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SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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## Siena College Poll:

# Majority of Voters Say Paterson Need Not Resign 71% Do Not Want Him Impeached If He Doesn't Resign

## Confidence in Popular Attorney General to Conduct Fair Investigation *54% of Voters Are Now "Embarrassed" to Call Themselves New Yorkers*

**Loudonville, NY.** A clear majority of voters, 55 percent, would prefer Governor David Paterson serve the remainder of his term, compared to 37 percent who would like him to resign and allow Lt. Governor Richard Ravitch to serve as governor for the remainder of the year. And an even larger majority, 71 percent, would rather see the Governor finish his term, while 21 percent would like the State Legislature to move to impeach the Governor if he does not resign, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters.

Attorney General Andrew Cuomo remains strongly popular with voters and a majority thinks he will conduct a fair and impartial investigation of the Governor and his staff, although two-thirds of voters would prefer to see the investigation conducted by an independent, outside prosecutor. While 70 percent of voters agree with the statement that New York has never been more dysfunctional than today, by 54-41 percent voters also say that what's going on in Albany makes them "embarrassed" to call themselves New Yorkers.

"More voters have an unfavorable view of David Paterson now than at any time, and more voters view the job he's doing as governor as poor than at any time in the two years he's been governor. Yet, a clear majority want to see him serve out the remaining nine months of his term rather than resign by a more than three-to-one margin, voters do not want to see the Legislature begin impeachment proceedings," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "Republicans and downstate suburbanites are evenly divided on the resignation question, however, a majority of Democrats, independents, New York City and Upstate voters all favor the Governor staying on the job, and at least 65 percent of voters from every party and region oppose impeaching Governor Paterson."

Currently, 21 percent of voters have a favorable view of Paterson, compared to 67 percent who have an unfavorable view (35-55 percent two weeks ago). Only 19 percent of voters think Paterson is doing an excellent or good job as Governor, compared to 80 percent who say only fair or poor (22-77 percent two weeks ago), with a jump of 10 points in the poor category (from 37 percent to now 47 percent).

<b>Should Governor Paterson: "resign immediately" or "serve out remainder of term"?</b>			<b>If Governor Paterson doesn't resign, should the Legislature "impeach" him or should he be "allowed to finish his term"?</b>		
	<b>Resign</b>	<b>Serve</b>		<b>Impeach</b>	<b>Finish</b>
<b>All NYS Voters</b>	37%	55%	<b>All NYS Voters</b>	21%	71%
Democrats	37%	57%	Democrats	20%	74%
Republican	47%	48%	Republican	28%	68%
Independents	32%	56%	Independents	17%	69%
New York City	34%	57%	New York City	17%	76%
Suburbs	46%	47%	Suburbs	20%	71%
Upstate	34%	57%	Upstate	25%	65%
African Americans	18%	74%	African Americans	18%	73%

“Clearly voters have turned even more negative against Governor Paterson, yet there appears to be a sense that more disruption in Albany is not the answer at this point in time,” Greenberg said. “And if he doesn’t do it on his own, voters overwhelmingly oppose the Legislature taking on the role of impeaching the sitting Governor.”

**Voters See Cuomo Investigation as Fair & Impartial, However, They Would Prefer Outside Prosecutor**

“By a 57-38 percent margin, voters believe the Attorney General’s investigation will be fair and impartial, as opposed to being unduly influenced by politics,” Greenberg said. “A majority of voters from every party and region believe that the Cuomo investigation will be fair. On the other hand, at least two-thirds of voters of every party and region believe an independent, outside prosecutor conducting the investigation would be preferable to the Attorney General.

“Cuomo remains very favorable with voters, basically unchanged over the last two weeks. And by a two-to-one margin, the largest ever, voters want to see Cuomo run for governor rather than for re-election,” Greenberg said.

**Voters on Albany: Dysfunctional, Embarrassing, Ready for Change, But Not Sure Anyone Can Change It**

“Voters seem to be saying ‘I may be from New York, but I don’t have to tell the world.’ After the last two years, voters think that Albany has given a new meaning to the word ‘dysfunction,’ ” Greenberg said.

###

<b>Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?</b>		
	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<b>I’m ready to vote for anyone that will clean up the mess in Albany once and for all</b>	75%	16%
<b>New York State government has never been more dysfunctional than it is today</b>	70%	21%
<b>What’s going on in Albany makes me embarrassed to call myself a New Yorker</b>	54%	41%
<b>These last two years are just business as usual in Albany</b>	52%	38%
<b>Sadly, there are no leaders who can clean up the mess in Albany</b>	41%	45%

This SRI survey was conducted March 7, 2010 by telephone calls to 712 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.7 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing weighted to reflect known population patterns. SRI is an independent, non-partisan research institute. SRI subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. 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](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).



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## Siena College Poll Trends – March 2010

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	21	67	12
February 2010	35	55	10
January 2010	38	52	10
December 2009	36	53	12
November 2009	33	56	12
October 2009	27	61	12
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>64 (11/08)</b>	<b>67 (3/10)</b>	<b>76 (1/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (1/07)</b>	<b>8 (1/07)</b>	<b>8 (7/09)</b>

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
March 2010	2	17	33	47	2
February 2010	2	20	39	37	1
January 2010	3	21	44	31	1
December 2009	3	20	42	34	2
November 2009	2	19	40	39	2
October 2009	1	18	43	36	1
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>9 (12/08)</b>	<b>48 (10/08)</b>	<b>46 (3/09, 2/09)</b>	<b>47 (3/10)</b>	<b>32 (4/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>1 (10/09, etc.)</b>	<b>16 (9/09, etc.)</b>	<b>28 (5/08)</b>	<b>4 (9/08, etc.)</b>	<b>1 (1/10, etc.)</b>

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Richard Ravitch?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	22	16	62
October 2009	16	18	66
July 2009	19	19	62
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>22 (3/10)</b>	<b>19 (7/09)</b>	<b>66 (10/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>16 (10/09)</b>	<b>16 (3/10)</b>	<b>62 (3/10, 7/09)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	63	25	12
February 2010	66	21	13
January 2010	67	21	12
December 2009	67	19	14
November 2009	70	20	11
October 2009	67	20	14
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>71 (6/09)</b>	<b>42 (10/06)</b>	<b>24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>44 (8/06, 10/06)</b>	<b>14 (8/09)</b>	<b>11 (11/09)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	30	29	40
February 2010	31	26	43
January 2010	27	30	43
December 2009	25	25	51
November 2009	29	22	50
October 2009	23	27	50
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>31 (2/10)</b>	<b>30 (1/10)</b>	<b>64 (1/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (1/09)</b>	<b>18 (1/09)</b>	<b>40 (3/10)</b>

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
March 2010	63	25	11
February 2010	63	26	11
January 2010	66	24	10
December 2009	68	22	10
November 2009	67	22	11
October 2009	66	21	14
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>68 (12/09)</b>	<b>26 (2/10)</b>	<b>22 (1/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>61 (1/09)</b>	<b>16 (8/09, 2/09)</b>	<b>10 (1/10, 12/09)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – March 2010

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

DATE	ATTORNEY GENERAL	GOVERNOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	29	58	14
February 2010	33	51	17
January 2010	30	53	17
December 2009	31	50	19
November 2009	28	52	19
October 2009	36	49	15
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>36 (10/09)</b>	<b>58 (3/10)</b>	<b>24 (7/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>28 (11/09)</b>	<b>45 (7/09)</b>	<b>14 (3/10)</b>

Should Andrew Cuomo publicly declare now whether he's running for Attorney General or Governor this year, or does he have time to wait several months before publicly announcing?

DATE	DECLARE NOW	TIME TO WAIT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	38	52	9
February 2010	41	43	16
January 2010	37	49	14
December 2009	35	51	14
November 2009	33	52	14
October 2009	34	53	12
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (2/10)</b>	<b>53 (10/09)</b>	<b>16 (2/10)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>33 (11/09)</b>	<b>43 (2/10)</b>	<b>9 (3/10)</b>

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
March 2010	16	70	14
February 2010	25	63	12
January 2010	27	61	12
December 2009	24	61	15
November 2009	24	60	16
October 2009	24	61	15
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (11/06)</b>	<b>70 (3/10)</b>	<b>30 (1/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>16 (3/10)</b>	<b>26 (1/07)</b>	<b>12 (2/10, 1/10)</b>

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# Siena College Poll Trends – March 2010

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If you got to choose who should be Governor today among the current and last three governors, who would you like to see be Governor today – David Paterson, Eliot Spitzer, George Pataki, or Mario Cuomo? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	SPITZER	PATAKI	M. CUOMO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2010	7	17	32	32	12
May 2009	11	21	30	31	7
April 2009	8	14	33	39	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>11 (5/09)</b>	<b>21 (5/09)</b>	<b>33 (4/09)</b>	<b>39 (4/09)</b>	<b>12 (3/10)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (3/10)</b>	<b>14 (4/09)</b>	<b>30 (5/09)</b>	<b>31 (5/09)</b>	<b>6 (4/09)</b>

**Poll Trend Notes:** Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005. Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2009.

“Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” is provided at the bottom of each question.

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