (8/14)</b>	<b>20 (8/14)</b>	<b>76 (1/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>11 (2/14)</b>	<b>10 (1/14)</b>	<b>57 (8/14)</b>

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Howie Hawkins?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	7	7	86
July 2014*	9	11	81
June 2014	9	9	82
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>9 (7/14, 6/14)</b>	<b>11 (7/14)</b>	<b>86 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (8/14)</b>	<b>7 (8/14)</b>	<b>81 (7/14)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – August 2014

**Q. 17** In light of what you've heard or read about actions taken by Governor Cuomo recently, overall, which of the following two statements comes closest to your view: the Governor makes decisions based on what he thinks is best for New Yorkers, or the Governor makes decisions based on what he thinks is best for his political future? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	BEST FOR NYERS	BEST FOR HIS POLITICAL FUTURE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	41	52	7
March 2014	44	52	4
April 2013	49	48	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>49 (4/13, 3/13)</b>	<b>52 (8/14, 3/14)</b>	<b>7 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (8/14)</b>	<b>47 (3/13)</b>	<b>3 (4/13, 3/13)</b>

**Q. 15** Over the last four years, would you say Andrew Cuomo has or has not made New York a better place to live?

DATE	HAS	HAS NOT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	55	39	6
July 2014*	59	37	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>59 (7/14)</b>	<b>39 (8/14)</b>	<b>6 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>55 (8/14)</b>	<b>37 (7/14)</b>	<b>3 (7/14)</b>

**Q. 16** (IF 'HAS NOT'): Then would you say Andrew Cuomo has made New York a worse place to live or would you say that living in New York is about the same as it was four years ago?

DATE	WORSE	SAME	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	40	59	1
July 2014*	41	58	1
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (7/14)</b>	<b>59 (8/14)</b>	<b>1 (8/14, 7/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>40 (8/14)</b>	<b>58 (7/14)</b>	<b>1 (8/14, 7/14)</b>

**Q. 19** If the 2014 election for governor was held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic, Working Families and Independence Party lines; Rob Astorino on the Republican and Conservative Party lines; Howie Hawkins on the Green Party Line, who would you vote for? Would you vote for Astorino, Cuomo, Hawkins, or someone else? (Choices were rotated)

DATE	CUOMO	ASTORINO	HAWKINS	OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	58	26	6	9
July 2014*	60	23	6	11
June 2014	57	21	4	17
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>60 (7/14)</b>	<b>26 (8/14)</b>	<b>6 (8/14, 7/14)</b>	<b>17 (6/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (6/14)</b>	<b>21 (6/14)</b>	<b>4 (6/14)</b>	<b>9 (8/14)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	25	16	59
July 2014*	26	18	56
June 2014	23	16	61
April 2014	27	20	53
February 2014	27	19	55
January 2014	27	15	58
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>29 (10/31/10)</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>44 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 12** Eric Schneiderman is running for re-election as Attorney General this year. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else? ^

DATE	RE-ELECT SCHNEIDERMAN	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	39	25	37
July 2014*	39	33	29
June 2014	41	27	33
April 2014	35	32	33
January 2014	29	33	38
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (6/14)</b>	<b>33 (7/14, 1/14)</b>	<b>38 (1/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>29 (1/14)</b>	<b>25 (8/14)</b>	<b>29 (7/14)</b>

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**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Cahill?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	10	9	80
July 2014*	14	12	74
June 2014	12	10	78
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (7/14)</b>	<b>12 (7/14)</b>	<b>80 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>10 (8/14)</b>	<b>9 (8/14)</b>	<b>74 (7/14)</b>

**Q. 20** If the 2014 election for Attorney General was held today and the candidates were Eric Schneiderman on the Democratic, Working Families and Independence Party lines and John Cahill on the Republican and Conservative Party lines, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated)

DATE	SCHNEIDERMAN	CAHILL	OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	54	27	19
July 2014*	53	31	16
June 2014	52	27	22
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>54 (8/14)</b>	<b>31 (7/14)</b>	<b>22 (6/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (6/14)</b>	<b>27 (8/14, 6/14)</b>	<b>16 (7/14)</b>

**Q. 7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	26	13	61
July 2014*	28	16	56
June 2014	26	12	62
April 2014	29	17	54
February 2014	26	21	54
January 2014	28	17	55
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>30 (11/10, 10/20/10)</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. 13** Tom DiNapoli is running for re-election as State Comptroller this year. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else? ^

DATE	RE-ELECT DINAPOLI	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	41	25	34
July 2014*	36	34	30
June 2014	38	28	35
April 2014	32	35	33
January 2014	35	30	35
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (8/14)</b>	<b>35 (4/14)</b>	<b>35 (6/14, 1/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>32 (4/14)</b>	<b>25 (8/14)</b>	<b>30 (7/14)</b>

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bob Antonacci?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	9	9	82
July 2014*	9	12	79
June 2014	9	9	82
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>9 (8/14, 7/14, 6/14)</b>	<b>12 (6/14)</b>	<b>82 (8/14, 6/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>9 (8/14, 7/14, 6/14)</b>	<b>9 (8/14, 6/14)</b>	<b>79 (7/14)</b>

**Q. 21** If the 2014 election for State Comptroller was held today and the candidates were Tom DiNapoli on the Democratic, Working Families and Independence Party lines and Bob Antonacci on the Republican and Conservative Party lines, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated)

DATE	DINAPOLI	ANTONACCI	OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	58	24	18
July 2014*	57	26	16
June 2014	56	22	22
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (8/14)</b>	<b>26 (7/14)</b>	<b>22 (6/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>56 (6/14)</b>	<b>22 (6/14)</b>	<b>16 (7/14)</b>

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**Q. 9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Preet Bharara?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	11	8	81
April 2013	13	12	75
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>13 (4/13)</b>	<b>12 (4/13)</b>	<b>81 (8/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>11 (8/14)</b>	<b>8 (8/14)</b>	<b>75 (4/13)</b>

**Q. 22** How serious a problem would you say corruption is in state government in Albany? Would you say it's very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT AT ALL SERIOUS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2014*	47	39	8	1	5
April 2014	41	43	10	2	5
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>47 (8/14)</b>	<b>43 (4/14)</b>	<b>10 (4/14)</b>	<b>2 (4/14)</b>	<b>5 (8/14, 4/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (4/14)</b>	<b>39 (8/14)</b>	<b>8 (8/14)</b>	<b>1 (8/14)</b>	<b>5 (8/14, 4/14)</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
August 2014*	47	40	13
July 2014*	49	40	10
June 2014	50	39	11
April 2014	46	44	10
March 2014	46	43	12
February 2014	48	40	12
January 2014	52	36	12
<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 polls of July and August 2014, August and October 2012, October 2010, September and October 2008, and September and 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 January 2014.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.