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For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

Voters Love Cuomo; Ready to Re-elect; Don't Run for Pres.

Voters OK with State Senators Switching Party Allegiance in Fight for Senate Control; Don't Want to See the Governor Get Involved

Hillary Clinton Viewed Favorably by 75%; Majority Say Run in 2016

Upstate Fracking is Supported by Downstaters; Plurality of Upstaters Oppose

Loudonville, NY. Governor Andrew Cuomo's favorability and job performance ratings are up to their highest levels since April. A large majority of voters are currently prepared to re-elect him as governor in 2014, however, a plurality do not want to see him run for President in 2016, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of New York voters released today. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is viewed favorably by three-quarters of voters, and a majority says that they would like to see her run for President in 2016.

Nearly two-thirds of voters say it's OK for state senators to switch allegiance and vote for the opposite party to control the Senate, and by a two-to-one margin say it is not in the best interests of New Yorkers for Cuomo to get involved in trying to help either party gain control of the Senate. By a narrow 42-36 plurality, voters support hydrofracking moving forward in parts of upstate, although a narrow plurality of upstate voters opposes it.

"As he completes his second year as governor, Andrew Cuomo continues to enjoy strong support from New York voters. His favorability and job performance ratings – perhaps as a result of his handling of Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath – which have been high throughout his tenure, are at their highest levels in eight months," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "He is viewed favorably by at least two-thirds of Democrats, Republicans and independents and by voters from every region of the state. More than three-quarters of self-identified liberals and moderates view Cuomo favorably, as do 62 percent of conservatives."

Cuomo has a 72-21 percent favorability rating, up from 67-24 percent in October. Sixty percent of voters say he is doing an excellent or good job as governor, compared to 38 percent who say he's doing a fair or poor job. In Monday's Siena poll, 67 percent of voters give him an excellent or good rating for his handling of Sandy.

"Although the campaign for governor won't begin in earnest for quite a while, Cuomo's continuing honeymoon with voters puts him in a strong position, with 62 percent currently prepared to re-elect him," Greenberg said.

Hillary Clinton Overwhelmingly Popular in Her Adopted Home State

Clinton's 75-23 percent favorability rating is her highest rating ever in a Siena poll. By a 54-39 percent margin, voters say they would like Clinton to run for President in 2016.

“Continuing both Clintons’ status as Democratic Party ‘rock stars,’ Hillary Clinton enjoys huge popularity among voters in her adopted home state. She is viewed favorably by an overwhelming 90 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of independents and even 50 percent of Republicans,” Greenberg said. “And although the Iowa caucuses are more than three years away, a majority of New Yorkers, including more than two-thirds of Democrats, want to see their former Senator take the plunge and run. The same is not true of Governor Cuomo, with only 39 percent of voters saying he should run in 2016, while 49 percent say he should not.”

In Fight for Senate Control, Voters Say Yes to Senators Switching Sides, No to Governor Getting Involved

Only 28 percent of voters say that state senators should absolutely vote for their party to be in control of the Senate, compared to 65 percent who say it's OK for senators to switch alliance and vote for the opposite party to be in control. At least 59 percent of voters from every region, party and all demographic groups support that position. By a 60-30 percent margin, voters say it's not in the best interests of New Yorkers for Governor Cuomo to get involved in trying to help either party gain control of the Senate.

“Even as lawyers fight over the final uncounted ballots in the last undecided Senate race, the vast majority of voters are more than comfortable with senators crossing the aisle to support the opposite party in forming a majority to control the Senate,” Greenberg said. “And in a clear message to the governor, voters advise Cuomo to stay out of the fight and let senators decide which party controls the Senate on their own.”

A Small Plurality of Voters Continues to Support Hydrofracking – Support Comes from Downstate

Sixty-three percent of voters, including 79 percent of upstaters, say they have heard or read at least some about DEC's expected decision on hydrofracking, down slightly from 66 percent in October. Unmoved since October, 42 percent of voters support allowing hydrofracking to move forward in New York and 36 percent oppose it.

“A majority of downstate suburban voters and a solid plurality of New York City voters support fracking moving forward, but upstaters, by a small 45-39 percent margin, oppose fracking. Democrats and independents are closely divided on the subject, with Republicans strongly supporting it. This continues to be an issue where neither supporters nor opponents have made a strong enough case to rally a majority to their side,” Greenberg said.

More NYers Optimistic than Pessimistic on National, State, Personal Finances for 2013

Thirty-nine percent say the national economy will be better next year, compared to 22 percent who think it will be worse and 36 percent about the same. For the New York State economy it's 34 percent better, 21 percent worse, 42 percent about the same. For personal finances, 27 say better next year, 18 percent worse, 53 percent the same.

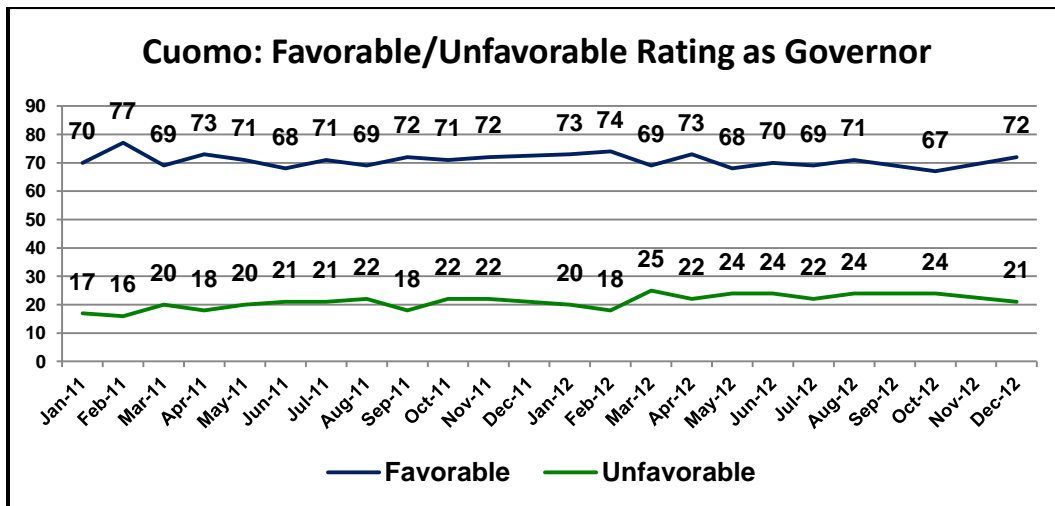
“While the majority of voters are not optimistic about the nation or state economies or their household finances, more voters think all will be better next year than think they will be worse,” Greenberg said. “On all three measures, far more Democrats are optimistic rather than pessimistic, while significantly more Republicans are pessimistic than optimistic, and independents are closely divided on all three measures.

“By a 55-32 percent margin, voters think New York is headed on the right track as opposed to headed in the wrong direction, a view held by at least 50 percent in every Siena poll this year,” Greenberg said. “And for the first time since August 2009, 50 percent of voters say the country is headed on the right track.”

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Favorability Ratings			
Person/Institution	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't know/ No opinion
Hillary Clinton	75%	23%	2%
Andrew Cuomo	72%	21%	7%
Charles Schumer	65%	24%	11%
Chris Christie	63%	18%	18%
Barack Obama	62%	36%	2%
Kirsten Gillibrand	61%	18%	22%
Michael Bloomberg	55%	35%	10%
New York State Senate	45%	41%	14%
New York State Assembly	41%	40%	19%
Tom DiNapoli	26%	18%	56%
Sheldon Silver	24%	34%	42%
Eric Schneiderman	21%	15%	63%
Dean Skelos	16%	18%	67%

Source: Siena College Poll, December 5, 2012



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 ± 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.



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Siena College Poll Trends – December 2012

Q. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	72	21	7
October 2012	67	24	9
August 2012	71	24	5
July 2012	69	22	9
June 2012	70	24	5
May 2012	68	24	8
April 2012	73	22	6
March 2012	69	25	6
February 2012	74	18	8
January 2012	73	20	7
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)

Q. 17 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
December 2012	15	45	30	8	2
October 2012	15	43	32	8	3
August 2012	16	44	33	7	1
July 2012	13	45	33	8	1
June 2012	16	44	31	9	1
May 2012	14	42	33	10	1
April 2012	16	47	29	7	1
March 2012	14	43	33	9	1
February 2012	14	47	31	6	2
January 2012	17	45	29	8	2
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	36 (9/11, 5/11)	10 (5/12)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	8 (3/11)	34 (1/11)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	1 (many)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	24	34	42
October 2012	21	39	41
July 2012	25	37	39
April 2012	26	35	39
January 2012	24	36	40
HIGHEST EVER	28 (7/05)	42 (12/10)	50 (4/05)
LOWEST EVER	19 (2/11, 4/05)	30 (4/05)	36 (12/10, 6/09)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	16	18	67
October 2012	14	20	67
July 2012	13	22	64
April 2012	13	21	67
January 2012	12	21	67
HIGHEST EVER	16 (12/12)	23 (6/09)	82 (11/08)
LOWEST EVER	9 (12/10)	8 (7/08)	62 (6/09)

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Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	41	40	19
October 2012	41	41	18
July 2012	42	45	13
May 2012	42	44	14
March 2012	37	49	14
January 2012	39	46	15
HIGHEST EVER	42 (7/12, 5/12)	61 (7/10)	19 (12/12)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	40 (12/12)	12 (1/10)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	45	41	14
October 2012	45	42	13
July 2012	43	48	9
May 2012	46	43	11
March 2012	42	46	12
January 2012	39	49	13
HIGHEST EVER	46 (5/12)	74 (7/09)	14 (12/12, 6/11)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	41 (12/12)	6 (7/09)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	21	15	63
August 2012	21	14	64
March 2012	21	23	55
February 2012	21	16	63
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/31/10)	27 (10/31/10)	86 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	8 (11/09)	6 (5/10, 11/09)	44 (10/31/10)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	26	18	56
August 2012	24	17	59
March 2012	25	23	52
February 2012	24	18	58
HIGHEST EVER	30 (11/10, 10/20/10)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	10 (12/09, 11/08)	37 (10/31/10)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Michael Bloomberg?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	55	35	10
HIGHEST EVER	67 (3/08)	35 (12/12)	21 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	55 (12/12)	16 (9/08)	10 (12/12, 10/11)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Charles Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	65	24	11
August 2012	65	26	10
May 2012	62	29	9
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	32 (10/31/10, 9/10, 6/10)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	54 (6/10)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

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Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	61	18	22
October 2012	56	22	23
August 2012	50	26	25
July 2012	49	24	28
June 2012	50	24	26
May 2012	48	27	25
April 2012	51	25	24
March 2012	54	24	22
February 2012	52	20	29
January 2012	49	25	26
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	34 (10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	75	23	2
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	46 (4/08)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	48 (4/08)	23 (12/12)	2 (12/12, 10/08)

Q. 40 The State Department of Environmental Conservation is expected to soon issue a decision on whether or not to allow hydrofracking – that is the proposed method to recover natural gas from parts of upstate New York – to move forward. How much have you heard or read about it – a great deal, some, not very much, or nothing at all?

DATE	A GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	NOTHING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	27	36	20	17	0
October 2012	27	39	21	12	0
August 2012	28	35	22	15	1
May 2012	33	33	14	20	0
HIGHEST EVER	33 (5/12)	39 (10/12)	22 (8/12)	20 (5/12)	1 (8/12)
LOWEST EVER	27 (12/12, etc)	33 (5/11)	14 (5/12)	12 (10/12)	0 (many)

Q. 41 Do you support or oppose the Department of Environmental Conservation allowing hydrofracking to move forward in parts of upstate New York?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	42	36	22
October 2012	42	36	23
August 2012	39	38	23
May 2012	37	36	27
HIGHEST EVER	42 (12/12, 10/12)	38 (8/12)	27 (5/12)
LOWEST EVER	37 (5/12)	36 (12/12, 10/12, 5/12)	22 (12/12)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2012	62	36	2
October 2012	61	37	2
August 2012	64	35	1
July 2012	59	38	3
June 2012	59	38	2
May 2012	60	38	2
April 2012	58	39	3
March 2012	61	36	3
February 2012	64	34	2
January 2012	59	38	3
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	1 (8/12)

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Q. 18 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
December 2012	19	35	19	25	1
October 2012	18	35	18	29	0
August 2012	17	36	19	28	0
July 2012	16	35	21	28	0
June 2012	14	32	26	27	0
May 2012	15	32	25	27	0
April 2012	13	32	25	29	0
March 2012	16	34	23	26	0
February 2012	15	34	27	24	0
January 2012	12	34	26	27	0
HIGHEST EVER	19 (12/12)	37 (5/11)	32 (10/11)	33 (9/11, 8/11)	1 (12/12, 7/11)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/11)	26 (8/11)	18 (10/12)	23 (5/11)	0 (many)

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
December 2012	50	43	8
October 2012	48	45	7
August 2012	46	48	6
July 2012	44	52	5
June 2012	40	53	7
May 2012	42	51	7
April 2012	38	54	8
March 2012	40	52	8
February 2012	42	51	7
January 2012	37	56	7
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/08)	24 (12/09)	6 (8/11)

Q. 19 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
December 2012	2	18	42	35	2
October 2012	0	19	47	31	2
August 2012	1	19	49	31	1
July 2012	0	19	44	36	1
June 2012	1	18	46	32	2
May 2012	2	16	47	34	1
April 2012	1	17	48	33	1
March 2012	1	15	46	37	1
HIGHEST EVER	2 (12/12, 5/12)	19 (10/12, etc.)	49 (8/12)	67 (3/22/10)	4 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc.)	25 (3/22/10)	31 (10/12, 8/12)	0 (4/11, etc.)

Q. 1 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
December 2012	55	32	13
October 2012	53	35	11
August 2012	56	33	10
July 2012	53	36	11
June 2012	53	37	10
May 2012	55	34	10
April 2012	55	34	11
March 2012	50	40	10
February 2012	52	36	12
January 2012	51	38	11
HIGHEST EVER	56 (8/12)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	9 (7/10)

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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 2012.
“Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” is provided at the bottom of each question.