



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Contact:

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

PDF version; crosstabs; website:

www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY

Siena College Poll:

Occupy Wall Street Has the Attention of Most New Yorkers

By Two-to-One, Voters Say Those Engaged in OWS Represent the 99% Opposed to the Corruption of the 1%, Rather than Out-of-work Young People with Potential to Cause Riots

More Voters Would Opt to Join Occupy Wall Street over the Tea Party

Obama Has Large Double Digit Leads over Perry, Romney, Cain

Loudonville, NY. Two-thirds of voters statewide are paying a great deal (24 percent) or at least some (42 percent) attention to the ongoing Occupy Wall Street demonstrations that have been taking place in lower Manhattan and in other cities around the nation, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of registered voters released today. By a better than two-to-one majority, voters say “they represent the 99 percent of people that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the remaining one percent,” compared to “they are mostly out-of-work young people copying the protestors in Cairo, with the potential to cause those kinds of riots here.”

By 49-28 percent, voters say they would join the Occupy Wall Street movement over the Tea Party movement if they had to join one, while 16 percent volunteered that they would not join either. A plurality of voters thinks the demonstrations have received the right amount of media coverage, with about one-quarter each saying too much coverage or not enough coverage. Forty-nine percent have a favorable view of the Occupy Wall Street movement, compared to 38 percent who view it unfavorably. The Tea Party movement has 28-60 percent unfavorable rating, while Wall Street has a 24-67 percent unfavorable rating with New York voters.

President Obama’s favorability rating inched up slightly over the last month, while his job performance inched down slightly. Voters remain divided on whether they would prefer to re-elect the President or would prefer “someone else,” although Obama has large double digit leads over potential Republican challengers Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and businessman Herman Cain.

“In the last few weeks, the Occupy Wall Street movement has taken on a life of its own, gaining the attention of voters across New York, although more so downstate than upstate, and most tend to view the movement far more favorably than they view the Tea Party movement or Wall Street itself,” said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg.

“When asked to choose between two descriptions of the Occupy Wall Street participants, 58 percent side with how the protesters describe themselves – the 99 percent who will no longer tolerate the greed of the one percent – while only 27 percent choose to describe them as mostly out-of-work young people with the potential to cause riots,” Greenberg said. “A majority of voters from virtually every party, region and age and income group sides with the ‘99 percent’ description, although only a plurality of Republicans and downstate suburbanites do so.

Occupy Wall Street vs. Tea Party – New York Voters Tilt to the ‘Left’

“Nearly half of voters – including a majority of Democrats, women, those from New York City, African Americans and Latinos, those 55 years of age and older, and those earning more than \$50,000 per year – have a favorable view of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Only Republicans and conservatives have majorities with an unfavorable view, along with a plurality of suburbanites. Independents are evenly divided,” Greenberg said.

“Conversely, only majorities of Republicans and conservatives view the Tea Party favorably. A majority of every other demographic group has an unfavorable view of the Tea Party,” Greenberg said. “And when it comes to Wall Street, a strong majority of every demographic group has an unfavorable view.

“Given how voters view both sides, it’s no surprise that a majority or plurality of every demographic group would opt to join the Occupy Wall Street movement over the Tea Party movement – with the exception of Republicans and conservatives – if they had to join one of the two movements,” Greenberg said.

Obama’s Ratings Hold Fairly Steady; Continues Big Leads over Republicans

Obama has a 55-43 percent favorability rating (up from 52-45 percent last month) and a 38-62 percent job performance rating (down from 40-61 percent). Perry has an 18-53 percent unfavorable rating (down from 21-45 percent). Romney has a 34-45 percent unfavorable rating (up from 30-46 percent). Cain has a 25-32 percent unfavorable rating (it was 12-25 in August). Obama leads Perry 58-31 percent (up from 56-33 percent last month), he leads Romney 55-37 percent (down from 56-36 percent), and he leads Cain 58-32 percent.

“The President’s ratings continue to be very strong with Democrats, very negative with Republicans, and virtually evenly divided among independents,” Greenberg said. “However, New York has not voted for a Republican for president since 1984, and Obama continues to have leads of between 18 and 27 points against three potential Republican challengers. Obama does better with Democrats than any of the challengers do with Republicans, and he leads among independents against all three by margins of between 13 and 21 points.”

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted October 10-12, 2011 by telephone calls to 800 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of \pm 3.5 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, under the direction of 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, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

Siena College Poll Trends – October 18, 2011

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2011	55	43	3
September 2011	52	45	2
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 (9/11, 5/11)

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
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
May 2011	16	37	24	23	0
HIGHEST EVER	16 (5/11)	37 (5/11)	32 (10/11)	33 (9/11, 8/11)	1 (7/11)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/11)	26 (8/11)	24 (5/11)	23 (5/11)	0 (10/11, etc.)

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
October 2011	48	45	7
September 2011	47	47	6
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 (9/11, 12/10)	10 (1/11, 12/10)
LOWEST EVER	43 (12/10)	39 (5/11, 4/11)	4 (6/11)

Siena College Poll Trends – October 18, 2011

Page 2

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rick Perry?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2011	18	53	30
September 2011	21	45	34
August 2011	15	32	54
HIGHEST EVER	21 (9/11)	53 (10/11)	54 (8/11)
LOWEST EVER	15 (8/11)	32 (8/11)	30 (10/11)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2011	34	45	21
September 2011	30	46	24
August 2011	32	46	21
HIGHEST EVER	34 (10/11)	46 (9/11, 8/11)	35 (12/07)
LOWEST EVER	25 (12/07)	40 (12/07)	21 (10/11, 8/11)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Herman Cain?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2011	25	32	42
August 2011	12	25	64
HIGHEST EVER	25 (10/11)	32 (10/11)	64 (8/11)
LOWEST EVER	12 (8/11)	25 (8/11)	42 (10/11)

If the 2012 election for President were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Rick Perry on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	OBAMA	PERRY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2011	58	31	11
September 2011	56	33	11
August 2011	57	30	13
HIGHEST EVER	58 (10/11)	33 (9/11)	13 (8/11)
LOWEST EVER	56 (9/11)	30 (8/11)	11 (10/11, 9/11)

If the 2012 election for President were 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
October 2011	55	37	8
September 2011	56	36	8
August 2011	55	37	8
HIGHEST EVER	56 (9/11)	37 (10/11, 8/11)	8 (10/11, 9/11, 8/11)
LOWEST EVER	55 (10/11, 8/11)	36 (9/11)	8 (10/11, 9/11, 8/11)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the Tea Party Movement?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2011	28	60	12
December 2010	31	52	17
November 2010	33	49	18
October 31, 2010*	39	51	9
October 20, 2010*	34	52	15
October 5, 2010*	40	50	10
September 2010	34	49	18
HIGHEST EVER	40 (10/5/10)	60 (10/11)	18 (11/10, 9/10)
LOWEST EVER	28 (10/11)	49 (11/10)	9 (10/31/10)

Siena College Poll Trends – October 18, 2011

Page 3

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
October 2011	22	71	7
September 2011	26	66	8
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)

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.