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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena New York Poll:

Voters: Governor is Well Intentioned, but Ineffective and His Handling of State’s Fiscal Situation is Off the Mark

Voters Prefer Rudy Not Run for Governor or Senate in 2010 *Jobs, Reform, Taxes are Top Issues Voters See in Campaign for Gov.*

Loudonville, NY. Nearly three-quarters of New York voters say that Governor David Paterson is well intentioned but isn’t getting the job done. More than six in ten voters say that he is not effectively addressing New York’s problems and his handling of the state’s fiscal situation is off the mark, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters. Approximately one-quarter of voters want to see former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani run for governor next year, a similar number want him to run for United States senator, but nearly half of voters prefer that Giuliani not run for either office in 2010.

“Voters say Governor Paterson is well intentioned but ineffective. They say he lacks leadership skills and is off the mark on handling the state’s fiscal situation. Voters say he’s not too liberal but is not fighting for people like me,” said Siena New York pollster Steven Greenberg. “While voters overwhelmingly don’t believe that Paterson’s blindness hinders his ability, they believe his actions – or lack of actions – as Governor define him as ineffective. Even Democrats, by a

Statements About Governor David Paterson			
Statement	Agree	Disagree	DK/NO
<i>Is well intentioned but isn't getting the job done</i>	73%	22%	4%
<i>Doesn't have the leadership skills necessary to be Governor of NY</i>	61%	36%	3%
<i>Is doing a better job today than he was six months ago</i>	42%	47%	12%
<i>Is just too liberal</i>	39%	53%	8%
<i>Is fighting for people like me</i>	39%	55%	7%
<i>Is effectively addressing the problems confronting NY State</i>	35%	62%	3%
<i>His handling of the State's fiscal situation is on the mark</i>	26%	66%	8%
<i>His blindness prevents him from doing his job effectively</i>	13%	85%	2%

significant margin, believe the Governor is well intentioned, ineffective, bad on fiscal issues and lacking leadership. This may explain why Paterson is again near record low favorability and job performance ratings.”

Paterson’s favorable/unfavorable rating is 29-59 percent (down from 32-55 percent last month). His job performance rating is 18 percent positive, 80 percent negative (down from 23-76 percent last month). Only 14 percent are prepared to elect Paterson Governor, while 71 percent prefer ‘someone else’ (down from 15-68 percent last month).

“While Paterson trails Giuliani significantly and barely beats Rick Lazio, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has a solid lead over Giuliani and crushes Lazio by 46 points, including a five point lead among Republicans,” Greenberg said. “Cuomo continues to enjoy a better than three-to-one lead over Paterson in a hypothetical Democratic primary, including double digit leads among African American and Latino Democrats.”

2010 Gubernatorial Horse Race Questions – January - September 2009								
Date	Paterson v. Giuliani		Cuomo v. Giuliani		Paterson v. Lazio		Cuomo v. Lazio	
	Paterson	Giuliani	Cuomo	Giuliani	Paterson	Lazio	Cuomo	Lazio
September 22	35%	52%	52%	39%	39%	35%	64%	18%
August 24	33%	56%	53%	40%	38%	37%	66%	16%
July 20	34%	57%	49%	44%	41%	39%	65%	20%
February 24	36%	51%	51%	38%	46%	28%	66%	16%
January 26	44%	42%	48%	39%	52%	22%	61%	17%

“Nearly half of all voters prefer that Rudy Giuliani not run for Governor or Senator in 2010, but 41 percent of Republicans want Giuliani to run for Governor and another 35 percent want him to run for Senator. If he challenges New York’s Junior Senator, Rudy Giuliani is far better known than Kirsten Gillibrand, and currently has 46-38 percent lead over her. Giuliani has the support of 78 percent of Republicans, while Gillibrand has 53 percent support among Democrats. Rudy has a 12 point lead among independent voters,” Greenberg said.

Jobs, Reforming State Government, Taxes Top Issues Heading into 2010 Gubernatorial Campaign

“Jobs, government reform and taxes are seen as the top three issues in next year’s election for Republicans and independents, suburban voters and upstaters. For Democrats and New York

Most Important Issue in 2010 Campaign for Governor							
Issue	NYS	NYC	Burbs	Upstate	Dem	Rep	Ind
Jobs	31%	34%	24%	32%	33%	29%	31%
Reforming state govt.	23%	22%	24%	24%	20%	28%	24%
Taxes	17%	7%	24%	23%	10%	30%	19%
Health care	13%	14%	13%	13%	18%	9%	9%
Education	7%	12%	8%	1%	7%	1%	10%
Crime	3%	3%	4%	2%	5%	1%	2%
Environment	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Other	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	2%

City voters, health care joins jobs and reforming state government as the top three,” Greenberg said.

Top Priority for Governor & Legislature to Close State Budget Deficit				
Issue	NYS	Dem	Rep	Ind
Increasing Taxes	32%	42%	23%	27%
Business taxes	15%	22%	10%	9%
Sales tax	10%	10%	9%	12%
Personal Income Tax	6%	9%	3%	6%
Other	1%	1%	1%	0%
Cut Spending	54%	46%	63%	55%
Local governments	31%	26%	33%	38%
Roads & bridges	10%	12%	9%	6%
Education	5%	2%	9%	4%
Health care	4%	5%	4%	3%
Other	4%	1%	8%	4%
Something else	4%	3%	3%	6%
Don't know/no opinion	10%	8%	11%	11%

Close Deficit with Spending Cuts, Not Taxes

“Nearly two-thirds of Republicans, more than half of independents and a plurality of Democrats want the Governor and Legislature to close the deficit with spending cuts, not tax increases,” Greenberg said. “Cuts to local governments are the preference of all three parties. Business tax increases are the most popular tax for Democrats and Republicans.”

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This SRI survey was conducted September 13-17, 2009 by telephone calls to 792 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.5 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, gender, 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 – September 2009

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2009	29	59	13
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
September 2009	2	16	41	39	2
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
September 2009	14	71	16
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 (9/09, 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
September 2009	20	66	NA	14
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
September 2009	39	35	26
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 (9/09, 2/09, 1/09)

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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
September 2009	35	52	13
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
September 2009	52	39	9
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
September 2009	64	18	18
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)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2009	22	25	53
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)	25 (9/09)	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
September 2009	66	21	13
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
September 2009	34	47	18
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)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2009	56	38	6
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 Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2009	29	24	47
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)	24 (9/09)	56 (1/09)

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

DATE	GILLIBRAND	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2009	38	46	16
January 2009	44	42	14
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/09)	46 (9/09)	16 (9/09)

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
September 2009	38	45	17
August 2009	37	43	20
July 2009	31	40	28
HIGHEST EVER	38 (9/09)	45 (9/09)	28 (7/09)

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Governor Paterson says that he wants the budget deficit closed by cutting spending and not increasing taxes or fees. Do you think he will be successful in closing the deficit without raising taxes or fees?

DATE	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2009	15	80	5
August 2009	17	77	7
HIGHEST EVER	17 (8/09)	80 (9/09)	7 (8/09)

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
September 2009	28	57	15
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.