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Siena College Poll:

More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of NY Voters View Congress Unfavorably **Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ Think Country is Headed in the Wrong Direction** ***Government Shutdown Blamed on GOP 2-to-1, in 2-to-1 Dem. State*** ***Plurality Want to Move Forward with Obamacare; 22% Want It Repealed***

Loudonville, NY. By a better than four-to-one margin, New Yorkers have an unfavorable view of Congress and by a 74-19 percent margin, voters think that the country is headed in the wrong direction, according to a new Siena College Poll of New York voters released today. As the most recent round of fighting in Washington was concluding, voters blamed Republicans in Congress by a two-to-one margin rather than blame President Obama.

On the Affordable Care Act, 43 percent want to see it move forward as is, 32 percent want to put it on hold until necessary changes can be made and 22 percent want to see it repealed. Obama is viewed favorably by 55 percent of voters and unfavorably by 42 percent (down slightly from 57-40 percent last month).

“Albany, it appears, has found a way to deflect the ‘dysfunction’ card. It flipped it over to Washington. Only 18 percent of New Yorkers have a favorable view of Congress, while 78 percent view Congress unfavorably. Apparently Congress has gotten New York’s Democrats, Republicans and independent voters to agree, with at least 74 percent of each party viewing Congress unfavorably, as do at least three-quarters of voters from every region,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Congress came within one point of tying the Siena College Poll record high unfavorable rating, recorded by Eliot Spitzer, the week he resigned as Governor,” Greenberg said. “In July 2012, Congress had a particularly bad 27-67 percent unfavorable rating. It’s gone from bad to worse. Another thing Washington has united New York Democrats and Republicans on is the direction of the country.

“While 84 percent of Republicans think the country is headed in the wrong direction – up from 79 percent last month – 66 percent of Democrats now agree, a dramatic change from last month when a plurality of Democrats, by a margin of 48-41 percent, felt the country was on the right track,” Greenberg said. “Despite the voters’ views on the direction of the country and Congress, voters remain favorable to the President.”

“Obama does not appear to have been hurt politically in the latest skirmish with Congress, well, at least not in solid blue New York,” Greenberg said. “But the partisan divide returns when it comes to measuring how New Yorkers feel about the President. Obama remains little liked by Republicans (73 percent unfavorable), even as he continues to be beloved by Democrats (77 percent favorable). And he’s now viewed unfavorably by a majority of independent voters.

New Yorkers Blame Republicans in Congress for Government Shutdown

“While 30 percent of voters say the President is most responsible for the recent Federal government shutdown, nearly twice that number, 59 percent, hold Congressional Republicans responsible,” Greenberg said. “Democrats blame the GOP by eight-to-one, while Republicans blame Obama two-to-one and by a 50-37 percent margin, independents put more blame on the Republicans.

“Not surprising results in a state where there are twice as many Democrats as Republicans. However, other than Republicans and conservatives, a majority of voters from every region and demographic group place greater blame for the shutdown on the Republicans in Congress,” Greenberg said.

Plurality of Voters Support Obamacare Moving Forward; Half as Many Want it Repealed

“Sixty percent of Democrats want to see Obamacare move forward as is, while 43 percent of Republicans, a plurality, want to see it repealed. Independents are very divided with 36 percent supporting moving forward, 33 percent preferring to see it put on hold until necessary changes are made, and 28 percent wanting it repealed,” Greenberg said. “A majority of New York City voters and a plurality of suburbanites favor moving forward, while a plurality of upstaters wants to see changes made before it moves forward.

“Depending how you look at the proverbial glass, it’s hard to say if it’s half full or half empty. Three-quarters of voters do not want Obamacare repealed. But a majority does not want to see it move forward as is. Certainly Congress will be able to figure out that message. Or not,” Greenberg said

Hillary Clinton is Popular; Donald Trump is Not

“Two-thirds of voters view Hillary Clinton favorably, with 30 percent viewing her unfavorably. She is adored by Democrats and liked by independents, although a majority of Republicans view her unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “The Donald is viewed unfavorably by twice as many voters as view him favorably. He is viewed unfavorably by three-quarters of Democrats and a majority of independents, while 51 percent of Republicans view him favorably.”

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Siena College Poll Trends – October 2013

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	55	42	3
September 2013	57	40	3
August 2013	56	41	3
May 2013	58	40	2
March 2013	56	41	3
February 2013	66	32	2
January 2013	66	33	1
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	1 (1/13, 8/12)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the United States Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	18	78	4
July 2012	27	67	6
HIGHEST EVER	27 (7/12)	78 (10/13)	6 (7/12)
LOWEST EVER	18 (10/13)	67 (7/12)	4 (10/13)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	67	30	4
September 2013	69	27	3
August 2013	67	31	2
March 2013	73	25	3
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	46 (4/08)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	48 (4/08)	23 (12/12)	2 (8/13, 12/12, 10/08)

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
October 2013	19	74	7
September 2013	34	58	7
August 2013	37	54	9
May 2013	41	56	4
March 2013	32	60	8
January 2013	46	49	5
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)

Poll Trend Notes: All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of August and October 2012, October 2010, September and October 2008, and September and 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 2013.

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