



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

PDF version; crosstabs; website:

Monday, December 14, 2015

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY

Siena College Poll:

Nearly 90% of NYers Concerned (60% Very) That Another Terrorist Attack Will Happen in New York in Near Future

Majority Oppose Allowing Syrian Refugees into Country at This Time

Overwhelming Majorities Agree with Silver Verdict and Believe Silver Conviction Important Step to Clean Up Albany; Nearly Two-Thirds Say New Ethics Laws Are Needed

By Two-to-One, Voters Agree with Attorney General Schneiderman that Daily Fantasy Sports Games Are Gambling & Illegal in New York

Loudonville, NY. While nearly 90 percent of New Yorkers say they are at least somewhat concerned ó 60 percent say they are very concerned ó that another terrorist attack will happen in New York in the near future, 63 percent say they have not changed their lifestyle at all out of fear of a terrorist attack. By a 52-39 percent margin, voters oppose allowing Syrian refugees to come to the United States at this time, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Nine in ten New Yorkers continues to say that corruption in Albany is a serious problem, and by huge margins, voters agree with the guilty verdict in the Sheldon Silver case (83-10 percent) and agree that the Silver conviction is an important step in cleaning up Albany (83-13 percent). By a three-to-one margin, voters say new laws are needed to prevent further corruption, rather than that legislators will finally act ethically going forward, given the Silver conviction and those of other politicians. Two-thirds of voters agree with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman that daily fantasy sports games are gambling and illegal in New York.

õThe overwhelming majority of New Yorkers, not surprisingly, have been closely following the recent terror attacks around the world. And an overwhelming majority of New Yorkers ó at least 86 percent from every region and party ó are also concerned about another terrorist attack in New York in the near future. At least 56 percent from every region and party are very concerned,õ said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

õSixty-three percent haven't changed their lifestyle at all out of fear of terrorism and another 16 percent have not changed it very much, while 20 percent say they've changed their lifestyle a great deal or some,õ Greenberg said.

“While New Yorkers are concerned about another terrorist attack in New York, four out of five have not altered their lifestyle very much or at all because of fear of a terrorist attack, and those numbers are consistent across the board irrespective of region, party, race, religion, or gender,” Greenberg said.

“A clear majority of New Yorkers – led by an overwhelming majority of Republicans – opposes allowing Syrian refugees into the country at this time,” Greenberg said. “By 50-41 percent, Democrats support allowing Syrian refugees into America, while more than three-quarters of Republicans oppose it and independents are opposed 50-42 percent. A majority of voters from upstate and the downstate suburbs are opposed, as are a plurality of New York City voters.

“New Yorkers are evenly divided on how President Obama is confronting the terrorism threat, with 46 percent supporting his efforts and 47 percent opposing. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats support the President’s efforts, while a majority of independents and more than three-quarters of Republicans are opposed,” Greenberg said.

Support for Silver Guilty Verdict; Important Step in Cleaning Up Albany; Need New Laws

“Although 89 percent of New Yorkers say that corruption in Albany is a serious problem, more than half have not followed the recent trials of two former legislative leaders very closely or at all, and nearly three-quarters have not heard of United States Attorney Preet Bharara, who’s viewed favorably by 18 percent,” Greenberg said.

“At least 79 percent of voters from every region and party agree that Silver illegally took money and agree with his guilty verdict,” Greenberg said. “While at least 79 percent of voters from every region and party agree that Silver’s conviction is an important step in cleaning up Albany, 61 percent – including at least 57 percent from every region and party – agree that ‘the next guy will do the same’ as Silver, ‘just more carefully.’

“New Yorkers continue to be very concerned by corruption in state government, and while a huge majority think the Silver conviction is an important step in cleaning up Albany, a strong majority believe that the corruption will continue, thinking that future corrupt pols will just try and do it more carefully,” Greenberg said.

“Will the recent convictions of Silver and other politicians finally convince state legislators to act ethically and honestly? Only 22 percent of New Yorkers think so. But nearly three times as many, 64 percent, think we need new laws to prevent pols from doing what Silver and other convicted legislators have done,” Greenberg said.

Voters Side with Schneiderman Over Daily Fantasy Sports Companies

Only three percent of voters say they have participated in online daily fantasy sports competition. When asked who is right in the ongoing legal battle, 66 percent say that Attorney General Schneiderman is right that these activities are gambling and illegal in New York, compared to only 34 percent who say the daily fantasy sports companies are right that these games are games of skill and are not gambling and not illegal in New York.

More than two-thirds of Democrats and independents side with Schneiderman over the daily fantasy sports companies, as do a small majority of Republicans, Greenberg said. Voters from every region think the Attorney General is right in calling these games gambling. Voters under 35 are evenly divided with 49 percent agreeing with Schneiderman and 51 percent agreeing with the companies, however those 55 and older support Schneiderman's position 75-25 percent.

Cuomo Standing with Voters Little Changed in Last Two Months, Last Six Months

Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 51-38 percent favorability rating, up a little from 50-42 percent in October, and his job performance rating is a negative 39-59 percent, down slightly from 41-58 percent in October.

Voters' view of Cuomo have not changed very much in the second half of the first year of his second term. Since July, his favorability rating has been between 49 and 51 percent and his positive job performance rating has been between 39 and 41 percent, Greenberg said. Democrats continue by a large margin to view Cuomo favorably and be evenly divided on his job performance rating. Independents now view him favorably, up significantly from October, while they continue to give him a two-to-one negative job performance rating. Republicans continue to view Cuomo unfavorably and more than two-thirds give him a negative job performance rating.

Voters' View of Legislature Gets Worse

The State Assembly is viewed favorably by 33 percent and unfavorably by 49 percent of voters (down from 36-44 percent in October). The Senate has a slightly better 38-47 percent favorability rating (down from 42-42 percent in October).

Whether it's the recent trials and convictions of former legislative leaders or some other reason, New Yorkers have an unfavorable view of both legislative house, Greenberg said. Both current legislative leaders continue to be unknown to three-quarters of voters, and the recently convicted former leaders are both viewed strongly unfavorably, although 30 percent are still unfamiliar with Silver and 53 percent don't know Dean Skelos.

New Yorkers Evenly Divided on Direction of State; Continue Negative on Direction of Country

Voters are split on the direction of New York State, as 42 percent say the state is on the right track while 43 percent say it's headed in the wrong direction, down from 46-39 percent in October, with the biggest drop in the downstate suburbs, Greenberg said. Voters are unchanged on the direction of the country since September. Both then and now, 32 percent say the US is on the right track, compared to 59 percent who say wrong direction.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted December 6-10, 2015 by telephone calls conducted in English to 822 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 ± 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.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

Siena College Poll Trends – December 2015

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 15 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
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, 12/14)	25 (10/14)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	6 (9/15, 3/15)	32 (12/15, etc.)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (5/15, 10/14)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2015	12	14	74
October 2015	11	20	70
September 2015	8	15	78
July 2015	12	15	74
May 2015	12	16	72
April 2015	11	19	69
March 2015	11	15	74
February 2015	14	14	73
HIGHEST EVER	14 (2/15)	20 (10/15)	78 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	14 (12/15, 2/15)	69 (4/15)

Siena College Poll Trends – December 2015

Page 2

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2015	11	59	30
February 2015	16	58	26
January 2015	21	37	42
HIGHEST EVER	28 (4/13, 7/05)	59 (12/15)	50 (4/05)
LOWEST EVER	11 (12/15)	30 (4/05)	26 (2/15)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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 John Flanagan?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2015	12	14	74
October 2015	14	16	69
September 2015	13	14	73
July 2015	12	13	75
May 2015	17	14	69
HIGHEST EVER	17 (5/15)	16 (10/15)	75 (7/15)
LOWEST EVER	12 (12/15, 7/15)	13 (7/15)	69 (10/15, 5/15)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2015	8	39	53
May 2015	13	40	47
April 2015	12	28	60
March 2015	13	22	65
February 2015	16	20	64
January 2015	13	18	68
HIGHEST EVER	19 (3/14)	40 (5/15)	82 (11/08)
LOWEST EVER	8 (12/15)	8 (7/08)	47 (5/15)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Preet Bharara?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2015	18	9	73
May 2015	18	11	71
February 2015	20	10	69
HIGHEST EVER	20 (2/15)	11 (5/15)	81 (8/14)
LOWEST EVER	11 (8/14)	8 (8/14)	69 (2/15)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

Siena College Poll Trends – December 2015

Q. 16 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
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	52 (12/15)	41 (2/15)	8 (8/14)	2 (12/15, etc.)	5 (8/14)
LOWEST EVER	47 (8/14)	37 (12/15)	4 (2/15)	1 (7/15, 5/15, 8/14)	2 (5/15, 2/15)

Q. 18 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?

DATE	MORE LIKELY TO RE-ELECT	LESS LIKELY TO RE-ELECT	NO EFFECT ON VOTE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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 (7/15)	49 (5/15)	7 (12/15)
LOWEST EVER	10 (12/15)	37 (5/15)	34 (7/15)	3 (5/15)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 14 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
December 2015	51	37	12
October 2015	49	38	13
September 2015	49	37	13
HIGHEST EVER	51 (12/15)	38 (10/15)	13 (10/15, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	49 (10/15, 9/15)	37 (12/15, 9/15)	12 (12/15)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2015	53	42	5
September 2015	54	42	4
July 2015	58	39	3
April 2015	52	45	3
March 2015	57	41	3
February 2015	56	42	2
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (9/14, 10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	1 (7/14, 1/13, 8/12)

Siena College Poll Trends – December 2015

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
December 2015	32	59	9
September 2015	32	59	9
July 2015	40	51	9
April 2015	37	55	8
March 2015	40	52	9
February 2015	42	51	8
January 2015	38	55	7
December 2014	34	57	9
October 2014*	33	60	7
September 2014*	36	55	9
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

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
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: * 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.

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.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.