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For Immediate Release: Contact:

Monday, October 26, 2015 Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

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Siena College Poll:

Half of Voters View Cuomo Favorably; New Yorkers Give Him Weak Job Performance Ratings; Especially on Corruption, Education, Infrastructure, Economy

Support for Mass Transit/Road Spending; Divided on How to Pay for It

Minimum Wage Increase, SAFE Act Continue to Be Strongly Supported; Only One in Five Says Common Core has Improved Public Education

Loudonville, **NY.** Governor Andrew Cuomoøs favorability rating, 50-42 percent, is unchanged from last month, and his overall job performance rating is also largely unchanged, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today. On six of seven specific issue job performance ratings, at least 60 percent of voters say Cuomo is doing only a fair or poor job.

More than two-thirds of voters think that New York should fund both downstate mass transit and upstate roads, for similar amounts, although there is less agreement on how to fund infrastructure spending, with a plurality saying cuts to existing state programs should be the source for most of the money. Large majorities of voters continue to support increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour and the nearly three-year-old SAFE Act. By a two-to-one margin, voters think Common Core has worsened, not improved, public education and a small plurality think those educational standards will continue to worsen public education in the future.

õCuomo appears to have landed on a new plateau as about half of voters view him favorably over the last several months and more than 40 percent view him unfavorably. And his overall job performance rating has also remained fairly constant for much of the year, with 41 percent now rating the job heøs doing as Governor excellent or good and 58 percent rating it as only fair or poor, ö said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

õOn key issues, however, the Governor has not succeeded in convincing voters that heøs going a good job,ö Greenberg said. õOn six ó reducing corruption, improving public education, balancing upstate and downstate needs, improving infrastructure, improving the economy, and planning for New Yorkøs future ó only between 23 and 35 percent of voters say Cuomo has done an excellent or good job. Even a majority of Democrats give him a negative job performance rating on each.ö

Siena College Poll – October 26, 2015 – Page 2

Given four choices for Cuomoøs greatest asset as Governor, 21 percent said it was his ability to get opposing groups to work together, 20 percent said his vision for New Yorkøs future, 20 percent said he gets things done, and 18 percent said he makes tough decisions, while 10 percent volunteered that he has no real assets. As to his greatest weakness as Governor, 30 percent said he doesnøt achieve consensus on important issues, 22 percent said he jumps from issue to issue without a plan, 19 percent said he doesnøt work well with others, and 10 percent said he puts off making tough decisions.

õVoters are nearly evenly divided among four traits in trying to determine Cuomoøs greatest asset as Governor with little partisan or geographic differences,ö Greenberg said. õIs it a positive that voters rank four Cuomo traits as virtually equal in defining his greatest asset or is it a negative that no single trait stands out for voters? It may help to explain his consistent middle-of-the-road standing with voters of late.ö

Strong Consensus for Infrastructure Spending; Little Consensus on How to Pay for It

Seventy-one percent of voters say New York should fund downstate mass transit and upstate roads for similar amounts, 11 percent say fund mass transit but not roads, six percent say fund roads but not mass transit, and three percent say neither should be funded.

õIn light of the recent commitment by the Governor to spend more than \$8 billion for the MTAøs capital plan, there is strong consensus among New Yorkers that there should be comparable funding for both downstate mass transit and upstate roads. More than two-thirds of Republicans, nearly three-quarters of Democrats and independents, two-thirds of downstaters and more than three-quarters of upstaters agree,ö Greenberg said.

oThere is not, however, that same level of consensus on how to fund large infrastructure projects. A plurality, 38 percent say most infrastructure spending should be funded by cuts to existing state programs, while 24 percent say increased state taxes and 23 percent increased state borrowing,ö Greenberg said. oA majority of Republicans and pluralities of independents, upstaters and downstate suburbanites want cuts to fund infrastructure, while a plurality of Democrats say taxes and New York City voters are evenly divided among the three.ö

Strong Support for Minimum Wage Increase Continues

õBy a 62-35 percent margin, voters support Cuomoøs proposed minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour, up a little from 59-38 percent last month,ö Greenberg said. õDemocrats overwhelmingly support the increase, while independents are evenly divided and Republicans oppose the increase 58-39 percent. While upstate voters are divided, there is strong support for the increase in the downstate suburbs and overwhelming support in the City.

õBy a nearly identical 62-33 percent margin, voters agree with the arguments of minimum wage supporters, rather than the arguments of opponents,ö Greenberg said.

SAFE Act Support Remains Consistently Strong

õNearly three years after its enactment, support for the SAFE Act remains consistently strong, with 59 percent of voters supporting it and 33 percent opposing. It was supported 62-33 percent in May, 58-33 percent last December and 63-32 percent in March 2014,ö Greenberg said. õThe SAFE Act continues to be strongly supported by Democrats, independents and downstate voters. It is opposed by a small majority of Republicans and upstate voters continue to be closely divided on the SAFE Act.ö

Voters Say Common Core Has Worsened Public Education; Not Optimistic It Will Improve Going Forward õBy a 40-21 percent margin, voters say Common Core standards have worsened, not improved, public education, with another 21 percent saying they have had little impact,ö Greenberg said. õLooking forward, a small plurality of voters, 34 percent, say Common Core standards will worsen public education in the long run, compared to 30 percent who say they will improve education and 20 percent who say they will have little impact.ö

Plurality of Voters Now Say State is Headed on the Right Track

õFor the first time since April, more voters, 46 percent, say the state is on the right track, compared to 39 percent who say the state is headed in the wrong direction. Last month, wrong direction led 49-41 percent, a net 15-point improvement in how New Yorkers view the direction of the state,ö Greenberg said. õNew York City voters are most optimistic, with 52 percent saying the state is on the right track. However, upstate voters moved the most on this question since last month and are now closely divided on this question, while downstate suburbanites are evenly divided. Both non-New York City regions were very negative about the state¢s direction last month.ö

One Year from Election Day, Views on Schumer Favorability, Re-election Little Changed õSenator Chuck Schumer has a nearly two-to-one favorability rating, 58-30 percent, little changed from last monthøs 61-29 percent,ö Greenberg said. õLittle changed too is votersøopinion on his re-election. With no current opponent, 49 percent say they are prepared to re-elect Schumer, while 38 percent say they would prefer ÷someone else.øStrong majorities of Democrats and New York City say re-elect the Senate Democratic leader-in-waiting.ö

ConCon Vote Remains Mystery for Vast Majority; Support for ConCon Weakens, Still Strong of More than 70 percent say they have heard nothing at all about the 2017 vote on whether New York should hold a Constitutional Convention, comparable to July& Siena College Poll finding,ö Greenberg said. of However, while support for a ConCon remains very strong, 60-25 percent, it is down from July when support was 69-15 percent.ö

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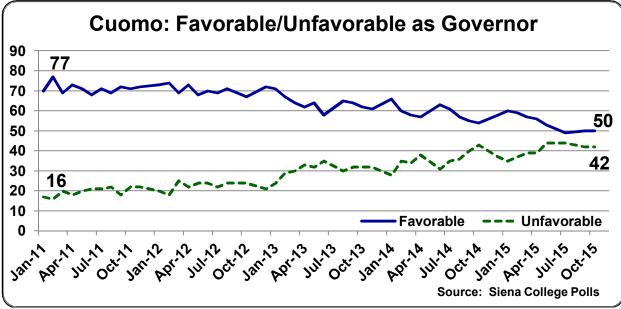
This Siena College Poll was conducted October 18-22, 2015 by telephone calls conducted in English to 806 New York State registered voters. Respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest male in the household. It has an overall margin of error of \pm 4.0 percentage points including the design 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.



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Cuomo Job Performance Ratings				
Specific Issues		Positive (Excellent/Good)	Negative (Fair/Poor)	
Overall job performance rating as Governor	October 2015	41% (9%/32%)	58% (35%/23%)	
Making New York more	October 2015	41% (7%/34%)	52% (30%/22%)	
business friendly	July 2015	45% (8%/37%)	50% (30%/20%)	
Improving New Yorkos economy	October 2015	35% (6%/29%)	63% (37%/26%)	
improving New Yorks economy	July 2015	34% (4%/30%)	63% (38%/25%)	
Planning for the long term future of New York	October 2015	35% (5%/30%)	60% (35%/25%)	
or new ronk	July 2015	Not Applicable		
Improving New Yorkos infrastructure	October 2015	29% (4%/25%)	65% (37%/28%)	
IIIIastructure	July 2015	Not Appli		
Balancing needs of both upstate	October 2015	27% (6%/21%)	64% (33%/31%)	
& downstate	July 2015	25% (3%/22%)	66% (36%/30%)	
Improving the quality of public	October 2015	27% (4%/23%)	68% (36%/32%)	
education in New York	July 2015	24% (4%/20%)	73% (32%/41%)	
Reducing corruption in state	October 2015	23% (5%/18%)	69% (31%/38%)	
government	July 2015	20% (4%/16%)	74% (35%/39%)	
		Siena College Poll -	October 26, 2015	



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Siena College Poll Trends – October 2015

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 13 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
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	2/14) 25 (10/	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	6 (9/15, 3	/15) <mark>32 (10/15, 7</mark>	<mark>//15, 5/15)</mark> 24 (1/11)	4 (2/1	1, 1/11) 0 (5/15, 10/14)

Q. 19 Looking at a few specific issues, Iød like you to tell me whether you think Governor Cuomo has done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in addressing those issues. Improving the quality of public education in New York.

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor Don	'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	4	23	36	32	5
July 2015	4	20	32	41	3
HIGHEST EVER	4 (10/15,	7/15)23 (10/15)	36 (10/15)	41 (7/15)	5 (10/15)
LOWEST EVER	<mark>4 (10/15,</mark>	7/15)20 (7/15)	32 (7/15)	32 (10/15)	3 (7/15)

Q. 20 Looking at a few specific issues, Iød like you to tell me whether you think Governor Cuomo has done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in addressing those issues. Making New York more business friendly

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	7	34	30	22	6
July 2015	8	37	30	20	5
HIGHEST EVER	8 (7/15)	37 (7/15)	30 (10/15	, 7/15) <mark>22 (10</mark>	<mark>0/15) 6 (10/15)</mark>
LOWEST EVER	7 (10/15)	34 (10/15)	<mark>30 (10/15</mark>	<mark>, 7/15)</mark> 20 (7/	15) 5 (7/15)

Q. 21 Looking at a few specific issues, Iød like you to tell me whether you think Governor Cuomo has done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in addressing those issues. Improving New Yorkøs economy.

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor Don'	r Know/No Opinion
October 2015	6	29	37	26	3
July 2015	4	30	38	25	3
HIGHEST EVER	6 (10/15)	30 (7/15)	38 (7/15)	26 (10/15)	3 (10/15, 7/15)
LOWEST EVER	4 (7/15)	29 (10/15)	37 (10/15)	25 (7/15)	3 (10/15, 7/15)

Page 2

Q. 22 Looking at a few specific issues, Iød like you to tell me whether you think Governor Cuomo has done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in addressing those issues. Reducing corruption in state government.

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor Don'	T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	5	18	31	38	8
July 2015	4	16	35	39	6
HIGHEST EVER	5 (10/15)	18 (10/15)	35 (7/15)	39 (7/15)	8 (10/15)
LOWEST EVER	4 (7/15)	16 (7/15)	31 (10/15)	38 (10/15)	6 (7/15)

Q. 23 Looking at a few specific issues, Iød like you to tell me whether you think Governor Cuomo has done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job in addressing those issues. Balancing the needs of both upstate and downstate.

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor D	on't Know/No Opinion
October 2015	6	21	33	31	10
July 2015	3	22	36	30	10
HIGHEST EVER	6 (10/15)	22 (7/15)	36 (7/15)	31 (10/1 :	5) 10 (10/15, 7/15)
LOWEST EVER	3 (7/15)	21 (10/15)	33 (10/15)	30 (7/15)	10 (10/15, 7/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)	<mark>20 (10/15)</mark>	78 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	14 (2/15)	69 (4/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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 (10/15)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	41 (12/12)	6 (7/09)

Page 3

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Flanagan?

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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 (7/15)	13 (7/15)	69 (10/15, 5/15)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	29	19	52
July 2015	27	16	57
March 2015	29	18	53
HIGHEST EVER	35 (10/14)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	10 (12/09, 11/08)	37 (10/31/10)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE DO	n't Know/No Opinion
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. 12 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
October 2015	49	38	13
September 2015	49	37	13
HIGHEST EVER	49 (10/15, 9/15)	38 (10/15)	13 (10/15, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	49 (10/15, 9/15)	37 (9/15)	13 (10/15, 9/15)

Q. 14 There is an ongoing public debate about the minimum wage in New York. (Next two sentences were rotated.) Supporters of a minimum wage increase say it would improve the lives of thousands of workers in New York, reduce poverty and enable neighborhoods to thrive. Opponents of a minimum wage increase say it would have a negative impact on job creation, hurt small businesses and lead larger companies to leave New York. Do you tend to agree more with the supporters or the opponents of the minimum wage increase?

DATE	SUPPORTERS	OPPONENTS	BOTH/NEITHER/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	62	33	5
September 2015	58	38	4
HIGHEST EVER	62 (10/15)	38 (9/15)	5 (10/15)
LOWEST EVER	58 (9/15)	33 (10/15)	4 (9/15)

Page 4

Q. 15 Recently, Governor Cuomo proposed increasing the minimum wage to 15 dollars an hour. It would be phased in and take full effect by the end of 2018 in New York City and in 2021 in the rest of state. This is comparable to what was recently enacted for fast food workers in New York. Do you support or oppose the Governor proposed increase of the minimum wage in New York to \$15 per hour?

DATE	SUPPORTERS	OPPONENTS	NEED MORE INFO/ Don't Know/No Opinion
October 2015	62	35	3
September 2015	59	38	3
HIGHEST EVER	62 (10/15)	38 (9/15)	3 (10/13, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	59 (9/15)	35 (10/15)	3 (10/13, 9/15)

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?

	VERY	SOMEWHAT	NOT VERY I	NOT AT ALL	
DATE	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	28	35	18	17	1
September 2015	31	37	16	15	1
January 2015	23	42	16	17	1
HIGHEST EVER	31 (9/1	5) 42 (1/15)	21 (2/14)	21 (11/1	1 (10/15, etc.)
LOWEST EVER	22 (11/	35 (10/15)	16 (9/15, 1/	15) 15 (9/15	0 (11/13)

Q. 17 When it comes to how you feel about the implementation of Common Core standards in New Yorkøs schools, do you believe implementation of Common Core has improved public education in New York, worsened public education in New York or has had no meaningful effect on public education in New York? (Choices were rotated.)

			No Meaningful	NEED MORE	Don't Know/
DATE	IMPROVED	WORSENED	EFFECT	INFO	NO OPINION
October 2015	21	40	21	7	11
September 2015	19	40	24	10	17
HIGHEST EVER	21 (10/1	5) 40 (10/1:	5, 9/15) 24 (9/15)	10 (9/15)	17 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	19 (9/15	5) 40 (10/1	5 , 9/15) 21 (10/15)	7 (10/15)	11 (10/15)

Q. 28 In early 2013, the Governor and Legislature enacted what some have called the toughest gun control law in the country that was named the SAFE Act by Governor Cuomo. Now, more than two years later, do you support or oppose the gun control law passed in 2013? (Slight wording changes to reflect the timeframe in which the question was asked.)

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE D	ON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	59	33	8
May 2015	62	33	6
December 2014	58	33	9
March 2014	63	32	5
HIGHEST EVER	63 (3/14)	33 (10/15, 5/15, 12/1	9 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	58 (12/14)	32 (3/14)	5 (3/14)

Q. 32 The last New York State Constitutional Convention was held in 1967. Since then, New Yorkers have twice voted against having a constitutional convention 6 in both 1977 and 1997. In 2017, New Yorkers will again have an opportunity to vote on whether or not there should be a State Constitutional Convention. How much have you heard about that vote in 2017 on whether or not to have a constitutional convention. Would you say you have heard a great deal, some, not very much, or nothing at all?

DATE	GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	Nothing	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	2	5	20	71	1
September 2015	2	4	19	75	0
HIGHEST EVER	2 (10/15, ²	7/15) <mark>5 (10/15</mark>	20 (10/15)	75 (7/15	5) 1 (10/15)
LOWEST EVER	2 (10/15,	<mark>7/15)</mark> 4 (7/15)	19 (7/15)	71 (10/ 1	0 (7/15)

Page 5

Q. 33 Do you support or oppose having a New York State Constitutional Convention in which delegates propose changes to the State Constitution for voters to approve or reject?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2015	60	25	15
July 2015	69	15	16
June 2010	58	26	16
August 2009	63	25	12
HIGHEST EVER	69 (7/15)	26 (6/10)	16 (7/15, 6/10)
LOWEST EVER	58 (6/10)	15 (7/15)	12 (8/09)

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
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:

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.

^{*} 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.

[&]quot;Highest Everö and õLowest Everö is provided at the bottom of each question.

[^] Inconsequential wording change.