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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo Maintains Huge Lead Over Astorino – 36 Points; Cuomo Favorability Up; Astorino Remains Largely Unknown

Voters on Senate: Coalition, Yes; IDC Partner with Reps; Cuomo Stay Out
Democratic Incumbents Schneiderman & DiNapoli Have Large Early Leads
Voters Divided if They or the State Are Better/Worse Off than Four Years Ago

Loudonville, NY. Governor Andrew Cuomo holds a huge 36-point lead over Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, 57-21 percent. Cuomo has a better than two-to-one favorability rating, while Astorino remains unknown to more than two-thirds of New Yorkers, according to a Siena College Poll of New York voters released today.

The other independently elected statewide office holders ó Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, both Democrats ó also have large leads over little-known opponents. DiNapoli leads Onondaga County Comptroller Bob Antonacci by 34 points and Schneiderman leads John Cahill by 25 points.

A large majority of voters, 59 percent, want to see the State Senate continue to be led by a coalition of Democrats and Republicans after the election. By a 53-36 percent margin, voters want to see the Independent Democratic Conference continue to partner with the Republicans rather than the Democrats, and by a 55-38 percent margin, they want Cuomo to stay out of senate races, rather than help Democrats gain control of the Senate.

Slightly more than one-quarter of voters say they are better off today than four years ago, while a little less than one-quarter say they are worse off and half say they are about the same. When it comes to New York, one-third say the state is better off than it was four years ago, one-quarter say it's worse and 40 percent say the same.

“There are five months till Election Day. No race is over in June. This is a snapshot of all registered voters, not just those likely to vote in November. All true. But true too are two other facts: Astorino has a huge gap to close, and it's hard to beat a popular incumbent when you face a two-to-one party disadvantage and you are unknown to two-thirds of voters, including 70 percent of your own party,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“While Cuomo leads among Democrats by 69 points, Astorino only leads among Republicans by 29 points. And Cuomo wins among independents by 31 points,” Greenberg said. “Additionally, his favorability, job performance and re-elect ratings are all the best they've been since January. Half of voters see Cuomo as a moderate and, by a two-to-one margin, voters see him as a pragmatic, rather than partisan, Democrat.”

Cuomo's favorability rating is 63-31 percent (up from 57-38 percent in April) and his job performance is up to 49-50 percent (from 45-54 percent). By a 57-35 percent margin, voters say they are prepared to re-elect Cuomo compared to preferring "someone else" (50-41 percent in April). Astorino has an 18-12 percent favorability rating, with 69 percent having no opinion (18-16-66 percent in April).

"When it comes to which candidate voters identify with on issues, they clearly line up with Cuomo," Greenberg said. "Whether economic issues – like making New York more business friendly or instituting policies to create new jobs – or issues such

as improving education, medical marijuana or the SAFE Act, a majority say their position is closer to Cuomo's. Strong pluralities are with Cuomo on combating corruption

As you consider your stance compared to the candidates' position, would you describe yourself as ...			
Issue	Closer to Cuomo (strongly)	On the Fence	Closer to Astorino (strongly)
Making NY more business friendly	58% (32%)	17%	13% (7%)
Policies to create new jobs	57% (32%)	15%	15% (7%)
Improving public education	55% (34%)	16%	15% (9%)
Medical marijuana	52% (26%)	22%	13% (8%)
The SAFE Act	50% (35%)	15%	21% (8%)
Combatting corruption	49% (30%)	21%	16% (8%)
The Dream Act	40% (23%)	22%	19% (9%)
Hydrofracking	28% (15%)	27%	14% (8%)
Siena College Poll – June 16, 2014			

and the Dream Act. Only between 13 and 21 percent of voters say they're with Astorino on any of these issues.

Voters Want Cuomo Out of Senate Races; the IDC to Stay with Republicans; and a Continued Coalition

"New York voters say they like the State Senate just the way it is right now, with a bipartisan coalition of Republicans and Democrats in control. Only 22 percent want the Democrats in control after the November election, including only 37 percent of Democrats. Even fewer, 16 percent, want the Republicans in control. A strong majority, 59 percent – including 56 percent of Democrats, 53 percent of Republicans and a whopping 70 percent of independents – want a bipartisan coalition to continue leading the Senate," Greenberg said.

"While a majority of Democrats would like to see the Independent Democratic Conference partner with the other Democrats, 81 percent of Republicans and 59 percent of independents want to see the IDC continue to partner with the Republicans. New York City voters are divided but strong majorities of downstate suburban and upstate voters like the status quo," Greenberg said.

"And should Cuomo, the titular head of the Democratic Party, help his party gain control of the Senate? Fifty-seven percent of Democrats think he should but 83 percent of Republicans, two-thirds of independents, and more than one-third of Democrats say he should stay out of Senate campaigns," Greenberg said.

DiNapoli & Schneiderman Not Well Known, But Have Large Leads Over More Unknown Opponents

DiNapoli has 26-12-62 percent favorability rating (29-17-54 percent in April). Currently, 38 percent say they are prepared to re-elect him, with 28 percent preferring someone else (up from 32-35 percent). Schneiderman has a 23-16-61 percent favorability rating (27-20-53 percent in April). He has a 41-27 percent re-elect rating (up from 35-32 percent). Antonacci and Cahill are both unknown to more than three-quarters of voters.

“The Comptroller and Attorney General are far from household names in New York. Each is only viewed favorably by about one-quarter of voters,” Greenberg said. “However, their opponents are known to far fewer voters. Schneiderman and DiNapoli have the built in advantages of incumbency and a two-to-one party enrollment edge. Right now, Schneiderman leads Cahill 52-27 percent and DiNapoli leads Antonacci even bigger, 56-22 percent. Cahill and Antonacci have difficult tasks in front of them in sparsely-covered, down-ballot races.”

Less than One-Third of Voters Say They or the State Are Better Off Today than Four Years Ago

“Slightly more voters, 32 percent, say New York is better off today than four years ago, compared to 26 percent who say the state is worse off. A plurality of 40 percent say things are about the same,” Greenberg said. “More than twice as many Democrats say the state is better than worse, while twice as many Republicans say the state is worse rather than better, and independents are closely divided. More downstaters say things are better rather than worse, while by a small margin more upstaters say things are worse, not better.”

“When it comes to the famous Ronald Reagan question ‘are you better off now than you were four years ago?’ only 28 percent say they and their families are better off today than four years ago, with almost as many, 23 percent, saying they are worse off, and nearly half, 49 percent, saying things are about the same,” Greenberg said. “A majority or plurality of voters from every region, party, ideology, gender, age, race, religion, and income level say things are about the same.”

By 11-Point Margin, New Yorkers Say State is Headed on Right Track, Not Wrong Direction

“By a 50-39 percent margin, voters say New York is headed on the right track, not the wrong direction, up from 46-44 percent in April,” Greenberg said. “By a two-to one margin, Republicans say the state is headed in the wrong direction, while by a two-to-one margin, Democrats say the state is on the right track. Independents agree with Democrats 52-39 percent. New York City voters say right track by a 26-point margin and downstate suburbanites agree by a 13-point margin. Upstaters say wrong direction by a five-point margin, however, that has narrowed considerably from an 18-point margin in April.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted June 8-12, 2014 by telephone calls to 835 New York State registered voters. It has an overall margin of error of ± 3.4 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, region and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing to landline and cell phones weighted to reflect known population patterns. 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.



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Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
November 2013	61	32	6
October 2013	62	32	6
September 2013	64	32	4
August 2013	65	30	5
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	42 (10/06)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/20/10)

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
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
November 2013	7	37	39	17	1
October 2013	8	44	34	13	1
September 2013	11	38	36	14	1
August 2013	9	43	33	13	2
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	39 (11/13)	19 (3/14)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	7 (Several)	34 (1/11)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	1 (many)

Q. 11 I know it's a ways off, but as things stand now, if Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor this year, 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
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
November 2013	51	41	9
October 2013	52	38	10
September 2013	52	39	10
August 2013	55	35	9
HIGHEST EVER	62 (12/12)	41 (4/14, 3/14, 11/13, 6/13)	10 (3/14, 10/13, 9/13)
LOWEST EVER	49 (3/14)	29 (12/12)	7 (6/13, 4/13)

Q. 15 Based on what you've 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
June 2014	34	48	10	9
April 2014	35	46	11	8
February 2014	31	52	9	7
September 2013	36	46	12	6
HIGHEST EVER	36 (9/13)	60 (3/11)	15 (4/11, 2/11)	10 (4/11, 1/11)
LOWEST EVER	21 (2/11)	46 (4/14, 3/13)	8 (7/11)	6 (9/13)

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Q. 17 Which of the following two choices best describes Governor Cuomo: he's a partisan Democrat who does not work well with Republicans, or he's a pragmatic Democrat who works well with Republicans? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	PARTISAN DEMOCRAT	PRAGMATIC DEMOCRAT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2014	30	58	12
April 2014	29	59	12
HIGHEST EVER	30 (6/14)	59 (4/14)	12 (6/14, 4/14)
LOWEST EVER	29 (4/14)	58 (6/14)	12 (6/14, 4/14)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
November 2013	12	14	75
HIGHEST EVER	18 (6/14, 4/14)	19 (3/14)	76 (1/14)
LOWEST EVER	11 (2/14)	10 (1/14)	65 (3/14)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2014	23	16	61
April 2014	27	20	53
February 2014	27	19	55
January 2014	27	15	58
November 2013	27	16	57
September 2013	23	18	60
August 2013	25	15	60
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/31/10)	27 (10/31/10)	86 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	8 (11/09)	6 (5/10, 11/09)	44 (10/31/10)

Q. 12 If Eric Schneiderman runs for re-election as Attorney General this year, 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
June 2014	41	27	33
April 2014	35	32	33
January 2014	29	33	38
HIGHEST EVER	41 (6/14)	33 (1/14)	38 (1/14)
LOWEST EVER	29 (1/14)	27 (6/14)	33 (6/14, 4/14)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2014	26	12	62
April 2014	29	17	54
February 2014	26	21	54
January 2014	28	17	55
November 2013	27	19	54
September 2013	26	20	55
August 2013	26	18	57
HIGHEST EVER	30 (11/10, 10/20/10)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	10 (12/09, 11/08)	37 (10/31/10)

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Q. 13 If Tom DiNapoli runs for re-election as State Comptroller this year, 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
June 2014	38	28	35
April 2014	32	35	33
January 2014	35	30	35
HIGHEST EVER	38 (6/14)	35 (4/14)	35 (6/14, 1/14)
LOWEST EVER	32 (4/14)	28 (6/14)	33 (4/14)

Q. 18 Currently, the New York State Senate is controlled by a bipartisan coalition of all the Republicans in the Senate and five Democrats known as the Independent Democratic Caucus. In November, all 63 Senate seats will be up for election. After the election, who would you like to see control the State Senate: only the Democrats, only the Republicans, or a coalition of Democrats and Republicans, like we have now? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS	COALITION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2014	22	16	59	4
April 2014	22	16	58	4
HIGHEST EVER	22 (6/14, 4/14)	16 (6/14, 4/14)	59 (6/14)	4 (6/14, 4/14)
LOWEST EVER	22 (6/14, 4/14)	16 (6/14, 4/14)	58 (4/14)	4 (6/14, 4/14)

Q. 22 The Governor has proposed launching a pilot or test program to permit about 20 New York hospitals to provide medical marijuana to patients being treated for serious illness. Which of the following three options best describes how you feel about this: the Governor's test program is the way to go; New York should immediately move beyond a test program and make medical marijuana legal, as about 20 states have already done; or medical marijuana should remain illegal in New York? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	GOVERNOR'S TEST PROGRAM	LEGALIZE MEDICAL MARIJUANA	KEEP MEDICAL MARIJUANA ILLEGAL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2014	37	43	18	2
April 2014	26	51	21	3
March 2014	31	47	20	3
February 2014	32	45	20	3
January 2014	28	49	21	2
HIGHEST EVER	37 (6/14)	51 (4/14)	21 (4/14, 1/14)	3 (4/14, 3/14, 2/14)
LOWEST EVER	26 (4/14)	43 (6/14)	18 (6/14)	2 (6/14, 1/14)

Q. 23 Looking beyond the issue of medical marijuana, two states – Colorado and Washington – have legalized and regulated marijuana for recreational use. Do you support or oppose passing a similar law in New York to legalize and regulate marijuana for recreational use?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2014	41	54	5
April 2014	43	52	5
March 2014	42	54	4
February 2014	43	53	4
January 2014	41	54	5
HIGHEST EVER	43 (4/14, 2/14)	54 (6/14, 3/14, 1/14)	5 (6/14, 4/14, 1/14)
LOWEST EVER	41 (6/14, 1/14)	52 (4/14)	4 (3/14, 2/14)

Q. 24 Thinking about the minimum wage in New York, do you support or oppose allowing local governments to increase the minimum wage in their community to a higher rate than the state's minimum wage?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NEED MORE INFO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2014	72	25	1	2
February 2014	73	24	2	1
HIGHEST EVER	73 (2/14)	25 (6/14)	2 (2/14)	2 (6/14)
LOWEST EVER	72 (6/14)	24 (2/14)	1 (6/14)	1 (2/14)

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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
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
November 2013	46	44	10
October 2013	44	44	12
September 2013	43	46	11
August 2013	47	40	13
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: All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of 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 August 2013.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.