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**Siena College Poll:**

## **Heading Into Fifth State of the State, Cuomo Ratings Up; Voters Want Him Focused on Jobs & Education for 2015**

**More Voters Say Common Core Implementation Should Be Stopped;  
Trust SED & Regents More than Gov & Leg on Education Policy  
*Cuomo Administration Fracking Ban Supported More than Two-to-One***

**Loudonville, NY.** Governor Andrew Cuomo's standing with voters has improved a little since last month and is now at its highest level since July. Jobs and education are the top two issues voters want Cuomo to make his top priorities this year, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

When it comes to education, voters give a negative rating to public schools across the state in preparing students to be college or career ready, and they are evenly divided on their local schools. By a 15-point margin, 49-34 percent, voters say implementation of Common Core standards should be stopped. Voters also say they trust the State Education Department (SED) and the Board of Regents to set education policy far more than they trust the Governor or Legislature. The Cuomo Administration's decision to ban fracking in New York is supported by a 57-23 percent margin. And there is overwhelming support for continuing the property tax cap law.

Cuomo's favorability rating is 60-35 percent, up a little from 58-37 percent last month, and he has a negative 47-51 percent job performance rating, up from a negative 42-57 percent last month.

"On the eve of his fifth State of the State address, voters statewide give Cuomo the best favorability rating he's had since July. He's viewed favorably by more than three-quarters of Democrats and New York City voters and favorably by independents and downstate suburbanites. Upstate voters are evenly divided and Republicans are decidedly unfavorable," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "Cuomo's job performance rating is also the best it's been since July and is hovering just below the breakeven point.

"Jobs and education are the two issues that at least 40 percent of voters statewide say should be one of Cuomo's top two priorities in 2015," Greenberg said. "Those are by far the most important two issues for Democrats, independents and New York City voters, however, Republicans see taxes and jobs as the two top priorities. Downstate suburbanites and upstaters are closely divided among three top priorities: jobs, education and taxes."

**Continuing to Implement Common Core Not Supported; Trust on Education Rests with SED & Regents**

“While Democrats and New York City voters are closely divided on the issue of whether or not to continue implementing Common Core education standards, upstaters and downstate suburbanites want implementation stopped by about two-to-one, as do a majority of independents and a large majority of Republicans,” Greenberg said. “Majorities of downstate suburban and upstate voters say their local public schools are doing an excellent or good job of preparing students to be college or career ready, however, twice as many New York City voters say their local public schools are doing a fair or poor job of preparing students, not a good or excellent job.

“Despite the fact that it was SED and the Regents that implemented the Common Core standards which voters want stopped, voters trust SED and the Regents far more than they trust politicians to set education policy in the state,” Greenberg said. “Thirty-eight percent of voters trust SED the most to set education policy, followed by 23 percent who trust the Regents most, 18 percent who trust Cuomo, and eight percent who trust the Legislature.”

**Cuomo’s Fracking Ban Overwhelmingly Supported – Upstate and Downstate**

“By a five-to-two margin, New Yorkers support the Cuomo Administration’s ban on fracking. Between 55 and 61 percent of voters from every region of the state support the ban. While about one-third of upstaters oppose the decision to ban fracking, about half that number of downstaters oppose the ban,” Greenberg said. “Two-thirds of Democrats support the ban, as do a strong majority of independents and a plurality of Republicans.”

**Lopsided Support for Continuing the Property Tax Cap Freeze Law**

“Democrats, Republicans, upstaters, and downstaters all agree: the Governor and Legislature should pass a law continuing the property tax cap, 70-23 percent,” Greenberg said. “While support is weakest in New York City at 63 percent, continuing the law is supported by about three-quarters of upstaters and downstate suburbanites. It is supported by two-thirds of Democrats, nearly three-quarters of independents and 79 percent of Republicans.”

**Mario Cuomo Fondly Remembered**

“Voters fondly remember Mario Cuomo, who passed away on New Year’s Day. Seventy-six percent of New Yorkers say they have a favorable view of the first Governor Cuomo, compared to only 14 percent who say they view him unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “At least two-thirds of voters from every region have a favorable view of Mario Cuomo, as do 58 percent of Republicans. Even a majority of voters who view the current Governor Cuomo unfavorably have a favorable view of his father.”

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## Siena College Poll Trends – January 20, 2015

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	60	35	5
December 2014	58	37	4
October 2014*	54	43	3
September 2014*	55	40	5
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>43 (10/14)</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. 10** 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
January 2015	11	36	35	16	1
December 2014	7	35	40	17	1
October 2014*	9	34	32	25	0
September 2014*	7	35	35	21	1
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>25 (10/14)</b>	<b>28 (1/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (Several)</b>	<b>34 (10/14, 1/11)</b>	<b>24 (1/11)</b>	<b>4 (2/11, 1/11)</b>	<b>0 (10/14)</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
January 2015	42	41	17
December 2014	39	41	20
September 2014*	40	44	16
July 2014*	39	43	17
April 2014	36	47	17
March 2014	39	46	16
February 2014	37	49	14
January 2014	41	43	16
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>45 (1/13)</b>	<b>61 (7/10)</b>	<b>20 (12/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (7/10)</b>	<b>40 (12/12)</b>	<b>12 (4/13, 1/10)</b>

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	21	37	42
March 2014	23	39	38
January 2014	23	37	40
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>28 (4/13, 7/05)</b>	<b>43 (9/13, 6/13)</b>	<b>50 (4/05)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (2/11, 4/05)</b>	<b>30 (4/05)</b>	<b>33 (4/13)</b>

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**Q. 5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	45	44	11
December 2014	41	44	14
September 2014*	40	46	14
July 2014*	41	45	14
April 2014	40	48	12
March 2014	39	49	13
February 2014	37	51	12
January 2014	46	42	12
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>46 (1/14, 5/12)</b>	<b>74 (7/09)</b>	<b>14 (12/14, 7/14, 12/12, 6/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (7/09)</b>	<b>41 (12/12)</b>	<b>6 (7/09)</b>

**Q. 7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	13	18	68
March 2014	19	21	61
January 2014	18	16	66
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (3/14)</b>	<b>24 (4/13)</b>	<b>82 (11/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>9 (12/10)</b>	<b>8 (7/08)</b>	<b>61 (3/14, 4/13)</b>

**Q. 16** How familiar are you with the Common Core learning standards in math and English that the State Education Department has adopted for all public schools in New York?

DATE	VERY FAMILIAR	SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR	NOT VERY FAMILIAR	NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	23	42	16	17	1
February 2014	23	38	21	18	1
November 2013	22	37	20	21	0
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>23 (1/15, 2/14)</b>	<b>42 (1/15)</b>	<b>21 (2/14)</b>	<b>21 (11/13)</b>	<b>1 (1/15, 2/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>22 (11/13)</b>	<b>37 (11/13)</b>	<b>16 (1/15)</b>	<b>17 (1/15)</b>	<b>0 (11/13)</b>

**Q. 17** Based on what you do know, do you think the Common Core standards are too demanding, about right, or not demanding enough?

DATE	TOO DEMANDING	ABOUT RIGHT	NOT DEMANDING ENOUGH	DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	33	21	25	13	7
February 2014	36	23	24	9	7
November 2013	34	23	27	10	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>36 (2/14)</b>	<b>23 (2/14, 11/13)</b>	<b>27 (11/13)</b>	<b>13 (1/15)</b>	<b>7 (1/15, 2/14)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>33 (1/15)</b>	<b>21 (1/15)</b>	<b>24 (2/14)</b>	<b>9 (2/14)</b>	<b>6 (11/13)</b>

**Q. 18** Some have called for stopping the implementation of Common Core standards, while others have said they should continue to be implemented. Which view is closer to yours – Common Core standards should continue to be implemented, or implementation of the Common Core standards should be stopped?

DATE	IMPLEMENTED	STOP IMPLEMENTATION	NOT ENOUGH INFO/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2015	34	49	17
July 2014	39	49	13
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>39 (7/14)</b>	<b>49 (1/15, 7/14)</b>	<b>17 (1/15)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>34 (1/15)</b>	<b>49 (1/15, 7/14)</b>	<b>13 (7/14)</b>

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**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
January 2015	38	55	7
December 2014	34	57	9
October 2014*	33	60	7
September 2014*	36	55	9
July 2014*	38	56	7
March 2014	36	57	8
February 2014	39	55	6
January 2014	37	55	8
<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
January 2015	46	45	9
December 2014	41	45	14
October 2014*	46	46	8
September 2014*	48	43	10
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 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 2014.

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

<sup>^</sup> Inconsequential wording change.