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For Immediate Release:

Monday, August 24, 2009

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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena New York Poll:

Voters: NY Pols Today Have Less Integrity & Work Less Hard for People, Compared to NY Pols 40-50 Years Ago

A Majority Think It's Time to Elect All New State Leaders

Cuomo's Numbers Continue to Grow, As Paterson's Stay Low

Loudonville, NY. More than half of voters say that New York politicians have less integrity and work less hard for their constituents than politicians of 40 or 50 years ago, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters. A majority of voters wish they could throw out all state government leaders and elect new ones. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's standing with voters has reached near-record high levels, as Governor David Paterson continues to receive very low favorability and job performance ratings from voters. And by a five-to-two margin, voters support having a state constitutional convention.

By a margin of 54-7 percent, voters say today's New York politicians have less integrity than their counterparts from 40 or 50 years ago. By a 54-11 percent margin, voters say today's politicians work less hard for their constituents. When it comes to fairness – lack of bias and self-interest – 44 percent of voters say today's politicians are less fair, with 11 percent saying more fair. On the issue of intelligence, 30 percent say today's politicians are less intelligent and 23 percent say they are more intelligent.

NYS politicians of today vs. NYS politicians of 40-50 years ago			
Character Trait	More	Less	Same
Integrity	7%	54%	28%
Work ethic	11%	54%	23%
Fairness	11%	44%	32%
Intelligence	23%	30%	37%

“Voters are fairly evenly divided on the issue of politicians’ intelligence. However, they overwhelmingly say that today’s politicians have less integrity, work less hard for their constituents and demonstrate less fairness than New York politicians of 40 or 50 years ago,” said Siena New York pollster Steven Greenberg. “Although older voters, Republicans and upstaters feel even more strongly, pluralities of young voters, Democrats, and New York City voters also have far less regard for today’s pols than those of two generations ago.

“There’s less agreement among different groups of voters on whether state leaders are doing the best they can in difficult times, or whether it’s time to throw them all out and elect new leaders,” Greenberg said.

Fifty-four percent of voters say they are “completely frustrated with our government and wish we could throw them all out and elect new leaders,” while 40 percent say “it’s a difficult time” and they are “doing the best they can to improve conditions for all New Yorkers.”

“A majority of Democrats (53 percent), New York City voters (51 percent) and young voters (52 percent) believe that state leaders are doing the best they can in difficult times,” Greenberg said. “However, far larger majorities of Republicans (73 percent), independent voters (60 percent), upstaters (68 percent), and older voters (63 percent) are frustrated, and want to bench the current players and completely change the lineup.”

Voters Overwhelmingly Support a State Constitutional Convention

“By a 63-25 percent margin, voters support having a state constitutional convention, including a majority of voters from every party, every region, every religion, every race, and every age group,” Greenberg said.

“While the issue of a convention is not popular with many elected officials, it is with their constituents.”

Cuomo’s Favorability Rating Jumps, While Paterson’s Ratings Remains Near Record Lows

“Andrew Cuomo has a near-record-high 70 percent favorability rating, and the 14 percent of voters who have an unfavorable view of him is the lowest it’s ever been. More than half of voters think he should run for Governor in 2010, while less than one-third think he should run for Attorney General again,” Greenberg said.

“Governor Paterson is now seven months into a negative favorability rating (32-55 percent), a three-to-one negative job performance rating (23-76 percent), and fewer than one in five voters being prepared to elect him as Governor next year, while more than two-thirds want ‘someone else.’ In a head-to-head match-up for the Democratic nomination for Governor, for the second straight month Cuomo beats Paterson 65-23 percent. Even among African American voters, Cuomo leads the state’s first African American Governor by 20 points.

“Paterson currently trails former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani 56-33 percent, leads Erie County Executive Chris Collins by only 38-30 percent, and is virtually tied with former Congressman Rick Lazio, leading 38-37 percent. By contrast Cuomo has 53-40 percent lead over Giuliani and leads both Lazio and Collins by 50 points,” Greenberg said.

President Obama Maintains Strong Favorable Rating in New York

“While his poll numbers may slide elsewhere, New Yorkers continue to give strong support to President Barack Obama. His favorability rating is 70-23 percent, virtually unchanged from May,” Greenberg said.

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This SRI survey was conducted August 17-20, 2009 by telephone calls to 621 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.9 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party and geography to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing weighted to reflect known population patterns. 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 New York Poll Trends – August 2009

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	32	55	12
July 2009	36	56	8
June 2009	31	57	11
May 2009	27	60	13
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
August 2009	3	20	38	38	2
July 2009	2	20	41	36	1
June 2009	2	18	39	39	2
May 2009	2	16	43	38	1
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)

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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
August 2009	15	68	16
July 2009	17	69	13
June 2009	15	70	15
May 2009	15	71	15
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 (5/09, 4/09)	47 (5/08)

(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)

DATE	PATERSON	CUOMO	SUOZZI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	23	65	NA	12
July 2009	23	65	NA	13
June 2009	16	69	NA	15
May 2009	19	70	NA	11
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)	70 (5/09)	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 Rick Lazio on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	38	37	25
July 2009	41	39	20
February 2009	46	28	26
January 26, 2009	52	22	26
HIGHEST EVER	52 (1/09)	39 (7/09)	26 (1/09, 2/09)

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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
August 2009	33	56	11
July 2009	34	57	9
June 2009	27	57	15
May 2009	31	59	10
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)	59 (5/09)	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
August 2009	53	40	7
July 2009	49	44	7
June 2009	49	40	11
May 2009	53	41	6
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 (8/09, 5/09, 4/09)	46 (11/08)	13 (12/08, 1/09)

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

DATE	CUOMO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	66	16	18
July 2009	65	20	15
February 2009	66	16	18
January 26, 2009	61	17	22
HIGHEST EVER	66 (8/09, 2/09)	20 (7/09)	22 (1/09)

(REPS ONLY): Looking ahead to 2010 and the next election for Governor. If the Republican primary for governor were held today and the candidates were Rudy Giuliani, Chris Collins and Rick Lazio, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	GIULIANI	LAZIO	COLLINS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	73	6	8	13
July 2009	75	14	NA	11
February 2009	77	10	NA	13
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/09)	14 (7/09)	8 (8/09)	13 (2/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	70	14	16
July 2009	63	21	16
June 2009	71	17	12
May 2009	66	20	14
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	71 (6/09)	42 (10/06)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	12 (6/09)

Would you prefer to see Attorney General Andrew Cuomo run for re-election as Attorney General next year or would you prefer to see him run for Governor instead?

DATE	ATTORNEY GENERAL	GOVERNOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	31	52	17
July 2009	31	45	24
June 2009	35	46	19
May 2009	33	47	20
HIGHEST EVER	35 (6/09)	52 (8/09)	24 (7/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	21	22	57
July 2009	25	22	53
February 2009	23	23	54
January 26, 2009	19	18	64
HIGHEST EVER	25 (7/09)	23 (2/09)	64 (1/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	57	35	8
July 2009	61	34	5
June 2009	62	33	5
May 2009	61	35	5
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)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	16	11	74
May 2009	19	16	65
February 2009	16	13	71
November 2008	18	10	72
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
HIGHEST EVER	19 (5/09)	18 (5/07)	80 (6/07)

If Tom DiNapoli runs for State Comptroller in 2010, would you vote to elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	17	28	56
May 2009	22	25	53
HIGHEST EVER	22 (5/09)	28 (8/07)	56 (8/07)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	29	20	52
May 2009	33	21	46
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)

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
August 2009	24	35	41
May 2009	27	39	34
April 2009	20	47	33
March 2009	23	37	39
January 29, 2009	21	29	50
HIGHEST EVER	27 (5/09)	47 (4/09)	50 (1/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	53	35	13
May 2009	53	36	11
April 2009	49	43	8
March 2009	49	41	10
February 2007	36	57	7
HIGHEST EVER	53 (8/09, 5/09, 11/05)	57 (2/07)	16 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	36 (2/07)	35 (8/09)	7 (many; most recently 2/07)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Peter King?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	20	17	63
February 2009	23	15	62
January 29, 2009	22	15	63
HIGHEST EVER	23 (2/09)	17 (8/09)	63 (8/09, 1/09)

If the 2010 election for United States Senator were held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and Peter King on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	KING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	46	24	30
May 2009	48	26	26
March 2009	47	23	30
February 2009	40	27	33
January 29, 2009	46	23	31
HIGHEST EVER	48 (5/09)	27 (2/09)	33 (2/09)

If the 2010 election for United States Senator were held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and George Pataki on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	PATAKI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	39	42	18
May 2009	43	43	14
March 2009	41	41	18
HIGHEST EVER	43 (5/09)	43 (5/09)	18 (8/09, 3/09)

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As things stand now, if the election for State Senate were held today, would you vote to re-elect your incumbent Senator or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	37	43	20
July 2009	31	40	28
HIGHEST EVER	37 (8/09)	43 (8/09)	28 (7/09)

The State Assembly has passed a bill to legalize same sex marriages in New York State. Governor Paterson has said he supports it. To date, the State Senate has not voted on the bill. Do you support or oppose the State Senate passing a bill to legalize same sex marriages, virtually ensuring it would become law in New York?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	50	44	6
July 2009	49	44	6
June 2009	50	43	7
May 2009	46	46	8
April 2009	53	39	8
HIGHEST EVER	53 (4/09)	46 (5/09)	8 (5/09, 4/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	70	23	6
May 2009	72	23	5
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 (5/09, 10/27/08)

Siena New York Poll Trends – August 2009

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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
August 2009	52	37	10
July 2009	49	41	10
May 2009	62	31	7
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	62 (5/09)	69 (10/08)	17 (9/08)

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
August 2009	1	7	39	51	1
July 2009	1	7	30	61	1
May 2009	1	8	33	59	0
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 (many)	14 (9/08)	43 (10/08)	66 (4/09)	4 (9/08)

Which of the following five choices best describes how you currently feel about your future in New York State – I am never moving out of New York State; I currently have no plans to move out of New York; I may move out of New York State during my retirement, but not before; unless conditions in New York state get better, I'm going to leave; I would like to move out of New York State as quickly as I can?

DATE	NEVER MOVING	CURRENTLY NO PLANS	MAYBE IN RETIREMENT	UNLESS IMPROVEMENT	AS QUICKLY AS I CAN	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2009	21	38	21	13	7	0
May 2009	16	36	25	11	10	2
July 2008	17	37	27	9	7	2
HIGHEST EVER	21 (8/09)	38 (8/09)	27 (7/08)	13 (8/09)	10 (5/09)	2 (5/09)

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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
August 2009	28	57	15
July 2009	23	64	13
June 2009	24	63	13
May 2009	33	52	14
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)	64 (7/09)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	23 (7/09)	26 (1/07)	13 (7/09, 6/09)

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.