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Siena New York Poll:

Obama Widens Lead Over McCain to 62-31%

Obama Favorability and McCain Unfavorability Highest Ever

¾ of Voters Agree with Gov: NY Economy Worst Since Great Depression

Voters Strongly Support Millionaire’s Tax to Close State Budget Deficit

Loudonville, NY. Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) has widened his lead over Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) to 31 points, up nine points in the last three weeks, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters released today. Obama now has the highest favorable rating from likely voters that he has ever had, as McCain has his highest unfavorable rating ever.

“Barack Obama is poised to carry New York big next Tuesday,” said Steven Greenberg, spokesman for the Siena New York Poll. “Obama’s momentum among New York likely voters has lifted his lead to 62-31 percent. He has the support of 85 percent of Democrats, 61 percent of independent voters and even 26 percent of Republicans. He is favored by at least 55 percent of voters in every region of the state.

“Two-thirds of voters, including more than one-third of Republicans, view Obama favorably, his highest rating ever. Only 42 percent of voters view McCain favorably, while 53 percent have an unfavorable view. He is, however, doing better than his Vice Presidential nominee, who is viewed unfavorably by 58 percent of voters,” Greenberg said

	Fav	Unfav	Don't Know /No Opinion
BARACK OBAMA			
October 27, 2008	67%	28%	5%
October 2, 2008	64%	29%	7%
September 2008	56%	32%	12%
JOHN MCCAIN			
October 27, 2008	42%	53%	5%
October 2, 2008	43%	49%	9%
September 2008	50%	37%	13%
JOE BIDEN			
October 27, 2008	62%	27%	11%
October 2, 2008	54%	28%	18%
September 2008	46%	26%	28%
SARAH PALIN			
October 27, 2008	33%	58%	9%
October 2, 2008	36%	52%	12%
September 2008	46%	30%	24%

New Yorkers Are Depressed About the State’s Economic and Financial Condition

Seventy-eight percent of voters agree – 23 percent strongly – with Gov. David Paterson that the state’s economy is the worst it’s been since the Great Depression. Only 17 percent disagree. No voters describe the state’s fiscal condition as excellent, only 12 percent call it good, 43 percent rate it as fair, and 43 percent call it poor. Voters are virtually evenly divided on whether the state’s fiscal condition will be better next year.

“At least three quarters of voters from every region of the state – and irrespective of party enrollment – agree with the Governor that New York is in the worst fiscal shape it has been in since the Great Depression,” Greenberg said. “Seven times as many people rate the state’s economy as fair or poor, rather than good or excellent. And nobody rates it as excellent. While 48 percent of voters think it likely the state will be in a better fiscal position next year, 47 percent believe it’s unlikely.

“When asked to choose which single action the Governor and Legislature should take to close the state’s budget deficit when the Legislature returns next month, 69 percent of voters choose increasing the income tax on millionaires,” Greenberg said. “Ten percent prefer increasing taxes and fees other than the income or sales tax, nine percent support cutting health care spending, and only six percent want to see education spending cut. It was pointed out to voters that health care and education are the state’s two largest expenditures.”

Term Limits For a Moderately Effective Albany

By a margin of 58-37 percent, voters support an eight-year term limit for state officials, including the Governor and Legislature. A majority of Democrats, Republicans, independents and virtually every demographic group supports term limits. A similar majority – 57-41 percent – describe state government in Albany as highly or moderately effective, rather than not very effective or not effective at all in doing its job.

“While a majority of voters describes state government as moderately effective in doing its job, a comparable majority supports term limits for state elected officials,” Greenberg said. “Republicans and Democrats may not agree on who to support for President, they do agree on Albany’s effectiveness and their desire to see term limits implemented in Albany. Independent voters also agree with their more partisan neighbors.”

Paterson’s Grades Continue to Rise with Voters

Paterson has a 62-19 percent favorable rating, the first time it has exceeded 60 percent. His job performance rating is 55 percent positive, 40 percent negative, the best it’s ever been. If the election for Governor were tomorrow, 40 percent of voters (also a high) said they would vote for Paterson, with 29 percent preferring “someone else.” In matchups against Mayor Mike Bloomberg and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Paterson scores his best numbers to date, losing to Bloomberg 47-43 percent and beating Giuliani 51-40 percent.

“Governor Paterson’s rating with voters has made a slow but steady climb over the seven months he has been Governor and more voters have become familiar with him,” Greenberg said. “While bad economic news and tough fiscal talk by chief executives do not always play well with voters, the more he talks about the economy and the budget, the more voters seem to be embracing what the Governor is saying.”

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about David Paterson?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	62	19	18
September 2008	59	13	28
August 2008	59	16	26
July 2008	57	15	28
June 2008	57	17	25
May 2008	48	17	35
April 2008	48	18	34
March 24, 2008	58	10	31
January 2007	17	8	76

How would you rate the job that David Paterson is doing as Governor – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	7	48	35	5	5
September 2008	7	44	33	4	12
August 2008	7	45	30	5	12
July 2008	7	41	34	5	13
June 2008	6	38	31	6	19
May 2008	5	35	28	4	29
April 2008	4	30	30	4	32

I know it's a long way off, but if David Paterson runs for Governor in 2010, would you vote to elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	40	29	31
September 2008	35	25	39
August 2008	35	26	40
July 2008	34	27	40
June 2008	30	30	40
May 2008	29	25	47

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson on the Democratic line and Michael Bloomberg on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	BLOOMBERG	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	43	47	10
September 2008	40	45	15
August 2008	36	44	19
July 2008	37	45	18
June 2008	34	45	21
May 2008	36	45	20
April 2008	34	48	18

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If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	51	40	9
September 2008	50	40	10
August 2008	48	38	15
July 2008	47	40	13

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	59	25	16
September 2008	54	24	22
August 2008	54	25	21
July 2008	57	23	21
June 2008	57	22	21
May 2008	56	25	20
April 2008	55	24	21
March 24, 2008	53	25	22
January 2008	51	29	20
December 2007	52	29	19
November 2007	56	27	17
October 2007	54	29	17
September 2007	51	26	24
July 2007	55	26	19
June 2007	49	31	20
May 2007	51	32	18
April 2007	52	31	18
March 2007	50	32	19
February 2007	45	35	20
January 2007	48	29	23
November 15, 2006	50	36	15
November 3, 2006	49	36	15
October 2006	44	42	15
September 2006	50	35	15
August 2006	44	35	21
June 2006	47	29	24
January 2006	45	31	24

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	17	14	69
July 2008	18	12	70
April 2008	14	12	74
January 2008	11	16	73
November 2007	15	11	74
July 2007	14	12	74
June 2007	7	13	80
May 2007	7	18	75
April 2007	11	14	76
March 2007	9	14	78
February 2007	9	15	76

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	64	22	14
September 2008	63	16	21
August 2008	64	18	18
July 2008	64	20	16
June 2008	64	21	16
May 2008	65	19	16
April 2008	63	21	16
March 24, 2008	67	18	15
January 2008	59	24	17
October 2007	68	20	12
July 2007	65	19	17
June 2007	62	20	18

Currently, Democrats have an overwhelming majority in the State Assembly. Republicans have a small 32-30 majority in the State Senate. The Governor is a Democrat. Which statement comes closest to your opinion (CHOICES WERE ROTATED): I agree with those who claim it is important for Republicans to keep control of the Senate, providing checks and balances so one party does not control all of state government, or I agree with those who claim that if Democrats gain control of the Senate, it would end the gridlock and make state government more effective.

DATE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	45	48	7
September 2008	44	44	12
August 2008	42	47	11
July 2008	40	48	12
June 2008	41	48	12
May 2008	39	48	13
March 2008	47	45	9

If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and John McCain on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	OBAMA	MCCAIN	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	62	31	6
October 2, 2008	58	36	6
September 2008	46	41	13
August 2008	47	39	14
July 2008	50	37	13
June 2008	51	33	17
May 2008	49	38	14
April 2008	45	40	15
February 2008	47	40	13
January 2008	44	42	15
June 2007	49	35	16
May 2007	50	33	18
April 2007	50	37	13
March 2007	47	39	14
November 15, 2006	39	40	21

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Which of the two presidential candidates, (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED) McCain or Obama, do you think will do a better job of addressing the nation's economic and fiscal challenges?

DATE	OBAMA	MCCAIN	NEITHER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	63	30	3	4
October 2, 2008	58	30	5	8

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	67	28	5
October 2, 2008	64	29	7
September 2008	56	32	12
August 2008	54	34	12
July 2008	57	32	12
June 2008	58	30	13
May 2008	55	34	11
April 2008	54	34	12
March 24, 2008	56	32	13
March 3, 2008	56	31	13
February 2008	60	30	10
January 2008	57	28	15
December 2007	55	30	15
September 2007	56	24	20
June 2007	53	24	23
May 2007	58	22	20
April 2007	55	23	22
March 2007	52	20	28
February 2007	52	21	28
January 2007	50	17	34
November 15, 2006	48	12	40

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John McCain?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	42	53	5
October 2, 2008	43	49	9
September 2008	50	37	13
August 2008	49	41	10
July 2008	45	42	13
June 2008	42	47	11
May 2008	49	39	12
April 2008	54	35	11
March 24, 2008	54	34	12
March 3, 2008	48	41	11
February 2008	55	34	11
January 2008	56	27	17
December 2007	53	29	18
June 2007	43	39	19
May 2007	42	44	14
April 2007	45	39	15
March 2007	45	34	21
February 2007	47	33	19
January 2007	51	29	21
November 15, 2006	56	24	20

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	62	27	11
October 2, 2008	54	28	18
September 2008	46	26	28

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sarah Palin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	33	58	9
October 2, 2008	36	52	12
September 2008	46	30	24

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 27, 2008	19	69	12
September 2008	28	56	17
September 2007	23	64	13

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 27, 2008	65	33	2
September 2008	56	39	5
August 2008	51	43	6
July 2008	55	38	7
June 2008	56	38	6
May 2008	52	43	5
April 2008	48	46	6
March 24, 2008	52	43	5
March 3, 2008	54	39	7
February 2008	53	43	4
January 2008	60	35	5
December 2007	51	44	5
November 2007	55	39	6
October 2007	53	41	6
September 2007	57	37	7
July 2007	59	35	6
June 2007	54	39	7
May 2007	56	39	5
April 2007	50	42	7
March 2007	56	37	8
February 2007	56	40	5
January 2007	60	33	7
November 15, 2006	65	29	6
November 3, 2006	61	33	6
October 2006	56	38	6
September 2006	60	37	4
August 2006	54	38	7
June 2006	54	38	8
May 2006	58	36	6
March 2006	55	39	6
January 2006	60	37	3
November 2005	60	34	6
October 2005	59	35	6
August 2005	59	37	4
July 2005	60	34	6
June 2005	60	33	7
May 2005	58	35	7
April 2005	60	33	6
March 2005	58	34	8
February 2005	61	33	6

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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
October 27, 2008	39	41	19
October 2, 2008	35	40	25
September 2008	35	37	28
August 2008	34	44	22
July 2008	36	39	25
June 2008	30	46	23
May 2008	32	43	26
April 2008	33	48	20
March 24, 2008	34	41	26
February 2008	33	43	24
January 2008	39	38	23
December 2007	35	45	21
November 2007	32	45	23
October 2007	42	36	22
September 2007	44	30	26
July 2007	37	38	25
June 2007	45	28	27
May 2007	46	29	25
April 2007	47	29	24
March 2007	37	37	26
February 2007	49	26	25
January 2007	45	26	30
November 15, 2006	52	30	18
November 3, 2006	36	43	21
October 2006	29	47	23
September 2006	33	39	28
August 2006	29	47	25
June 2006	29	45	26
May 2006	27	52	21
March 2006	35	39	26
January 2006	34	43	24
November 2005	38	41	22
October 2005	34	42	24
August 2005	36	44	20
July 2005	33	41	26
June 2005	30	44	26
May 2005	29	46	25
April 2005	29	44	27
March 2005	26	47	27
February 2005	32	44	24

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
October 27, 2008	0	12	43	43	2
September 2008	1	14	41	41	4
August 2008	0	13	37	48	1

Poll Notes: All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of September 2008, October 2008, September 2006, and October 2006, which are polls of likely registered voters.