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De Blasio Has Large Lead Heading into Final Days

Thompson & Quinn Running Neck and Neck For 2nd Runoff Spot

Spitzer Leads Stringer by 15 Points in Political Comeback Attempt

Loudonville, NY. Public Advocate Bill de Blasio has opened a large lead over his competitors in the race for the Democratic nomination to become New York City's next mayor, according to The New York Times/Siena College Poll of likely New York City primary voters released today. De Blasio has the support of 32 percent of likely Democratic voters, compared to 18 percent for former City Comptroller Bill Thompson, 17 percent for City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, 11 percent for former Congressman Anthony Weiner, and three percent for City Comptroller John Liu. One in six voters remains undecided.

In the race for City Comptroller, former Governor Eliot Spitzer has 50-35 percent lead over Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, who remains largely unknown to half of the likely voters.

"With less than two weeks until primary day, Bill de Blasio has put a lot of distance between himself and the rest of the pack. He has the support of nearly one-third of likely Democratic voters while his nearest competitors are in the teens," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "De Blasio has significant double digit leads in Brooklyn and Queens, where Thompson is in second place, he is nearly tied with Quinn in Manhattan, and he is virtually tied with Thompson in the Bronx.

"De Blasio has a nine-point lead with women and Latino voters. He has double digit leads with men, young and old voters, Catholics and Protestants, and black and white voters. Thompson and de Blasio are running virtually even with Jewish voters," Greenberg said.

"As we approach the Labor Day weekend and voters start to focus more on the campaign and the candidates, the race will continue to evolve. Close to 40 percent of de Blasio and Thompson supporters and 30 percent of Quinn supporters say they are absolutely certain to stick with their candidate, and between 19 and 24 percent of each candidate's supporters say they are not certain and may change their minds," Greenberg said. "The competition at the moment appears to be a race between Thompson and Quinn to see who can finish second and make it to the runoff, assuming, of course, that de Blasio does not further grow his lead enough to hit the magic 40 percent."

“De Blasio and Thompson both have strong, better than three-to-one favorability ratings, and they are the only candidates with positive favorability ratings,” Greenberg said. “Given that nearly half of likely voters have an unfavorable view of Quinn, her path to victory may be a little more complicated than that of de Blasio or Thompson.”

Favorable / Unfavorable Ratings – Among Likely Dems			
Person	Favorable	Unfavorable	Haven't Heard Enough
Bill de Blasio	57%	17%	25%
Bill Thompson	53%	16%	30%
Christine Quinn	39%	45%	15%
John Liu	29%	37%	32%
Anthony Weiner	24%	66%	8%
Eliot Spitzer	46%	41%	11%
Scott Stringer	31%	19%	49%
The New York Times/Siena College New York City Poll – August 30, 2013			

Voters Say de Blasio Better on Most Issues

“When it comes to keeping New Yorkers safer, making the City more affordable, creating jobs, and addressing housing, voters say de Blasio would do the best job. Thompson scores best on education and Thompson and de Blasio are tied on managing the City’s finances and negotiating new union contracts,” Greenberg said.

Who Would Do the Best Job on the Following Issues?					
Issue	De Blasio	Liu	Quinn	Thompson	Weiner
Working with police to keep New Yorkers safe	26%	5%	20%	19%	12%
Improving public education	24%	6%	18%	27%	11%
Creating jobs	25%	5%	19%	16%	15%
Making the City more affordable	29%	6%	15%	19%	13%
Negotiating union contracts	22%	8%	16%	22%	15%
Managing the City’s finances	20%	14%	18%	20%	12%
Addressing the housing needs of New Yorkers	30%	4%	16%	18%	13%
The New York Times/Siena College New York City Poll – August 30, 2013					

Spitzer Has Double Digit Lead Over Stringer

“While Stringer is running even with Spitzer in Manhattan, Spitzer leads Stringer by more than 20 points in Queens and the Bronx and has a nine-point lead in Brooklyn,” Greenberg said. “Spitzer has a slightly positive 46-41 percent favorability rating and Stringer remains largely unknown to half of the likely voters, with a 31-19 percent favorability rating.

Half of Democratic Primary Voters – and All Voters – Say Weiner/Spitzer Candidacies Are Embarrassing

“Fifty-three percent of likely Democratic primary voters and 54 percent of all New York City voters say that the national attention brought by the Spitzer and Weiner candidacies is embarrassing, while about three in ten voters in both groups say it’s no big deal and nine percent of both groups say it’s entertaining,” Greenberg said. “Nearly three-quarters of likely Democrats and almost two-thirds of all voters say Weiner embarrasses them more.”

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This New York Times/Siena College Poll was conducted August 19-28, 2013 by telephone calls in both English and Spanish to 1561 New York City residents and interviews with 1162 registered voters of whom 505 were likely Democratic Primary voters. It has a margin of error of ± 2.9 percentage points for registered voters and ± 4.4 percentage points for likely Democratic primary voters. Data was statistically adjusted to correct for unequal probability of selection by household size and the overlap of land and cell phones and by age, education, borough, race/ethnicity 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 and frequencies: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.