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## Siena College Poll:

### **Voters: Cuomo, Obama, Bloomberg, MTA & FEMA Do Good Job Dealing with Sandy; ConEd Mixed Review; LIPA Panned** **Two-thirds of Voters Say Recent Storms Demonstrate Climate Change** **Half of NYers Contribute to Storm Relief; One-quarter Volunteer Time**

Loudonville, NY. New York Voters give Governor Andrew Cuomo very high grades for the job he's done in dealing with Hurricane Sandy, and high grades to President Obama and Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Voters also give good grades to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Consolidated Edison (ConEd) received a mixed review, although positive in New York City. The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) was graded as having done a poor job by nearly half of New Yorkers and about 60 percent of downstaters, according to a Siena College Research Institute poll of voters released today.

By an overwhelming 69-24 percent margin, voters say recent severe storms demonstrate global climate change rather than representing isolated weather events. More than half of New Yorkers say they made a financial charitable contribution to storm relief efforts, and more than one-quarter say they have volunteered their time to help those affected by the storm.

Sixty-seven percent of voters say Cuomo has done an excellent or good job dealing with the hurricane and its aftermath, 22 percent say he's done a fair job and seven percent say he's done a poor job. Obama has 61 percent saying he's done an excellent or good job, 20 percent fair and 17 percent poor. Bloomberg's job was rated as excellent or good by 55 percent, fair by 24 percent and poor by 14 percent. The MTA gets a 59-22-7 percent rating. FEMA has a 53-27-15 percent rating. ConEd has a 39-29-15 percent rating, although it is 54-28-13 percent in New York City. LIPA gets a 20-20-47 percent rating, although it is 16-21-60 percent with Long Islanders.

"New Yorkers are very impressed with the job that Governor Cuomo has done over the last several weeks in dealing with Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath. Two-thirds say he's done an excellent or good job, including 70 percent of City voters and more than half of Republicans. President Obama and Mayor Bloomberg also receive high – though not as high – grades from voters," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "The same cannot be said for the downstate power companies, particularly LIPA."

“When it comes to the power companies, the results vary. Among all voters, ConEd gets mixed grades. However, more than half of New York City voters say ConEd has done an excellent or good job, compared to only 13 percent who say the company has done a poor job,” Greenberg said. “When it comes to voters’ feelings about LIPA, now that’s a different story. Only one in six Long Islanders says LIPA has done an excellent or good job, compared to 60 percent who say the company has performed poorly. And they should know – 86 percent of Long Islanders say they lost power during the storm, half of them for more than a week.

“Voters give good grades to FEMA and even better grades to the MTA. Nearly three-quarters of City voters say the MTA has done an excellent or good job in responding to Sandy,” Greenberg said.

### **Voters See Global Climate Change as Reason for the Storms**

“At least 63 percent of voters from every region – including two-thirds of upstaters and three-quarters of those in New York City – say the severe storms over the last two years demonstrate global climate change, rather than isolated weather events,” Greenberg said. “More than two-thirds of independents feel that way, as do more than eight in ten Democrats. Republicans are nearly evenly divided, with 46 percent saying climate change and 44 percent saying isolated weather events. There may be a debate about what has caused the global climate change, but for most New Yorkers there is no debate that it is occurring.”

### **New Yorkers Show Their Generous Side**

“More than half of New Yorkers, regardless of political party, say they have contributed to Sandy relief charitable efforts, including 49 percent upstate, 54 percent from New York City and 61 percent from the downstate suburbs,” Greenberg said. “Nearly one-third of downstaters and roughly half that number upstate say they have volunteered their time to help those impacted by Sandy. Nothing brings New Yorkers together like a crisis or a dramatic event, and clearly Sandy has helped shine a light on the generosity and compassion of those who call the Empire State home.”

### **From Damage to Homes & Businesses to School Closings & Power Outages, Most NYers Affected by Sandy**

“Nearly one in seven voters suffered damage to their home, including one-quarter of downstate suburbanites. More than one-third lost their power, including more than eight in ten suburbanites. And more than two-thirds of New Yorkers saw their schools close for at least a day, and one-third had schools closed for at least a week,” Greenberg said. “Not in a very long time has a natural disaster directly affected more New Yorkers than Sandy.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted November 26-29, 2012 by telephone calls to 822 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.4$  percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party 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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).