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For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

Obama Ratings Fall; Yet Leads All Republican Challengers

Rudy Giuliani Leads Field for Nomination Among New York Republicans;

Romney Seen as Strongest Challenger, Most Likely to Win Nomination

Cuomo's High Ratings Continue, with All Parties and in All Regions

Three-quarters of New Yorkers Say Country Headed in 'Wrong Direction'

Loudonville, NY. President Obama is viewed favorably by slightly more than half of New York voters, he is seen as doing only a fair or poor job as President by almost two-thirds, and voters are nearly evenly divided on whether he should be re-elected or they would prefer 'someone else.' However, while he only leads former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani by six points in an early 2012 presidential poll, he leads five other Republicans by between 18 and 39 points, according to a new Siena College Research Institute survey of registered voters released today. Giuliani leads a field of 12 declared and potential GOP presidential candidates among New York Republicans. Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney finishes second, although he is seen as the most likely Republican to win the nomination and as the strongest opponent against Obama.

Governor Andrew Cuomo's favorability and job performance ratings remain very strong, with little partisan or geographic differences among voters on how they view Cuomo. A record-high 74 percent of New Yorkers think the country is headed in the wrong direction, while voters are nearly evenly divided on the direction of the state.

"Since May, the President has seen his favorable rating among New Yorkers fall by 10 points, to 52 percent, and the percentage of voters viewing him unfavorably has risen by nine points to 45 percent. His job performance rating is the worst it's ever been. Even Democrats are evenly divided. For the first time since March, fewer than half of voters say they are prepared to re-elect the President," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Yet, when matched up against a generic, unnamed Republican, Obama leads by 14 points," Greenberg said.

"When matched up against New Yorkers' favorite Republican, Giuliani, he leads by a slim six points. However, he leads Romney by 18 points and four other potential Republican hopefuls by more than 25 points, including a romping 39-point lead over former Vice Presidential candidate and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin."

“While the President is not as strong as he might like in New York, for the moment, the Empire State is not showing any inclination to change its traditional blue hue to red,” Greenberg said.

“When New York Republicans are asked for their preferred candidate to run

against Obama, Giuliani has the support of nearly one-quarter of Republicans, followed by Romney at 18 percent, former Governor George Pataki at 11 percent, and nine other declared and potential candidates in single digits,” Greenberg said. “None of the national front-running Republicans, other than Romney, enjoys significant support among New York Republicans.

“Despite being the most popular of the GOP dozen, Giuliani is only seen by 12 percent of New York Republicans as likely to win the nomination. Romney is identified as the likely winner by 36 percent, with none of the others topping seven percent,” Greenberg said. “Similarly, 30 percent say Romney would be the strongest opponent against Obama, with Giuliani at 20 percent and no other candidate topping seven percent.”

Potential 2012 Presidential Horseraces			
Barack Obama vs.	Obama	Republican	Don't Know/ No Opinion
“Generic” Republican	51%	37%	11%
Rudy Giuliani	50%	44%	6%
Mitt Romney	55%	37%	8%
Ron Paul	57%	32%	11%
Rick Perry	57%	30%	13%
Michele Bachmann	60%	30%	10%
Sarah Palin	65%	26%	9%

Source: Siena College Poll, August 16, 2011

Favorability Ratings of Potential 2012 Republican Presidential Candidates						
Candidate	All Registered Voters			Registered Republicans		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Rudy Giuliani	57%	37%	6%	76%	18%	5%
George Pataki	51%	37%	12%	60%	31%	10%
Mitt Romney	32%	46%	21%	52%	29%	19%
Ron Paul	26%	40%	35%	33%	32%	35%
Michele Bachmann	25%	44%	31%	42%	29%	29%
Sarah Palin	25%	69%	6%	46%	47%	7%
Newt Gingrich	20%	64%	16%	34%	55%	11%
Rick Perry	15%	32%	54%	24%	18%	58%
John Huntsman	14%	20%	67%	14%	17%	69%
Tim Pawlenty	14%	27%	58%	20%	18%	61%
Rick Santorum	14%	32%	54%	20%	23%	58%
Herman Cain	12%	25%	64%	22%	14%	64%

Source: Siena College Poll, August 16, 2011

“Among all New York voters, only Giuliani and Pataki top 50 percent in favorability, and among New York Republicans, you can add Romney to the list. However, Giuliani and Pataki are the only potential candidates who have more New Yorkers with a favorable view of them than an unfavorable view,” Greenberg said.

New Yorkers Divided on Top Issue President Should Address; Cutting Entitlements is Not It

“When asked what should be the top priority for the President given the country’s fiscal problems, voters were fairly evenly divided with about one-quarter each saying to end United State involvement in Afghanistan and to increase taxes on the wealthiest Americans,” Greenberg said. “Closing corporate loopholes and passing a balanced budget amendment were each identified by 19 percent of voters.

“Only seven percent of voters said that cutting entitlements such as Social Security and Medicaid should be the top priority. Cutting entitlements was the least popular option for voters from every demographic group, even conservatives,” Greenberg said.

Cuomo’s Honeymoon Continues, as Favorability and Job Performance Ratings Remain High

Cuomo has a 69-22 percent favorability rating, down very slightly from 71-21 percent last month. His job performance rating was unchanged from last month at 58-40 percent.

“In his eighth month as Governor, it’s no great surprise that Democrats and New York City voters continue to view Cuomo favorably and to think he’s doing a good job. However, Republicans give Cuomo a better than two-to-one favorability rating and even conservatives view him favorably by a 57-35 percent margin,” Greenberg said. “Sixty percent of Democrats, as well as 54 percent of Republicans and independents think Cuomo is doing an excellent or good job as Governor, as do a majority of voters from every region of the state.

“Rich or poor, male or female, black or white, young or old, union member or not, it just doesn’t matter, New Yorkers view Cuomo favorably,” Greenberg said.

Voters Extremely Pessimistic About Direction of the Country; Split on Direction of New York

“Nearly three-quarters of voters, including more than two-thirds of Democrats and New York City voters, say the country is headed in the wrong direction, with only 20 percent saying the country is on the right track. Exactly one year ago, by a 52-37 percent majority, voters thought the county was on the right track,” Greenberg said.

“When asked about the direction of the state, voters are nearly evenly divided with 44 percent saying the state is on the right track and 47 percent saying it’s headed in the wrong direction,” Greenberg said. “Last month was slightly more positive, however, a year ago two-thirds of voters said the state was headed in the wrong direction.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted August 9-14, 2011 by telephone calls to 1,008 New York State registered voters. A representative sample of 807 voters was augmented by an oversampling of 201 additional registered Republicans. The overall sample has a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points. Republicans are reported with a margin of error of ± 4.7 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 in the sample of 807 and augmented with the Republican oversample drawn from a list of registered voters weighted in the overall sample to be representative of known population patterns. 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, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – August 2011

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	69	22	8
July 2011	71	21	8
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
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
August 2011	12	46	31	9	2
July 2011	15	43	32	8	1
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	15 (7/11)	47 (2/11)	36 (5/11)	9 (8/11, 6/11, 5/11)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	8 (3/11)	34 (1/11)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	1 (7/11)

Governor Cuomo has said he is dedicated to improving the economy of New York, to making us the Empire State again. What grade would you give the governor on his efforts so far to improve the economy of New York? Would you give him a grade of A, B, C, D or F?

DATE	A	B	C	D	F	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	8	39	33	12	5	3
July 2011	9	34	35	12	7	4
May 2011	9	35	37	8	6	5
HIGHEST EVER	9 (7&5/11)	39 (8/11)	37 (5/11)	12 (8-7/11)	7 (7/11)	5 (5/11)
LOWEST EVER	8 (8/11)	34 (7/11)	33 (8/11)	8 (5/11)	5 (8/11)	3 (8/11)

How would you rate the job that Barack Obama is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	10	26	30	33	0
July 2011	13	32	30	25	1
May 2011	16	37	24	23	0
HIGHEST EVER	16 (5/11)	37 (5/11)	30 (8/11, 7/11)	33 (8/11)	1 (7/11)
LOWEST EVER	10 (8/11)	26 (8/11)	24 (5/11)	23 (5/11)	0 (8/11, 5/11)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	52	45	3
July 2011	57	39	4
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
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
August 2011	47	45	8
July 2011	50	41	9
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 have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rudy Giuliani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	57	37	6
HIGHEST EVER	63 (1/07, 11/06, 4/05)	48 (1/08)	11 (11/07, 2/05)
LOWEST EVER	44 (1/08)	26 (4/05)	4 (11/09, 4/09, 11/08)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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; most recently 2/07)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sarah Palin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	25	69	6
HIGHEST EVER	46 (9/08)	69 (8/11)	24 (10/08)
LOWEST EVER	25 (8/11)	30 (9/08)	6 (8/11)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ron Paul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	26	40	35
HIGHEST EVER	26 (8/11)	48 (3/3/08)	38 (3/3/08)
LOWEST EVER	14 (3/3/08)	40 (8/11)	35 (8/11)

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Newt Gingrich?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	20	64	16
HIGHEST EVER	21 (5/07)	66 (5/07)	16 (8/11)
LOWEST EVER	20 (8/11)	64 (8/11)	14 (5/07)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitt Romney?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	32	46	21
HIGHEST EVER	32 (8/11)	46 (8/11)	35 (12/07)
LOWEST EVER	25 (12/07)	40 (12/07)	21 (8/11)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	46	24	30
July 2011	49	21	30
May 2011	51	20	29
February 2011	57	18	25
November 2010	50	24	26
October 31, 2010*	52	34	14
October 20, 2010*	51	31	18
September 2010	43	26	30
August 2010	40	29	31
July 2010	34	29	37
HIGHEST EVER	57 (2/11)	34 (10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

I know it's a ways off, but if Kirsten Gillibrand runs for re-election as United State Senator in 2012, would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	49	34	18
July 2011	50	29	21
May 2011	50	30	20
February 2011	52	29	19
HIGHEST EVER	52 (2/11)	34 (8/11)	21 (7/11)
LOWEST EVER	49 (8/11)	29 (7/11, 2/11)	18 (8/11)

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
August 2011	20	74	6
July 2011	35	55	10
May 2011	43	49	9
March 2011	34	57	9
February 2011	44	47	9
January 2011	36	54	10
December 2010	30	59	11
November 2010	39	51	10
July 2010	41	52	8
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/08)	24 (12/09)	6 (8/11)

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How would you describe the fiscal condition of New York State right now? Would you describe it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2011	1	11	39	48	1
July 2011	1	8	40	51	1
May 2011	0	9	33	57	1
April 2011	1	8	32	58	0
March 2011	1	7	30	62	1
February 2011	0	7	26	66	1
November 2010	0	7	27	65	1
HIGHEST EVER	1 (many)	14 (9/08)	43 (10/08)	67 (3/22/10)	4 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc.)	25 (3/22/10)	41 (9/08)	0 (4/11, etc.)

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
August 2011	44	47	10
July 2011	48	40	12
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
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 July 2010.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.