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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

Voters Evenly Divided on Re-electing Obama or ‘Someone Else’ Yet He Continues 20-point Leads Over Perry & Romney

Jury Out on Obama’s American Jobs Act; Nearly Half Want More Info

Most NYers Are ‘Very’ Concerned About ‘Double-Dip’ Recession

47 Percent Think Obama was ‘Great Candidate’ but is ‘Poor President’

Loudonville, NY. While voters are evenly divided, 47-47 percent, on whether they are prepared to re-elect President Obama or would prefer ‘someone else,’ he continues to maintain 20-point leads over the frontrunners for the Republican presidential nomination, Rick Perry and Mitt Romney. A slim majority continues to have a favorable view of Obama and a plurality of voters views Romney and Perry unfavorably, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of registered voters released today.

More than half of New Yorkers are very concerned that there will be a ‘double-dip’ recession and 84 percent are at least somewhat concerned. While 33 percent of voters would like to see Congress pass Obama’s American Jobs Act, compared to 19 percent who oppose it, a plurality of voters, 47 percent, say they need more information.

When asked to agree or disagree with a series of statements about the President, nearly three-quarters of voters think Obama has tried to get Republicans and Democrats to work together, a majority agree that he has had many accomplishments and that he makes them proud to be an American, and a majority disagree with the idea that he is not tough enough to be President and that his policies are wrong for America. However, voters were nearly evenly divided on the statement that while “he was a great candidate, right now Barack Obama is a poor President,” with 47 percent agreeing with that statement and 49 percent disagreeing.

“For the second month in a row, Barack Obama has a lackluster 52-45 percent favorability rating, particularly in a state with a two-to-one Democratic enrollment edge. While three-quarters of Democrats view him favorably, more than three-quarters of Republicans and a majority of independents view him unfavorably,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “His job performance rating is up slightly from its all-time low last month but 61 percent of voters still give him a negative job performance rating. And 14 months before the election, voters are evenly divided on whether Obama should be re-elected or ‘someone else’ should be elected.”

“The bad news for the President is that when voters judge him in the absence of Republican opposition, his numbers are weak,” Greenberg said. “The good news for the President is that when matched up against Republicans – those in Congress or potential presidential challengers – his numbers are strong.”

Obama leads Perry 56-33 percent, little changed from 55-37 percent last month. He leads Romney 56-36 percent, virtually unchanged from 55-37 percent last month.

“By a 49-33 percent margin voters say Obama has a better plan for revitalizing the economy than does the Republican leadership in Congress. Similarly, 52 percent say Obama has a better plan for creating jobs, compared to 31 percent who say the Republican Congressional leadership does,” Greenberg said. “Not surprisingly, three-quarters of Democrats side with Obama on both questions, while seven in ten Republicans side with their party. Independents are evenly divided on the economy but give Obama the edge on jobs.

“Seventy-three percent of voters, including almost half of Republicans, say that Obama has tried to get both parties working together. And a majority of voters believe that he is strong enough to be President, has had many accomplishments, has the right policies for America, and he makes them proud to be an American,” Greenberg said. “Democrats overwhelmingly feel that way on all the statements, Republicans overwhelmingly feel the opposite way, and on most of the statements, independents look more like Democrats than Republicans.

“Was Obama a great candidate and now a poor President? More than three-quarters of Republicans think so, while nearly three-quarters of Democrats disagree. And a majority of independents also agree,” Greenberg said.

“Looking at respondents’ answers to all six of these questions grouped together, 47 percent of New York voters are strong Obama supporters, 27 percent are strong Obama opponents and 26 percent take a more middle ground, qualifying as neither strong supporters nor opponents of the President,” Greenberg said.

Overwhelmingly, Voters are Concerned About a ‘Double-dip’ Recession

“A majority of voters from every region, every party and every income level are very concerned that there will be a double-dip recession. Overall, 55 percent are very concerned about it and another 29 percent are somewhat concerned,” Greenberg said.

“Given voters’ economic concerns, it’s not surprising that two-thirds say the country is headed in the wrong direction,” Greenberg said. “Nor is it surprising that two-thirds have an unfavorable view of the Republicans in Congress and more than half view Congressional Democrats unfavorably. Democrats like Democrats in Congress more than Republicans like Congressional Republicans and independents view them both equally unfavorably.”

New Yorkers Want More Information About the President's Jobs Plan

“Despite the fact that two-thirds of voters say they are at least somewhat familiar with President Obama’s American Jobs Act plan, only one in three, including 51 percent of Democrats and one-quarter or independents, support Congress passing it, while one in five, including 40 percent of Republicans and one-quarter of independents, oppose its passage,” Greenberg said. “Nearly half of voters say they don’t yet have enough information about the plan.

“Support outweighs opposition by a three-to-one margin in New York City. However, upstate and suburban voters with an opinion on the plan are nearly evenly divided between support and opposition,” Greenberg said.

Voters: Bush Policies & Economic Slowdown Get Most Blame for Increase in Americans Living in Poverty

“When presented with five potential factors for the record number of Americans now living in poverty, a plurality, 32 percent, said the policies of the Bush Administration were most responsible. The economic slowdown was identified by 23 percent, the partisan climate in Washington 15 percent, Obama Administration policies 14 percent, and China’s rise as an economic power 11 percent,” Greenberg said.

“Among Democrats, Bush policies are blamed by nearly half while Obama policies are blamed by only five percent. Republicans see it differently, with nearly one-third blaming Obama policies and only eight percent putting the responsibility on the Bush policies. With the exception of Republicans and conservatives, voters from every region and every demographic group place more blame on Bush than Obama,” Greenberg said.

Who do New Yorkers think will win the 2012 Presidential Election?

“When asked to use their crystal ball and predict the winner of next year's election, 45 percent think the President will win re-election while 42 percent predict the Republican presidential nominee, regardless of who that is, will prevail. A full quarter of Democrats lack faith in the President's chances. Independents currently believe that a Republican will be taking the oath of office come January 2013,” Greenberg said.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted September 15-21, 2011 by telephone calls to 808 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, 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.



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Siena College Poll Trends – September 26, 2011

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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)	30 (8/11, 7/11)	33 (9/11, 8/11)	1 (7/11)
LOWEST EVER	10 (8/11)	26 (8/11)	24 (5/11)	23 (5/11)	0 (9/11, 8/11, 5/11)

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
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)

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

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

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

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

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
September 2011	56	33	11
August 2011	57	30	13
HIGHEST EVER	57 (8/11)	33 (9/11)	13 (8/11)
LOWEST EVER	56 (9/11)	30 (8/11)	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
September 2011	56	36	8
August 2011	55	37	8
HIGHEST EVER	56 (9/11)	37 (8/11)	8 (9/11, 8/11)
LOWEST EVER	55 (8/11)	36 (9/11)	8 (9/11, 8/11)

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
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.