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Siena College Poll:

Almost Two-Thirds of NY Voters Agree with Supreme Court Same Sex Marriage Decision; Support Obamacare Ruling 2-to-1

Voters Overwhelmingly Say Confederate Flag Represents ~~+~~Racial Intolerance~~q~~and Not ~~+~~Southern Heritage~~q~~ Republicans Don~~q~~ Agree

Clinton is NY Candidate Most Voters Want to See Become President; Trump is NY Candidate Most Voters Do Not Want to See as President

Loudonville, NY. By a 64-28 percent margin, New York voters agree with the recent Supreme Court decision that guarantees a right for same sex couples to marry in all 50 states, and by a 57-26 percent margin, they agree with the Court's Affordable Care Act or Obamacare decision that allows the Federal government to provide insurance through federally-operated health insurance exchanges, in addition to state-operated exchanges, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

By better than two-to-one, 59-27 percent, voters say flying the Confederate flag represents racial intolerance rather than Southern heritage. Among the four presidential candidates with New York ties — Hillary Clinton, Chris Christie, George Pataki, and Donald Trump — 52 percent of voters most want to see Clinton elected President and 55 percent least want to see Trump elected.

“The Supreme Court's same sex marriage decision has broad support among New Yorkers. Upstaters agree with the decision by a 21-point margin, New York City voters support it by a 35-point margin and downstate suburbanites agree with the decision by an overwhelming 75-19 percent margin,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. More than 60 percent of independents and nearly three-quarters of Democrats agree with the decision to allow same sex marriages in all 50 states, while Republicans are virtually evenly divided. While a strong majority of older voters agree with the decision, more than three-quarters of younger voters agree.

“Interestingly, the overall statewide agreement with the decision — 64-28 percent — is nearly identical to the 65-32 percent support for legalizing same sex marriage in all 50 states found in a Siena College Poll in March 2014,” Greenberg said. “From the time New York passed its marriage equality law four years ago until today, New Yorkers have consistently demonstrated support for it.”

“The Obamacare decision enjoys strong statewide support, however, with wide partisan differences: 75 percent of Democrats, 51 percent of independents and only 26 percent of Republicans agree with the decision allowing Federal insurance exchanges in addition to those run by the states,” Greenberg said. “More than two-thirds of New York City voters agree, as do a majority of downstate suburbanites and a plurality of upstaters.”

Blue State Yankees Say ‘No’ to Confederate Flag

“Nearly six in ten New Yorkers say that flying the Confederate flag represents racial intolerance with only 27 percent saying the flag represents Southern heritage,” Greenberg said. “A majority of voters from every region, gender, race, religion, age, and party – with one exception – says that the Confederate flag represents racial intolerance. Only Republicans, by a 49-33 percent margin, say the flag represents Southern heritage.”

New Yorker in the White House? Clinton, Yes; Trump, No

“Of the four presidential candidates with New York ties, Clinton, the former U.S. Senator, has the best favorability rating and is far and away voters’ choice to win the White House in 2016. Among those four, Clinton has the support of 52 percent as the candidate they most want to be President.

Presidential Candidates with New York Ties				
	Hillary Clinton	George Pataki	Chris Christie	Donald Trump
Favorable	56%	47%	37%	25%
Unfavorable	40%	39%	49%	71%
Most Like to see as President	52%	14%	13%	11%
Least Like to see as President	26%	6%	10%	55%
Siena College Poll – July 16, 2015				

The other three garner between 11 and 14 percent,” Greenberg said.

“Who do New Yorkers not want to see in the Oval Office? The Donald. With more than two-thirds of New Yorkers having an unfavorable view of Trump, 55 percent say he is the candidate they least want to be President,” Greenberg said. “Former Governor Pataki has a positive favorability rating and while only 14 percent say he’s their top New York choice for President, an even smaller six percent say he would be their least favorite choice.”

New York Voters Like Their United States Senators

“Senator Chuck Schumer has a 62-27 percent favorability rating, up slightly from 61-29 percent in December. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s favorability rating is 54-18 percent, up from 50-21 percent in December,” Greenberg said. “Each is viewed overwhelmingly favorably by Democrats, strongly favorably by independents and favorably by a plurality of Republicans. They are both also viewed favorably in every region of the state.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted July 6-9, 2015 by telephone calls conducted in English to 802 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 ± 3.9 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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Siena College Poll Trends – July 2015

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	62	27	12
December 2014	61	29	10
July 2014*	62	27	11
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. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	54	18	28
December 2014	50	21	29
July 2014*	55	23	23
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. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	58	39	3
April 2015	52	45	3
March 2015	57	41	3
February 2015	56	42	2
December 2014	54	43	3
September 2014*	50	46	4
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)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	56	40	4
April 2015	58	38	5
March 2015	59	38	3
February 2015	62	33	5
December 2014	63	32	5
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	46 (4/08)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	48 (4/08)	23 (12/12)	2 (many)

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Q. 16 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about George Pataki?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	47	39	14
August 2011	51	37	12
HIGHEST EVER	62 (4/10)	57 (2/07)	16 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	36 (2/07)	29 (4/10)	7 (many)

Q. 17 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chris Christie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	37	49	14
April 2015	41	47	12
December 2014	46	43	11
HIGHEST EVER	63 (11/13, 12/12)	49 (7/15)	18 (12/12)
LOWEST EVER	37 (7/15)	18 (12/12)	11 (12/14)

Q. 18 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2015	25	71	4
February 2014	31	62	7
HIGHEST EVER	38 (1/14)	71 (7/15)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/15)	57 (1/14)	4 (7/15)

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 September 2014. "Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" is provided at the bottom of each question.
 ^ Inconsequential wording change.