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Siena New York Poll:

Voters Continue to Be Down on Gov & the Job He Is Doing

Handling of State Finances, Secret Budget & Pay Raises for Staff Contributed Most to Paterson's Declining Popularity, Voters Say

Majority Want Senate to Pass Bill Legalizing Same Sex Marriages

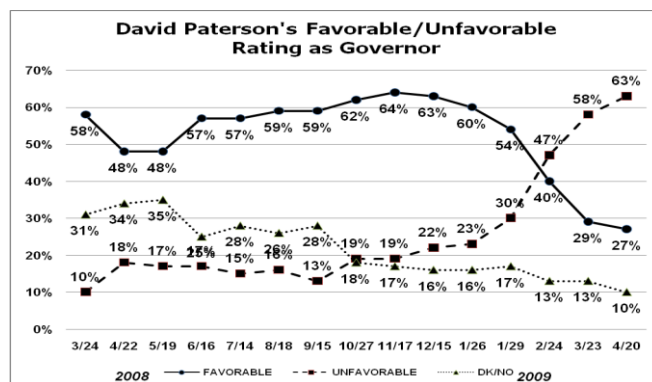
Voters Long for Days of Governor (Mario) Cuomo & Also Governor Pataki

Loudonville, NY. David Paterson's popularity continues to fall, as does voters' view of his job performance as Governor, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters. Voters say the Governor's handling of the state's finances, his approval of pay raises for his staff and negotiating the recent budget in secrecy are the main reasons for his sharp fall in popularity. When voters were asked who among the current and three most recent former Governors they would like to see as Governor today, Mario Cuomo edged out George Pataki, with Eliot Spitzer finishing a distant third and Paterson well behind Spitzer. By a 14-point margin, voters support the State Senate passing a bill to legalize same sex marriages.

Paterson is viewed favorably by 27 percent of voters and unfavorably by 63 percent, down from 29-58 percent last month. His job performance rating is 18 percent positive, 81 percent negative. Only 12 percent of voters are prepared to elect Paterson as Governor in 2010, compared to 71 percent who prefer "someone else."

"If the Governor was hoping that the passage of an on-time budget, or his recent road trip to distribute money for infrastructure and other projects, was going to help begin to raise his popularity after two months of dramatic decline he is going to be disappointed," said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman.

"His personal favorability and job performance ratings both edged down even further, as did his support in both primary and general election 2010 potential match-ups.



"Voters were presented with 10 potential factors for the Governor's declining popularity and more than half of voters say that his handling of the state's finances, giving raises to his staff and negotiating the budget in secret were factors that greatly contributed to his falling approval ratings," Greenberg said.

“Some have suggested that it was the selection process and aftermath of the Governor’s appointment of a new United States Senator, and the millions of dollars in commercials run against the Governor’s budget proposals that resulted in his drop in popularity. While that may be true, voters think that those are second tier issues in explaining the Governor’s swift and stunning loss of favorability and confidence in his job performance,” Greenberg said.

| For each statement, do you believe it contributed greatly to Governor Paterson’s declining popularity, somewhat contributed, had no effect, or enhanced his popularity | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Statement | Contributed Greatly | Somewhat Contributed | No Effect | Enhanced Popularity |
| The Governor’s negotiating the recently enacted state budget in secrecy | 63% | 24% | 8% | 1% |
| Governor Paterson’s approval of pay raises for his staff | 61% | 27% | 9% | 0% |
| The manner in which the Governor has addressed the state’s financial situation | 54% | 32% | 7% | 3% |
| Newspaper editorials across the state critical of the Governor and many of his actions | 38% | 44% | 15% | 0% |
| David Paterson has shown he’s just not up to the job of being our Governor | 35% | 37% | 24% | 1% |
| The commercials run by groups lobbying against the Governor’s proposed budget cuts | 33% | 37% | 19% | 2% |
| Governor Paterson’s treatment of Caroline Kennedy when filling the then vacant Senate seat formerly held by Hillary Clinton | 28% | 37% | 28% | 2% |
| The Governor’s repeating that these are the state’s worst economic times since the Great Depression | 23% | 35% | 35% | 4% |
| Governor Paterson’s appointment of Kirsten Gillibrand as Senator | 19% | 27% | 29% | 14% |
| The depiction of Governor Paterson on the television show, Saturday Night Live | 7% | 13% | 48% | 6% |

In a hypothetical 2010 Democratic primary for Governor, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has 64 percent support, compared to 11 percent for Paterson and eight percent for Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi. In potential general election matchups, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani beats Paterson 56-29 percent (56-33 percent last month) and Giuliani beats Suozzi 50-31 percent. Andrew Cuomo increased his lead over Giuliani to 53-39 percent, up from 51-41 percent last month.

“Voters are pining for the days of Mario Cuomo (39 percent) and George Pataki (33 percent) as Governor,” Greenberg said. “A plurality of Democrats and independent voters would choose Mario and a majority of Republicans chose George. While 14 percent of all voters want to see Spitzer back in the Capitol, only eight percent would opt to have Paterson as Governor if choosing among the last four to hold that office.”

By a 53-39 percent margin, voters support the Senate passing a bill to legalize same sex marriages that would virtually ensure its becoming law. Democrats, independent and young voters, and women strongly support Senate passage. Republicans strongly oppose passage, with men, older voters, African Americans, and Protestants also opposed. Support is strongest in New York City. Every region of the state supports passage.

“By a fairly significant margin, voters would like to see New York join with Vermont, Massachusetts, Iowa, and other states in allowing same sex couples to marry here,” Greenberg said. “For women and young voters it’s a resounding ‘yes.’ Men and older voters are more closely divided and more likely to say ‘no.’ ”

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Siena New York Poll Trends – April 2009

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 27 | 63 | 10 |
| March 2009 | 29 | 58 | 13 |
| February 2009 | 40 | 47 | 13 |
| January 29, 2009 | 54 | 30 | 17 |
| January 26, 2009 | 60 | 23 | 16 |
| December 2008 | 63 | 22 | 16 |
| November 2008 | 64 | 19 | 17 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 64 (11/08) | 63 (4/09) | 76 (1/07) |

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 |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 1 | 17 | 41 | 40 | 2 |
| March 2009 | 1 | 18 | 46 | 32 | 2 |
| February 2009 | 2 | 26 | 46 | 23 | 3 |
| January 26, 2009 | 8 | 43 | 35 | 10 | 4 |
| December 2008 | 9 | 46 | 32 | 8 | 4 |
| November 2008 | 9 | 46 | 34 | 7 | 4 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 9 (12/08) | 48 (10/08) | 46 (3/09, 2/09) | 40 (4/09) | 32 (4/08) |

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 |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 12 | 71 | 17 |
| March 2009 | 14 | 67 | 19 |
| February 2009 | 19 | 57 | 24 |
| January 26, 2009 | 32 | 36 | 32 |
| December 2008 | 36 | 31 | 33 |
| November 2008 | 42 | 32 | 26 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 42 (11/08) | 71 (4/09) | 47 (5/08) |

Siena New York Poll Trends – April 2009

Page 2

(DEMS ONLY): Looking ahead to 2010 and the next election for Governor. If the Democratic primary for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson or Andrew Cuomo, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED) (NOTE: In April 2008, Tom Suozzi was included as a choice)

| DATE | PATERSON | CUOMO | SUOZZI | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 11 | 64 | 8 | 17 |
| March 2009 | 17 | 67 | NA | 17 |
| February 2009 | 27 | 53 | NA | 20 |
| January 26, 2009 | 35 | 33 | NA | 33 |
| December 2008 | 49 | 26 | NA | 25 |
| November 2008 | 53 | 25 | NA | 22 |
| July 2008 | 51 | 21 | NA | 28 |
| June 2008 | 43 | 31 | NA | 26 |
| May 2008 | 42 | 29 | NA | 29 |
| April 2008 | 35 | 30 | 7 | 28 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 53 (11/08) | 67 (3/09) | 8 (4/09) | 33 (1/09) |

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 |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| April 2009 | 29 | 56 | 15 |
| March 2009 | 33 | 56 | 11 |
| February 2009 | 36 | 51 | 13 |
| January 26, 2009 | 44 | 42 | 14 |
| December 2008 | 51 | 38 | 11 |
| November 2008 | 49 | 43 | 8 |
| October 27, 2008 | 51 | 40 | 9 |
| September 2008 | 50 | 40 | 10 |
| August 2008 | 48 | 38 | 15 |
| July 2008 | 47 | 40 | 13 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 51 (10/08, 12/08) | 56 (4/09, 3/09) | 15 (4/09, 8/08) |

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

| DATE | CUOMO | GIULIANI | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| April 2009 | 53 | 39 | 8 |
| March 2009 | 51 | 41 | 9 |
| February 2009 | 51 | 38 | 11 |
| January 26, 2009 | 48 | 39 | 13 |
| December 2008 | 50 | 37 | 13 |
| November 2008 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| July 2008 | 47 | 42 | 11 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 53 (4/09) | 46 (11/08) | 13 (12/08, 1/09) |

If Kirsten Gillibrand runs for Senator in 2010, would you vote to elect her or would you prefer someone else?

| DATE | ELECT | PREFER SOMEONE ELSE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 20 | 47 | 33 |
| March 2009 | 23 | 37 | 39 |
| January 29, 2009 | 21 | 29 | 50 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 23 (3/09) | 47 (4/09) | 50 (1/09) |

Siena New York Poll Trends – April 2009

Page 3

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| April 2009 | 66 | 18 | 16 |
| March 2009 | 68 | 17 | 15 |
| February 2009 | 69 | 18 | 13 |
| January 26, 2009 | 64 | 17 | 19 |
| December 2008 | 59 | 24 | 17 |
| November 2008 | 61 | 19 | 20 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 69 (2/09) | 42 (10/06) | 24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07) |
| LOWEST EVER | 44 (8/06, 10/06) | 17 (3/09, 1/09) | 13 (2/09) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rudy Giuliani?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| April 2009 | 55 | 41 | 4 |
| March 2009 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| February 2009 | 58 | 35 | 7 |
| January 29, 2009 | 60 | 35 | 5 |
| January 26, 2009 | 59 | 33 | 8 |
| December 2008 | 50 | 43 | 7 |
| November 2008 | 57 | 39 | 4 |
| August 2008 | 51 | 42 | 7 |
| July 2008 | 51 | 39 | 10 |
| January 2008 | 44 | 48 | 8 |
| December 2007 | 48 | 46 | 6 |
| November 2007 | 49 | 41 | 11 |
| September 2007 | 53 | 39 | 9 |
| July 2007 | 53 | 40 | 7 |
| June 2007 | 50 | 42 | 8 |
| May 2007 | 51 | 43 | 6 |
| April 2007 | 56 | 38 | 6 |
| March 2007 | 60 | 33 | 8 |
| February 2007 | 59 | 34 | 7 |
| January 2007 | 63 | 29 | 9 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 63 (4/05, 10/06, 1/07) | 48 (1/08) | 11 (2/05, 11/07) |
| LOWEST EVER | 44 (1/08) | 26 (4/05) | 4 (4/09, 11/08) |

Siena New York Poll Trends – April 2009

Page 4

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Tom Suozzi?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 22 | 20 | 58 |
| April 2008 | 21 | 15 | 64 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 28 (8/06) | 20 (4/09) | 70 (1/06) |
| LOWEST EVER | 18 (1/06) | 12 (1/06) | 55 (8/06) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about George Pataki?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| April 2009 | 49 | 43 | 8 |
| March 2009 | 49 | 41 | 10 |
| February 2007 | 36 | 57 | 7 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 53 (3/06, 11/05) | 57 (2/07) | 16 (2/05) |
| LOWEST EVER | 36 (2/07) | 39 (4/05, 11/05) | 7 (many; most recently 2/07) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eliot Spitzer?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 25 | 72 | 4 |
| March 24, 2008 | 13 | 79 | 7 |
| February 2008 | 41 | 46 | 13 |
| January 2008 | 44 | 41 | 15 |
| December 2007 | 36 | 51 | 13 |
| November 2007 | 41 | 46 | 13 |
| October 2007 | 54 | 36 | 10 |
| September 2007 | 56 | 26 | 18 |
| July 2007 | 59 | 28 | 14 |
| June 2007 | 64 | 22 | 15 |
| May 2007 | 67 | 21 | 12 |
| April 2007 | 67 | 20 | 13 |
| March 2007 | 62 | 20 | 18 |
| February 2007 | 74 | 12 | 14 |
| January 2007 | 75 | 10 | 16 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 75 (1/07) | 79 (3/08) | 34 (2/05) |
| LOWEST EVER | 13 (3/08) | 10 (1/07) | 4 (4/09) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 33 | 23 | 44 |
| March 2009 | 26 | 20 | 54 |
| February 2009 | 34 | 20 | 46 |
| January 29, 2009 | 30 | 14 | 56 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 34 (2/09) | 23 (4/09) | 56 (1/09) |

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 |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 0 | 4 | 29 | 66 | 1 |
| March 2009 | 0 | 6 | 33 | 60 | 1 |
| February 2009 | 0 | 7 | 28 | 65 | 0 |
| January 26, 2009 | 0 | 7 | 26 | 65 | 1 |
| December 2008 | 1 | 7 | 33 | 59 | 1 |
| November 2008 | 0 | 7 | 31 | 62 | 1 |
| October 27, 2008 | 0 | 12 | 43 | 43 | 2 |
| September 2008 | 1 | 14 | 41 | 41 | 4 |
| August 2008 | 0 | 13 | 37 | 48 | 1 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 1 (12/08) | 14 (9/08) | 43 (10/08) | 66 (4/09) | 4 (9/08) |

Siena New York Poll Trends – April 2009

Page 5

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 75 | 19 | 6 |
| March 2009 | 70 | 23 | 7 |
| February 2009 | 74 | 18 | 8 |
| January 26, 2009 | 81 | 10 | 9 |
| December 2008 | 76 | 16 | 7 |
| November 2008 | 70 | 23 | 8 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 81 (1/09) | 34 (4/08, 5/08, 8/08) | 40 (11/06) |
| LOWEST EVER | 48 (11/06) | 10 (1/09) | 5 (10/27/08) |

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 |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 61 | 29 | 11 |
| March 2009 | 50 | 36 | 14 |
| February 2009 | 48 | 39 | 13 |
| January 26, 2009 | 61 | 24 | 15 |
| December 2008 | 41 | 48 | 11 |
| November 2008 | 44 | 44 | 13 |
| October 27, 2008 | 19 | 69 | 12 |
| September 2008 | 28 | 56 | 17 |
| September 2007 | 23 | 64 | 13 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 61 (4/09, 1/09) | 69 (10/08) | 17 (9/08) |

Siena New York Poll Trends – April 2009

Page 6

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 |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2009 | 27 | 57 | 15 |
| March 2009 | 30 | 52 | 19 |
| February 2009 | 31 | 53 | 16 |
| January 26, 2009 | 39 | 42 | 19 |
| December 2008 | 37 | 44 | 19 |
| November 2008 | 39 | 43 | 18 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 52 (11/15/06) | 57 (4/09) | 30 (1/07) |
| LOWEST EVER | 26 (3/05) | 26 (1/07) | 15 (4/09) |

Poll Trend Notes: Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena New York poll in February 2005. Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2007

“Highest Ever” is provided at the bottom of each question. “Lowest Ever” is presented at the bottom of each question that was asked prior to 2007.

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.