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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena New York Poll:

NY Voters Angry at Senate, Vow to Remember in 2010

Voters Say Senate Fight Makes Legislation Harder to Pass & They Do Not Believe It Will Result in Significant Reforms

Majority Believes Gov Acted Appropriately in Appointing a New LG

Loudonville, NY. More than three-quarters of New York voters say they are “angry” that the Senate wasted a month “accomplishing nothing,” and 62 percent said that most voters will remember the Senate fight on Election Day 2010, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters. A majority of voters believe Governor David Paterson acted appropriately in appointing a Lieutenant Governor, although they do not have the same level of support for Richard Ravitch as the Governor does.

“Voters from every party and every region overwhelmingly reject the notion that it was good that Senators took the time to resolve their differences,” said Siena New York pollster Steven Greenberg. “Rather, there is real anger at senators – regardless of the voters’ party affiliation or region. Although voters have long demonstrated particularly short memories, most feel that their fellow voters will remember the Senate fight next November and a plurality are already prepared to vote out incumbent senators.”

By a 78-11 percent margin, voters say the Senate fight will make it harder to pass important legislation this year. Voters do not believe, by a 36-55 percent margin, that the Senate fight will lead to significant reforms to the way the Senate conducts business.

“Senators have a lot of work to do to win back the support of voters,” Greenberg said. “Voters don’t see reform coming from this fight and they strongly believe that important legislation will be harder to pass. More than half of voters don’t want to see either the Democrats or Republicans control the Senate, preferring to see a coalition of both parties in control. And 71 percent of voters say the last month has made them even less confident in state government to solve the problems facing New York.

“The Assembly’s favorability rating (31-56 percent) is not great, however, it’s not nearly as bad as the Senate, with three-quarters of voters having an unfavorable view (20-74 percent),” Greenberg said.

“Although three Senators involved in the drama of the last month, remain unknown to most voters, a plurality have unfavorable views of Senators Malcolm Smith, Dean Skelos and John Sampson. However, most voters in the state have an opinion about Senator

	July 20, 2009			June 22, 2009		
	Fav	Unfav	DK/NO	Fav	Unfav	DK/NO
NYS Senate	20%	74%	6%	29%	62%	9%
Dean Skelos	14%	19%	67%	15%	23%	62%
Malcolm Smith	11%	29%	61%	12%	32%	56%
Pedro Espada	11%	46%	43%	13%	33%	54%
John Sampson	9%	13%	78%	9%	12%	79%
NYS Assembly	31%	56%	14%	37%	47%	15%
Sheldon Silver	22%	38%	39%	27%	37%	36%

Pedro Espada – and by a better than four-to-one margin it’s an unfavorable opinion. Additionally, 21 percent of voters, a plurality, think Sen. Espada is most to blame for the Senate fight, followed by Senate Republicans (18 percent), Senate Democrats (15 percent) and Governor Paterson (12 percent),” Greenberg said.

Gov’s Appointment of Lt. Governor Was Appropriate. Ravitch Who? Voters Are Not Impressed

“Although Republicans are evenly divided, a plurality of independent voters and a majority of Democrats provide an overall 51-34 percent margin of support for thinking the Governor acted appropriately in appointing a new Lt. Governor. They are not, however, familiar with Ravitch, nor are they impressed. Nearly two-thirds of voters don’t know enough about him to have a favorable or unfavorable view, and while 28 percent say he is an excellent or good pick, 50 percent say he’s only a fair or poor choice,” Greenberg said.

Paterson Ratings Inch Up Slightly for 2nd Month; Gets A Little Credit for Role in Senate Fight

“Governor Paterson has seen a slight increase in his favorability rating and job performance rating for the second straight month, however, his numbers remain very weak, and he continues to badly trail Attorney General Andrew Cuomo in a potential Democratic primary and Rudy Giuliani in a general election,” Greenberg said. “And Paterson is virtually tied with little known former Representative Rick Lazio.”

Cuomo leads Paterson 65-23 percent (69-16 percent in June). Giuliani leads Paterson 57-34 percent (57-27 percent last month) and trails Cuomo 49-44 percent (49-40 percent in June). Lazio trails Paterson 41-39 percent and is behind Cuomo 65-20 percent. He trails Giuliani in a Republican primary 75-14 percent.

“One-quarter of voters – including one-third of Democrats – give the Governor credit for playing a ‘big role’ in helping to resolve the Senate fight. An additional 39 percent say the Governor played a ‘small role’ and 16 percent say he ‘actually hurt efforts’ to resolve the fight,” Greenberg said.

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This SRI survey was conducted July 13-16, 2009 by telephone calls to 623 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 – July 2009

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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
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
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 Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

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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
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)

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
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 (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
July 2009	65	20	15
February 2009	66	16	18
January 26, 2009	61	17	22
HIGHEST EVER	66 (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 and Rick Lazio, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

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

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
July 2009	31	45	24
June 2009	35	46	19
May 2009	33	47	20
HIGHEST EVER	35 (6/09)	47 (5/09)	24 (7/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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 Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)	17 (6/09, 3/09, 1/09)	12 (6/09)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	20	74	6
June 2009	29	62	9
February 2009	43	43	13
HIGHEST EVER	43 (2/09)	74 (7/09)	13 (2/09)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	31	56	14
June 2009	37	47	15
February 2009	40	42	18
HIGHEST EVER	40 (2/09)	56 (7/09)	18 (2/09)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	14	19	67
June 2009	15	23	62
November 2008	10	11	79
July 2008	10	8	82
HIGHEST EVER	15 (6/09)	23 (6/09)	82 (11/08)

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Malcolm Smith?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	11	29	61
June 2009	12	32	56
November 2008	10	11	79
HIGHEST EVER	12 (6/09)	32 (6/09)	79 (11/08)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Pedro Espada?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	11	46	43
June 2009	13	33	54
HIGHEST EVER	13 (6/09)	46 (7/09)	54 (6/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	9	13	78
June 2009	9	12	79
HIGHEST EVER	9 (7/09, 6/09)	13 (7/09)	79 (6/09)

Which political party would you rather see in control of the State Senate – the Democrats, the Republicans, or would you prefer to see a coalition consisting of members of both parties controlling the Senate? (ORDER OF DEMOCRATS & REPUBLICANS WERE ROTATED)

DATE	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS	COALITION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	27	16	52	5
June 2009	30	17	49	3
HIGHEST EVER	30 (6/09)	17 (6/09)	52 (7/09)	5 (7/09)

Which of the two major political parties in the State Senate – the Republicans or the Democrats – do you think is more committed to reforming and improving the way the State Senate operates? (ORDER OF REPUBLICANS & DEMOCRATS WERE ROTATED)

DATE	REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS	NEITHER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	25	40	26	9
June 2009	24	38	28	11
HIGHEST EVER	25 (7/09)	40 (7/09)	28 (6/09)	11 (6/09)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2009	22	38	39
June 2009	27	37	36
November 2008	24	36	40
July 2008	22	32	47
March 24, 2008	24	31	44
October 2007	22	37	42
July 2007	24	34	42
March 2007	23	35	42
January 2007	20	37	43
HIGHEST EVER	28 (7/05)	38 (7/09)	50 (4/05)
LOWEST EVER	19 (4/05)	30 (4/05)	36 (6/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

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
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)

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
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)

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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
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)

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
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.