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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

Obama Widens Lead Over Romney to 24 Points

Seen as Better on All Issues, Obama Scores High on Terrorism & Health Care

Plurality of Voters Says U.S. Is Worse Off Today Than it Was 4 Years Ago

Large Majority Says Election Provides Clear Choice Between 2 Visions of the Future

Loudonville, NY. President Obama has increased his lead over Mitt Romney to 24 points, 59-35 percent, up a little from 57-37 percent last month, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of registered voters released today. Big majorities say that Obama will do a better job than Romney on keeping the country safe from terrorism, fighting for middle class families, tackling health care, resolving Social Security and Medicare, and improving the economy. Obama also bests Romney on creating jobs, making the federal government work more effectively and addressing the deficit, albeit by smaller margins.

A plurality, 44 percent, of voters say the country is worse off today than four years ago, while 30 percent say it's better and 25 percent think it's about the same. When it comes to how their families are doing compared to four years ago, 44 percent say about the same, 32 percent say worse and 23 percent say better. Voters are optimistic about the future with 52 percent saying the country will be better in four years than it is today and only 15 percent saying it will be worse, with 20 percent thinking it will be about the same. Six in ten voters say the upcoming election is a clear choice between two visions while one-third say there is little difference between the candidates.

“New York is showing no indication of moving away from its solidly blue status in presidential elections over the last two and a half decades. President Obama has consistently led Governor Romney by 20 or more points over the last several months, and he now has a 24-point lead, including a 15-point lead among independent voters,” said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. “Obama has the support of 83 percent of Democrats and 53 percent of independents, while Romney has the support of 72 percent of Republicans.

“Obama leads by 46 points in New York City, 12 points upstate and six points in the suburbs. He has a two-to-one lead with women and a 15-point lead with men. Romney trails by six points among white voters and Obama has the support of 96 percent of black voters and 79 percent of Latinos,” Greenberg said. “Interestingly, there is no ‘age gap,’ as Obama leads by 23 points among 18-34 year-olds, and 22 points among those 55 and older.”

As President, who will do a better job...	Obama	Romney	Equal/Neither/ Don't know
Fighting for middle class families	64%	30%	7%
Keeping the U.S. safe from terrorism	62%	27%	10%
Tackling the nation's health care needs	59%	33%	7%
Improving the economy	54%	38%	8%
Resolving finances of programs such as Social Security and Medicare for the long-term	53%	39%	8%
Creating jobs	51%	40%	9%
Making the federal government work more effectively	50%	40%	11%
Addressing the national deficit	49%	43%	8%
Source: Siena College Poll, June 12, 2012			

“Overall, voters think Obama will do a better job on eight issues. He scores highest on fighting for middle class families, keeping the U.S. safe from terrorism and tackling health care,” Greenberg said. “Independents somewhat favor Romney on three issues – jobs, deficit and making government more effective – and they favor Obama by small margins on the economy and Social Security and by large margins on terrorism, health care and fighting for the middle class. Democrats give Obama the nod on all issues by margins of between 47 and 73 points, while Republicans say Romney will do a better job on all issues but by smaller 27- to 64-point margins.”

Do Voters Think the Country and their Families Are Better Off Now Than Four Years Ago?

“More voters, 44 percent, think the country is worse off today than four years ago, compared to 30 percent who say the country is better off and 25 percent who say it’s about the same,” Greenberg said. “An overwhelming majority of Republicans and 49 percent of independents say the country is worse off today, while 43 percent of Democrats say the country is better off.

“On the famous Ronald Reagan quote, ‘are *you* better off today than you were four years ago,’ voters are divided. Forty-four percent say they are about the same, 32 percent say they are worse off and 23 percent say they are better off,” Greenberg said. “Both campaigns have to wonder about the mood of voters. Will they think the ‘glass is half full’ – only one-third of voters thinks they are worse off today than four years ago – or do they believe the ‘glass is half empty’ since only one-quarter of voters think they are better off today than four years ago?”

Most Voters See Election as Clear Choice Between Two Distinct Visions

“By 61-35 percent, voters see this election as a clear choice between two distinct visions for our future rather than believing there is little difference between Romney and Obama,” Greenberg said. “Democrats are more likely to see a difference than Republicans. Potentially concerning for Obama partisans is that voters under 35 are split down the middle on this question with 48 percent each seeing a clear choice and seeing little difference.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted June 3-6, 2012 by telephone calls to 807 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 – June 2012

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
November 2011	57	40	3
October 2011	55	43	3
September 2011	52	45	2
August 2011	52	45	3
July 2011	57	39	4
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	2 (6/12, etc.)

Q. 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
July 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
November 2011	10	33	28	29	0
October 2011	9	29	32	30	0
September 2011	11	29	28	33	0
August 2011	10	26	30	33	0
July 2011	13	32	30	25	1
HIGHEST EVER	16 (3/12, 5/11)	37 (5/11)	32 (10/11)	33 (9/11, 8/11)	1 (7/11)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/11)	26 (8/11)	23 (3/12)	23 (5/11)	0 (many)

Q. 12 Barack Obama is running for re-election as President this year. 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 2012	54	42	5
May 2012	54	42	3
April 2012	54	41	5
March 2012	56	38	6
February 2012	58	36	5
January 2012	55	40	5
November 2011	51	42	7
October 2011	48	45	7
September 2011	47	47	6
August 2011	47	45	8
July 2011	50	41	9
HIGHEST EVER	58 (2/12)	47 (9/11, 12/10)	10 (1/11, 12/10)
LOWEST EVER	43 (12/10)	36 (2/12)	3 (5/12)

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Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitt Romney?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2012	35	56	9
May 2012	33	57	10
April 2012	35	57	8
March 2012	32	57	10
February 2012	35	55	10
November 2011	36	48	16
October 2011	34	45	21
September 2011	30	46	24
August 2011	32	46	21
HIGHEST EVER	36 (11/11)	57 (5/12, 4/12, 3/12)	35 (12/07)
LOWEST EVER	25 (12/07)	40 (12/07)	8 (4/12)

Q. 26 If the election for President was held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Mitt Romney on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	OBAMA	ROMNEY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2012	59	35	6
May 2012	57	37	6
April 2012	60	35	5
March 2012	60	34	6
February 2012	63	31	6
November 2011	59	34	7
October 2011	55	37	8
September 2011	56	36	8
August 2011	55	37	8
HIGHEST EVER	63 (2/12)	37 (5/12, 10/11, 8/11)	8 (10/11, 9/11, 8/11)
LOWEST EVER	55 (10/11, 8/11)	31 (2/12)	5 (4/12)

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
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
November 2011	26	66	8
October 2011	22	71	7
September 2011	26	66	8
August 2011	20	74	6
July 2011	35	55	10
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/08)	24 (12/09)	6 (8/11)

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 2011.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.