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Siena College Poll:

Tax Cap & Ethics are Voters' Top 2 Session Priorities – By Far If Not Passed, Supporters Blame Senate Reps More than Assembly Dems, Gov Cuomo Viewed Favorably by 2/3 of Voters; Job Performance Inches Up Voters Give Thumbs Down to State Legislature; Thumbs Up to Their Legislators Strong Support for Wine in Grocery Stores; Opposition to Ultimate Fighting

Loudonville, NY. Laws to implement a property tax cap and require full public disclosure of legislators' outside income have each been identified by more than half of New Yorkers as one of their top two legislative priorities before the end of session next week. While Governor Andrew Cuomo and legislative leaders have announced agreement on these issues, as of yet neither bill has been passed in either house. If they fail to pass, a plurality of the supporters of the proposals will blame Senate Republicans, more than Assembly Democrats and far more than Cuomo, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters released today.

Cuomo has a 68-21 percent favorability rating, down slightly from last month's 71-20 percent, while 55 percent of voters say he's doing either an excellent or good job as Governor, compared to 41 percent who say he's doing a fair or poor job (up from 52-45 percent last month). Voters view each House of the Legislature unfavorably by approximately two-to-one majorities, however, a majority of voters view *their* Senator favorably and a plurality have a favorable view of *their* Assemblymember. A law allowing wine to be sold in grocery stores is supported by 59 percent of voters and opposed by 36 percent. When it comes to "ultimate fighting," 55 percent say it should remain illegal in New York, while 39 percent want it legalized.

"More than one-third of voters say a property tax cap is the single most important issue they want addressed this session, and 58 percent say it's one of their top two priorities. Following closely behind, with 52 percent calling it one of their top two priorities, is a

Most Important Issue for End of 2011 Session		
Issue	Top Priority	1 of 2 Top Priorities
Property Tax Cap	37%	58%
New Ethics Law for State Legislators	22%	52%
Legalizing Same Sex Marriages in NY	14%	29%
Extending Rent Regulation Laws	14%	26%
Independent Redistricting Commission	7%	20%
Siena College Poll – June 13, 2011		

new ethics law," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "The tax cap and ethics are the top two issues for voters of every party, every age group and every region, although for New York City voters the tax cap, ethics and extending rent regulation laws are all virtually tied for first place."

“More than one-quarter of voters identify legalizing same sex marriages and extending rent regulation laws as one of their top two priorities. Creating an independent redistricting commission is the top priority of only seven percent of voters and one of the top two of 20 percent,” Greenberg said. “Same sex marriage legislation is one of the top two priorities for at least one-third of Democrats, New York City voters and those less than 35-years-old.”

In addition to being the top two priorities, the property tax cap and ethics reform have larger support among voters than the other issues. Ethics reform is supported by an 81-15 percent margin. The property tax cap is supported 67-28 percent. Renewing rent regulation laws is supported 58-31 percent. Legalizing same sex marriages has the support of 55 percent of voters, with 40 percent opposing. And creating an independent redistricting commission is supported 49-32 percent.

The Blame Game if Issues Aren't Passed: Cuomo's in the Clear; Senate Republicans are Main Target

“A plurality of tax cap supporters – 36 percent – says they will blame Senate Republicans if it is not passed, while 26 percent will blame Assembly Democrats and only 11 percent will blame the Governor. Not surprisingly Democrats will overwhelmingly blame the Senate and Republicans will overwhelmingly blame the Assembly. Independent voters are virtually evenly divided in placing blame between the two houses,” Greenberg said.

“Similarly, if ethics reform is not passed, 34 percent of supporters will blame Senate Republicans and 22 percent will blame Assembly Democrats, with nine percent blaming Cuomo. Here, however, while the two parties similarly blame each other, independent voters also blame Senate Republicans over Assembly Democrats 28-19 percent,” Greenberg said. “Same sex marriage supporters are much stronger in placing blame, with 57 percent – and a plurality of every demographic group – saying the Senate will be most to blame if it fails to pass.”

Cuomo Continues to Have Very Strong Favorability Rating, As Job Performance Rating Edges Up

“Although it's down a few points from last month, and the 'lowest' since becoming Governor, Andrew Cuomo continues to enjoy a better than three-to-one favorability rating,” Greenberg said. “And at the same time his job performance rating as Governor is the second highest it's been, and the best since February.

“Cuomo's favorability rating is better than four-to-one favorable among Democrats, about three-to-one among independents and better than two-to-one among Republicans. His favorability is 70-plus percent downstate and 63 percent upstate,” Greenberg said. “He does not do as well with voters in union households, 59-26 percent, as he does with those in non-union households, 73-17 percent. Similarly, his job performance rating is 59-37 percent positive with voters in non-union household, and a negative 45-49 percent with voters in union households.”

Voters Unfavorable Toward Senate & Assembly; View Their Senator & Assemblymember Favorably

The State Senate is viewed favorably by 30 percent of voters and unfavorably by 56 percent (down from 33-56 percent last month). The Assembly fares worse, with a 26-56 favorability rating (down from 32-54 percent last month). When asked about their Assemblymember, voters have a favorable view, 47-29 percent, and an even more favorable view, 55-30 percent, of their Senator.

“Voters continue to view the Legislature in a very negative light. Democrats tend to be slightly less unfavorable to both the Assembly and the Senate, however, a majority of voters from every party and every region have an unfavorable view of each house,” Greenberg said. “That attitude changes when we ask voters about *their* legislators. A majority of voters from every party and region view their Senator favorably, and a plurality from every region and party has a favorable view of their Assemblymember.”

Voters Want Wine Sold in Grocery Stores

“A strong majority of Democrats, Republicans and independents support passing a law to allow wine to be sold in supermarkets and grocery stores. There is support in every region, with strongest support in the downstate suburbs. Younger voters support it more than older voters,” Greenberg said. “And ironically the only two demographic groups that oppose wine being sold in grocery stores – albeit by small majorities – are two groups not often aligned on issues: conservatives and African American voters.”

Majority Thinks Mixed Martial Arts Should Remain Illegal in New York

“New Yorkers are not yet ready to give the green light to ultimate fighting. While independents are nearly evenly divided, a strong majority of Democrats and an even larger majority of Republicans say no. This is not an upstate-downstate issue as a majority from every region is opposed. Men support it, while women are strongly opposed. And young voters strongly support it, while older voters oppose it even more strongly,” Greenberg said.

Obama Favorability & Re-Elect Slip a Little over the Last Month

“President Obama’s favorability has slipped below 60 percent for the first time in 2011. Although he still has a 59-38 percent favorability rating, it’s down from last month’s 62-36 percent,” Greenberg said. “A majority of voters, 52 percent, are prepared to re-elect him next year, compared to 44 percent who would prefer ‘someone else,’ down from 54-39 percent last month. The President continues to divide voters along partisan lines with Democrats favorable and supportive, Republicans unfavorable and opposed, and independents closely divided.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted June 5-8, 2011 by telephone calls to 819 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.4 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, gender, and region to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing to landline and cell phones weighted to reflect known population patterns. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY. This study of registered voters was conducted as part of a Daily News/Siena survey of 1,009 New York residents on attitudes about 9/11. That data is available at www.Siena.edu/SRI. SRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices.



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Siena College Poll Trends – June 2011

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	68	21	12
May 2011	71	20	9
April 2011	73	18	8
March 2011	69	20	11
February 2011	77	16	7
January 2011	70	17	13
December 2010	66	25	8
November 2010	64	26	9
October 31, 2010*	57	38	5
October 20, 2010*	62	34	3
October 5, 2010*	56	37	7
September 2010	60	31	9
August 2010	61	27	13
July 2010	62	25	13
June 2010	59	26	15
May 2010	67	21	12
April 2010	66	18	15
March 22, 2010	63	22	15
March 8, 2010	63	25	12
February 2010	66	21	13
January 2010	67	21	12
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	42 (10/06)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/20/10)

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
June 2011	11	44	32	9	5
May 2011	9	43	36	9	3
April 2011	11	43	34	7	4
March 2011	8	43	34	7	8
February 2011	10	47	29	4	10
January 2011	10	34	24	4	28
HIGHEST EVER	11 (6/11, 4/11)	47 (2/11)	36 (5/11)	9 (6/11, 5/11)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	8 (3/11)	34 (1/11)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	3 (5/11)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	26	56	18
May 2011	32	54	14
March 2011	30	56	14
January 2011	29	57	14
July 2010	25	61	13
January 2010	29	59	12
HIGHEST EVER	40 (2/09)	61 (7/10)	18 (6/11, 2/09)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	42 (2/09)	12 (1/10)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	30	56	14
May 2011	33	56	12
March 2011	32	60	8
January 2011	33	56	11
July 2010	25	66	8
January 2010	30	61	9
HIGHEST EVER	43 (2/09)	74 (7/09)	14 (6/11)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	43 (2/09)	6 (7/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	59	38	4
May 2011	62	36	2
April 2011	63	34	3
March 2011	60	37	3
February 2011	62	35	3
January 2011	61	36	3
December 2010	55	42	3
November 2010	58	37	5
October 31, 2010*	51	46	3
October 20, 2010*	56	41	3
September 2010	60	36	4
July 2010	60	37	3
April 2010	59	35	6
February 2010	61	35	4
January 2010	64	32	4
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	2 (5/11)

Barack Obama is running for re-election as President in 2012. I know it's a ways off, but as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?^

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	52	44	4
May 2011	54	39	6
April 2011	52	39	9
March 2011	49	43	8
February 2011	49	43	8
January 2011	50	40	10
December 2010	43	47	10
HIGHEST EVER	54 (5/11)	47 (12/10)	10 (1/11, 12/10)
LOWEST EVER	43 (12/10)	39 (5/11, 4/11)	4 (6/11)

Do you support or oppose: imposing a property tax cap, limiting increases to no more than two percent per year?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	67	28	5
May 2011	71	22	7
April 2011	75	21	4
HIGHEST EVER	75 (4/11)	28 (6/11)	7 (5/11)
LOWEST EVER	67 (6/11)	21 (4/11)	4 (4/11)

Siena College Poll Trends – June 2011

Do you support or oppose: making same sex marriages legal in New York State?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	55	40	5
May 2011	54	42	5
April 2011	58	36	6
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/11)	42 (5/11)	6 (4/11)
LOWEST EVER	54 (5/11)	36 (4/11)	5 (6/11, 5/11)

NOTE: THE QUESTION OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE HAS BEEN ASKED BY SIENA SEVERAL DIFFERENT WAYS. INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ABOUT WORDING AND RESULTS FOR PREVIOUSLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do you support or oppose: creating an independent redistricting commission to draw new legislative and congressional district boundaries?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	49	32	20
May 2011	53	30	16
April 2011	58	26	16
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/11)	32 (6/11)	20 (6/11)
LOWEST EVER	49 (6/11)	26 (4/11)	16 (5/11, 4/11)

Do you support or oppose: requiring full disclosure of legislators' outside income and clients?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	81	15	4
May 2011	80	14	5
April 2011	83	12	5
HIGHEST EVER	83 (4/11)	15 (6/11)	5 (5/11, 4/11)
LOWEST EVER	80 (5/11)	12 (4/11)	4 (6/11)

Do you support or oppose: renewing a law that regulates rent for about one million apartment units in New York State – largely in New York City but in other communities as well?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	58	31	11
May 2011	61	25	14
April 2011	62	29	9
HIGHEST EVER	62 (4/11)	31 (6/11)	14 (5/11)
LOWEST EVER	58 (6/11)	25 (5/11)	9 (4/11)

(Among ONLY supporters of the question above): Some have argued that the rent regulations should simply be renewed as is, others argue that the laws should be strengthened to provide additional protections for tenants. Do you think the rent regulation laws should be extended as is, or should be extended and strengthened?

DATE	EXTENDED AS IS	EXTENDED/STRENGTHENED	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	30	64	6
May 2011	27	65	8
April 2011	28	61	11
HIGHEST EVER	30 (6/11)	65 (5/11)	11 (4/11)
LOWEST EVER	27 (5/11)	61 (4/11)	6 (6/11)

I'm going to read a list of issues and I'd like to you to tell me which is the single most important issue you want the Legislature to absolutely address before it adjourns session in June?

DATE	LEGALIZING SAME SEX MARRIAGES	IMPOSING PROPERTY TAX CAP	EXTENDING RENT REGULATIONS	NEW ETHICS LAW FOR STATE LEG.	INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	14	37	14	22	7	5
May 2011	12	39	14	23	7	5
April 2011	13	37	12	27	8	3
HIGHEST EVER	14 (6/11)	39 (5/11)	14 (6/11, 5/11)	27 (4/11)	8 (4/11)	5 (6/11, 5/11)
LOWEST EVER	12 (5/11)	37 (6/11, 4/11)	12 (4/11)	22 (6/11)	7 (6/11, 5/11)	3 (4/11)

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Do you support or oppose allowing grocery stores to sell wine in New York State?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NEED MORE INFO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2011	59	36	--	5
April 2011	56	37	5	2
March 22, 2010	57	37	5	1
February 2010	58	39	--	3
HIGHEST EVER	59 (6/11)	39 (2/10)	5 (4/10, 3/22/10)	5 (6/11)
LOWEST EVER	56 (4/10)	36 (6/11)	5 (4/10, 3/22/10)	1 (3/22/10)

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
June 2011	38	47	15
May 2011	40	49	11
April 2011	46	41	13
March 2011	43	45	12
February 2011	47	39	14
January 2011	36	50	14
December 2010	29	60	11
November 2010	32	54	15
October 31, 2010*	14	76	10
October 20, 2010*	14	75	12
October 5, 2010*	16	72	11
September 2010	21	68	11
August 2010	21	67	12
July 2010	20	71	9
June 2010	18	65	17
May 2010	16	72	12
April 2010	20	68	11
March 22, 2010	18	70	12
February 2010	25	63	12
January 2010	27	61	12
HIGHEST EVER	52 (11/06)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/31 & 20/10)	26 (1/07)	9 (7/10)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of 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 2010.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.