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Siena College Poll:

Voters Overwhelmingly Support Many Cuomo Proposals

80%+ Support: Budget with no Taxes; Budget Growth Less than Inflation; Full Disclosure of Legislature Income; Property Tax Cap
NY More Business Friendly in '11 Likely to Happen, 2/3 of Voters Say
Majority: Continue Income Tax Increase on Wealthy, Despite Cuomo Argument

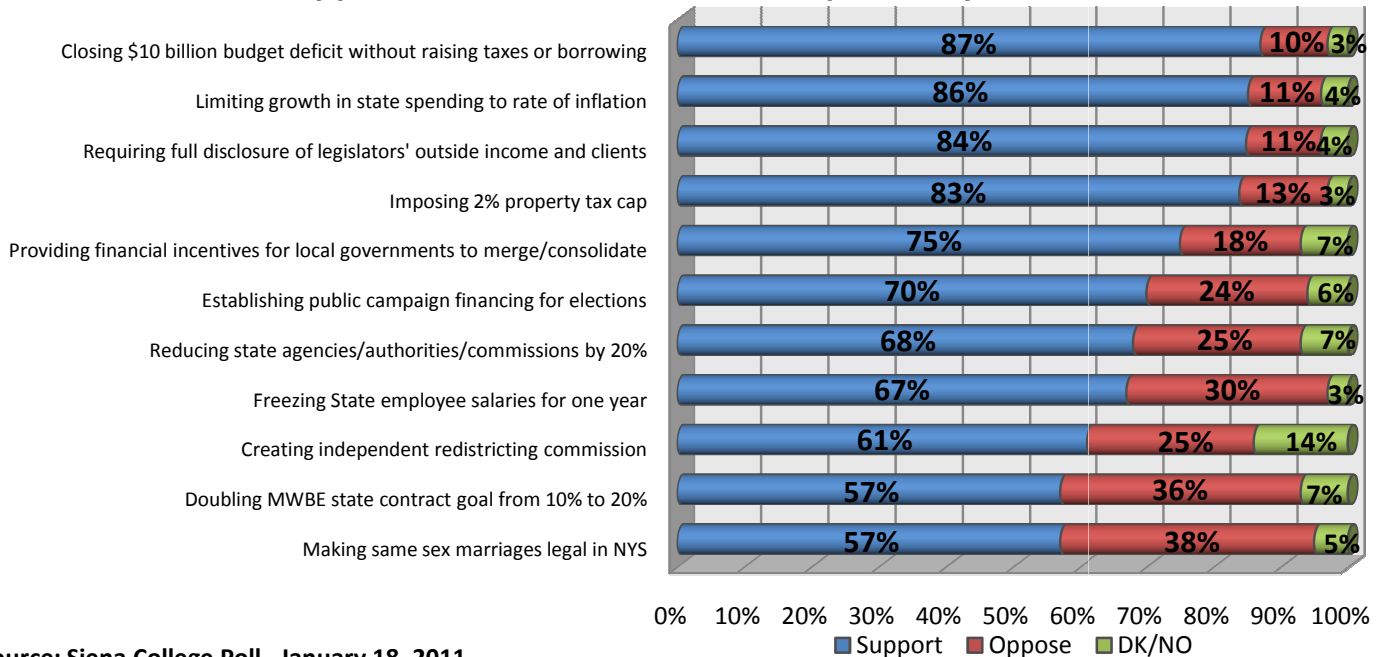
Loudonville, NY. There is strong support for 11 specific proposals Governor Andrew Cuomo included in his State of the State address, including eight which are supported by more than two-thirds of voters, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters released today.

While voters are not optimistic that several of the proposals that they strongly support will become a reality in 2011, more than two-thirds of voters believe that it is likely that New York will become a more business friendly state this year. By a 55-42 percent margin voters want to see the personal income tax increase enacted two years ago on those earning more than \$200,000 a year continued, as many legislators argue, rather than see it expire, as Cuomo argues. And while voters support enacting a two-percent property tax cap by an overwhelming margin, they are much more closely divided on whether that cap should be able to be exceeded by an affirmative vote of 60 percent of voters, or simply a majority vote.

“Voters tell Siena that they strongly support 11 of Governor Cuomo’s State of the State proposals. Four of the proposals have the support of at least 83 percent of all voters and at least 75 percent of every demographic and geographic group of voters,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “By an 87-10 percent margin, voters support closing the state’s \$10 billion budget deficit without raising taxes or borrowing. By a nearly identical 86-11 percent margin, voters want to see growth in spending limited to no more than the inflation rate. Similarly, by an 84-11 percent margin, voters want legislators to fully disclose any outside income and clients. And as we have seen in previous Siena polls, support for a two percent property tax cap is overwhelming, 83-13 percent.

“Another four of Cuomo’s proposals have the support of between two-thirds and three-quarters of voters,” Greenberg said. “And three more proposals have the support of at least 57 percent of voters. Opposition to any of these issues put forward by Cuomo ranges from a low of 10 percent to a high of only 38 percent.”

Public Support for State of the State Proposals by Governor Cuomo



Source: Siena College Poll, January 18, 2011

“The Governor claims his election meant he has a mandate from the voters on the issues,” Greenberg said.

“While Cuomo may or may not have an issue mandate, for the moment, as we await his first Executive Budget, voters certainly support the Governor on these issues that he talked about in the State of the State address.

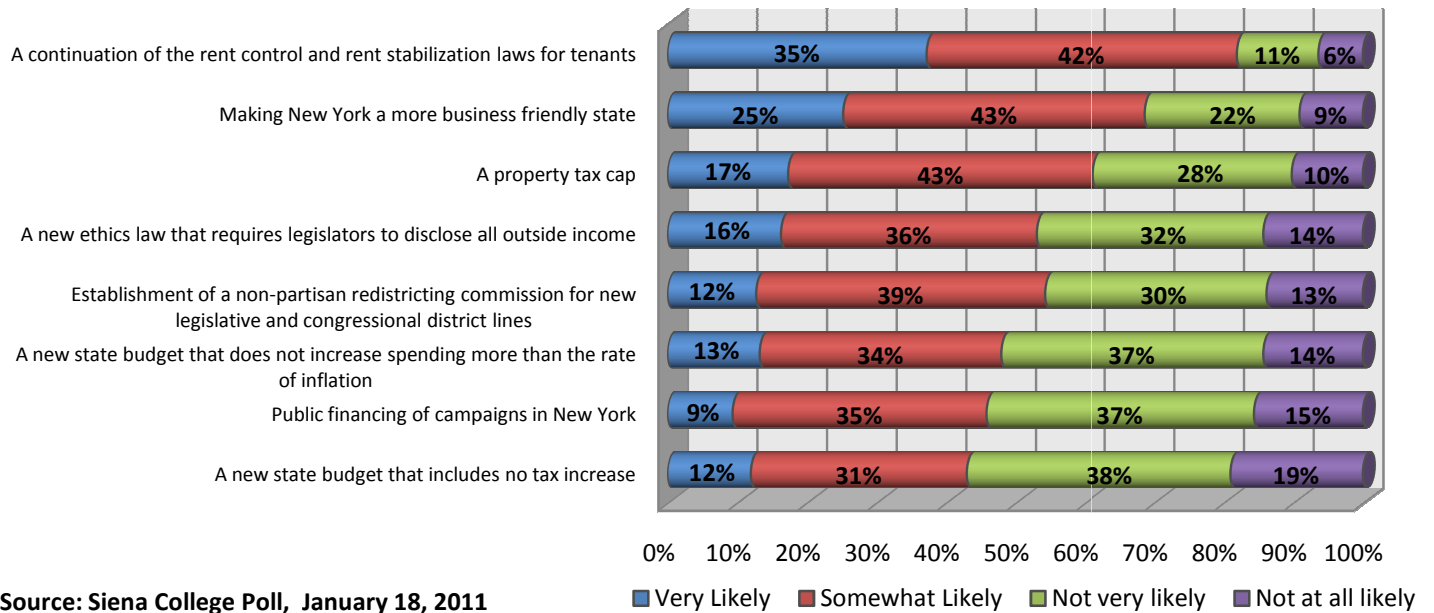
“The current exception to a clean sweep on issues for Cuomo is whether or not to extend the personal income tax increase for those earning more than \$200,000, set to expire at the end of this year. Cuomo advocates letting the tax expire, however, 55 percent of voters side with the legislators and others who believe the tax should be continued,” Greenberg said. “With the exception of conservatives – who by a 50-46 percent margin want to see it expire – a majority of voters of every region, gender, party and ideology support continuing the tax.”

By a 53-44 percent margin, voters say that any property tax cap enacted into law should only be able to be exceeded if, as Cuomo argues, 60 percent of voters approve exceeding the cap, not simply a majority of voters.

Voters: Rent Law Extension, Property Tax Cap & Making NY More Business Friendly Are Likely in 2011

“More than three-quarters of voters believe that it is likely that rent control and rent stabilization laws will be continued this year. More than two-thirds think it likely that New York will become a more business friendly state in 2011. And 60 percent of voters think a property tax cap law will be passed this year,” Greenberg said. “Narrow majorities think a new disclosure law for legislators and the establishment of an independent redistricting commission are likely to happen this year. A majority does not believe it likely, however, that the new budget passed this year will be kept below the inflation rate or will not include new taxes.”

Voters' View of Likelihood of Issues Becoming a Reality in 2011



Majority Think Some Cuomo Advisory Panels Will Generate Useful Solutions

“A majority of voters say the Governor’s Medicaid redesign team (55-41 percent), spending and government efficiency commission (51-45 percent) and regional economic development councils (56-35 percent) will generate useful solutions. Only 28 percent of voters think the mandate relief redesign team will generate useful solutions, while 45 percent say it won’t accomplish anything,” Greenberg said.

Good Marks for Cuomo on State of the State Message; Boost in Confidence for NY Economic Recovery

“Fifty eight percent of voters – including a majority of voters from every party, ideology and region – rate Cuomo’s message in his first State of the State address as excellent or good. Another 23 percent said it was fair and only three percent called it poor,” Greenberg said.

“Beyond simply good marks for the speech, the speech and early days of the Cuomo Administration have made 46 percent of voters more confident that New York will recover from the current economic problems, compared to only three percent who are now less confident and 46 percent who say there’s been no change in their level of confidence,” Greenberg said. “No demographic group tops 10 percent in feeling less confident.”

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This SRI survey was conducted January 10-13, 2011 by telephone calls to 776 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.5 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, gender, and region to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing weighted to reflect 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.