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For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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Siena New York Poll:

Majority of NYers Say They Have A Health Care Proxy *Gov's Favorability Rebounds; Still Loses to Spitzer* **Giuliani Beats Spitzer; Loses to Hillary *NYers Divide Credit for On-time Budget Among Governor, Senate, Assembly, Public***

Loudonville, NY – More than half of New Yorkers – including 62 percent of those over 55 years old – claim to have a health care proxy, designating someone to make medical decision for them if they are unable to do so. Nearly two-thirds of those who don't have one say the Terri Schiavo case makes them more likely to complete a health care proxy, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of New York voters released today.

“More than half of New Yorkers say they already have a health care proxy. And it is encouraging that the tragic events surrounding the Terri Schiavo case in Florida will move many New Yorkers who have not completed a health care proxy to do so,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI).

Governor George Pataki's favorability rating rose dramatically in the last month (50 percent favorable to 39 percent unfavorable), up from 37-50 percent a month ago. And while only 29 percent of New York voters say they will vote to re-elect him (55 percent would prefer someone else), similar to results the last two months, he has narrowed his gap in a head-to-head match up with Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Spitzer leads 48 percent to 34 percent, a 14-point lead, down from last month's 23-point lead.

“George Pataki has made up ground with voters in virtually every part of the state and in every demographic group,” Caruso said. “But if he chooses to run for re-election, he is still in an uncomfortable position for an incumbent, given his continued low ‘re-elect number.’”

“While voters don't give him more credit for the on-time budget than they give either house of the Legislature, he seems to have gotten a bounce from the widespread media attention to the state's first on-time budget in 21 years. However, he still significantly trails Spitzer in a head-to-head match up,” Caruso said.

When asked who deserves the most credit for the state's on-time budget, voters are split, with the Governor, Senate and Assembly all receiving approximately the same credit (16, 15, 14 percent, respectively). Nearly as many, 11 percent, give the public credit for creating the pressure. Five percent credit the Governor and Legislature equally.

"While the Governor, Senate and Assembly have all claimed credit for making an on-time budget happen, voters are almost as likely to give themselves credit as they are to give their elected officials a pat on the back," Caruso said.

Since last month, Spitzer's favorable rating inched up to 53-18 percent (up from 50-18 percent), as did Senator Hillary Clinton's – up to 60-33 percent (from 58-34 percent). Similarly, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's favorability rating was 63-26 percent, slightly higher than two months ago (61-28 percent).

Giuliani slightly increased his lead over Spitzer in a gubernatorial match up to 50-38 percent in the last two months (from 49-40 percent). However, Clinton similarly increased her lead over Giuliani in a potential Senate match up 52-41 percent (from 52-43 percent).

"Rudy Giuliani remains a strong political force in New York – should he choose to seek election in the state rather than at the national level. He has the support of half of New Yorkers in a race against Spitzer. At the same time, more than half of New York voters would reject Rudy, in favor of Hillary if he decides to challenge her next year," Caruso said.

New York voters see "improving education" (24 percent) as the most important issue for state government to address, beating out "improving health care" (22 percent) and "creating new jobs" (16 percent). Less important were "reforming state government" (10 percent), "fighting crime" (5 percent) and "protecting the environment" (3 percent). These results have not changed dramatically in the last month.

"New York voters continue to be very pessimistic about the direction of the state. Only 29 percent believe New York is on the right track, while 44 percent believe the state is headed in the wrong direction," Caruso said.

The Empire Page, in partnership with the Siena Research Institute, will release the results of two questions concerning the use of public support for sports stadiums tomorrow.

This SRI survey was conducted April 3-7, 2005 by telephone calls to 582 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of \pm 4.1 points. For more information or comments, please call Joe Caruso, SRI Director of Polling, at 518-783-2901. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at www.siena.edu/sri/surveys.asp.



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Siena New York Poll Trends

If George Pataki runs for Governor in 2006, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	29	55	17
March, 2005	24	60	16
February, 2005	27	57	16

If the election for Governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were George Pataki on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	PATAKI	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	34	48	18
March, 2005	30	53	17
February, 2005	35	51	15

If the election for Governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Rudolph Giuliani on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	GIULIANI	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	50	38	11
February, 2005	49	40	11

If the election for U.S. Senate were held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Rudolph Giuliani on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	CLINTON	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	52	41	8
February, 2005	52	43	5

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	50	39	11
March, 2005	37	50	13
February, 2005	39	45	16

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	53	18	29
March, 2005	50	18	32
February, 2005	48	17	34

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	60	33	6
March, 2005	58	34	8
February, 2005	61	33	6

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April, 2005	63	26	10
February, 2005	61	28	11

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, 2005	29	44	27
March, 2005	26	47	27
February, 2005	32	44	24

What is the single most important issue New York State government should address in 2005? (Rotate choices)

DATE	FIGHTING CRIME	IMPROVING EDUCATION	PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT	IMPROVING HEALTH CARE
April, 2005	5	24	3	22
March, 2005	3	24	3	18

DATE	CREATING NEW JOBS	REFORMING STATE GOVT.	PASSING STATE BUDGET	OTHER	DK/NO
April, 2005	16	10	N/A	18	2
March, 2005	14	6	11	17	3

1. Is New York State on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
right track	29%	26%	39%	25%	31%	28%	32%	36%	27%	21%	27%	24%	62%	37%	31%	24%	31%	31%	27%	28%
wrong direction	44%	44%	40%	46%	45%	42%	36%	33%	43%	59%	46%	47%	24%	40%	44%	45%	42%	36%	49%	46%
don't know/no opinion	27%	29%	21%	29%	24%	30%	32%	31%	30%	20%	27%	29%	14%	22%	25%	31%	27%	33%	24%	26%

2. What is the single most important issue New York State government should address in 2005?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
fighting crime	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	3%	4%	9%	4%	3%	4%	7%	5%	6%	3%	6%	6%	9%	3%	4%
improving education	24%	28%	23%	19%	19%	29%	36%	24%	19%	16%	21%	38%	29%	35%	24%	20%	22%	33%	24%	24%
protecting the environment	3%	5%	2%	1%	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	0%	10%	5%	2%	3%	3%	4%	4%	0%
improving health care	22%	23%	22%	23%	21%	23%	19%	28%	24%	20%	25%	19%	19%	7%	23%	27%	22%	20%	27%	21%
creating new jobs	16%	18%	13%	19%	19%	14%	22%	6%	12%	22%	14%	28%	29%	28%	15%	14%	19%	4%	13%	23%
reforming state government	10%	5%	15%	13%	12%	8%	3%	11%	10%	14%	12%	0%	0%	3%	13%	10%	10%	9%	11%	9%
other	18%	16%	18%	19%	20%	16%	11%	18%	21%	23%	20%	9%	0%	14%	18%	19%	15%	20%	16%	18%
don't know/no opinion	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%	4%	2%	2%	0%	10%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%

3. Do you currently have a health care proxy designating someone to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Yes	53%	51%	56%	54%	55%	52%	50%	57%	46%	56%	52%	60%	67%	49%	44%	62%	55%	58%	58%	45%
No	45%	46%	43%	45%	43%	47%	46%	43%	51%	43%	47%	36%	29%	47%	55%	36%	44%	38%	42%	50%
don't know/no opinion	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	0%	3%	1%	1%	3%	5%	4%	1%	2%	1%	4%	0%	5%

4. In light of all the attention on Florida and the Terri Schiavo (SHY-vo) case, are you more likely or less likely to complete a Health Care Proxy form designating someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to make those decisions yourself, or has it had no effect?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
more likely	64%	67%	67%	58%	58%	69%	60%	70%	78%	57%	67%	52%	71%	56%	69%	61%	64%	79%	67%	53%
less likely	3%	4%	1%	3%	2%	4%	4%	4%	3%	1%	2%	9%	0%	4%	3%	3%	5%	0%	0%	2%
no effect	28%	22%	32%	33%	37%	21%	33%	23%	17%	33%	25%	35%	29%	40%	25%	27%	27%	16%	31%	40%
don't know/no opinion	5%	7%	0%	6%	4%	5%	2%	3%	3%	9%	5%	4%	0%	0%	3%	9%	5%	5%	2%	5%

7. For the first time in 21 years, New York State has an on-time budget this year. Who do you think deserves the most credit?[ROTATE AND READ ALL THE FIRST THREE CHOICES BELOW; FOLLOW WITH "SOME OTHER PERSON OR GROUP"]

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
the governor	16%	15%	24%	12%	16%	16%	17%	26%	10%	10%	15%	19%	33%	18%	20%	13%	20%	18%	16%	15%
the state senate	15%	17%	16%	10%	17%	13%	19%	12%	13%	14%	13%	28%	14%	18%	20%	12%	14%	13%	16%	19%
the state assembly	14%	16%	11%	14%	14%	13%	16%	10%	15%	15%	14%	9%	19%	13%	13%	14%	14%	20%	11%	13%
some other person or group	25%	21%	25%	32%	27%	23%	24%	20%	31%	29%	26%	21%	14%	21%	25%	27%	23%	22%	26%	29%
don't know/no opinion	30%	31%	24%	32%	26%	34%	25%	32%	30%	32%	31%	24%	19%	30%	26%	33%	29%	27%	31%	23%

Next, I'm going to read the names of several people in public life and I'd like for you to tell me whether you have a favorable opinion or an unfavorable opinion of each of the people I name.

8. George Pataki?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	50%	43%	64%	50%	52%	49%	46%	66%	46%	42%	49%	40%	81%	57%	50%	48%	56%	44%	52%	45%
unfavorable	39%	50%	25%	37%	38%	39%	44%	26%	43%	44%	39%	55%	14%	35%	40%	39%	34%	40%	38%	42%
don't know/no opinion	11%	8%	12%	14%	10%	12%	10%	8%	10%	14%	12%	5%	5%	7%	10%	13%	10%	16%	10%	13%

9. Eliot Spitzer?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	53%	60%	48%	52%	56%	51%	57%	56%	58%	47%	57%	47%	43%	35%	56%	57%	50%	76%	55%	40%
unfavorable	18%	15%	21%	17%	17%	18%	19%	15%	13%	20%	15%	26%	19%	22%	14%	19%	20%	13%	16%	18%
don't know/no opinion	29%	25%	31%	32%	27%	31%	24%	29%	28%	34%	28%	28%	38%	43%	30%	24%	30%	11%	29%	42%

10. Hillary Clinton?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	60%	81%	36%	57%	55%	66%	73%	59%	75%	46%	55%	83%	86%	71%	64%	54%	57%	71%	48%	77%
unfavorable	33%	16%	55%	36%	38%	29%	19%	35%	22%	47%	39%	10%	10%	23%	30%	40%	38%	22%	49%	17%
don't know/no opinion	6%	4%	8%	7%	8%	5%	8%	6%	3%	6%	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	3%	6%

11. Rudolph Giuliani?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	63%	51%	81%	65%	63%	64%	46%	73%	58%	72%	69%	28%	67%	62%	64%	64%	67%	67%	67%	55%
unfavorable	26%	39%	10%	25%	28%	25%	47%	21%	19%	16%	22%	62%	24%	30%	24%	27%	24%	24%	23%	31%
don't know/no opinion	10%	10%	8%	10%	9%	12%	7%	7%	22%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	12%	9%	9%	9%	10%	14%

12. Joseph Bruno?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	18%	17%	30%	8%	20%	16%	16%	19%	40%	11%	18%	21%	19%	15%	16%	20%	23%	13%	18%	19%
unfavorable	30%	33%	24%	33%	37%	23%	35%	20%	39%	31%	29%	36%	33%	28%	30%	31%	27%	31%	28%	32%
don't know/no opinion	52%	50%	47%	59%	43%	60%	49%	61%	21%	58%	52%	43%	48%	57%	54%	49%	50%	56%	53%	49%

13. Sheldon Silver?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	19%	27%	13%	14%	21%	18%	30%	16%	21%	12%	17%	41%	14%	18%	19%	20%	15%	44%	17%	24%
unfavorable	30%	23%	36%	38%	36%	25%	25%	25%	42%	35%	33%	19%	29%	20%	29%	35%	33%	20%	30%	24%
don't know/no opinion	50%	50%	51%	48%	43%	57%	44%	59%	37%	53%	50%	40%	57%	62%	53%	45%	52%	36%	53%	51%

14. If George Pataki runs for Governor in 2006, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
re-elect Pataki	29%	21%	42%	26%	29%	28%	28%	39%	22%	22%	28%	24%	33%	33%	32%	24%	34%	29%	27%	23%
prefer someone else	55%	67%	39%	52%	61%	49%	60%	41%	64%	58%	54%	67%	48%	53%	51%	58%	48%	56%	54%	67%
don't know/no opinion	17%	12%	18%	22%	10%	23%	12%	19%	13%	20%	19%	9%	19%	14%	17%	18%	18%	16%	18%	10%

15. I know it's a long way off, but if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were George Pataki on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the democratic line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
George Pataki	34%	18%	56%	37%	33%	35%	24%	46%	28%	35%	36%	10%	43%	37%	35%	32%	40%	24%	40%	23%
Eliot Spitzer	48%	68%	27%	42%	50%	47%	61%	38%	55%	44%	47%	74%	38%	47%	49%	49%	41%	64%	44%	54%
don't know/no opinion	18%	14%	18%	21%	17%	18%	16%	16%	16%	21%	17%	16%	19%	16%	17%	18%	19%	11%	17%	23%

16. How about if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Rudolph Giuliani on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? [ROTATE CHOICES]

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Rudolph Giuliani	50%	32%	76%	51%	49%	51%	32%	58%	43%	61%	55%	17%	57%	53%	49%	50%	61%	36%	53%	42%
Eliot Spitzer	38%	58%	16%	33%	41%	37%	57%	31%	48%	26%	35%	67%	29%	33%	38%	41%	28%	51%	37%	42%
don't know/no opinion	11%	10%	7%	16%	10%	12%	11%	11%	9%	13%	10%	16%	14%	14%	13%	9%	11%	13%	10%	15%

17. Hillary Clinton has indicated she is running for re-election to the United States Senate. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
re-elect Clinton	60%	81%	34%	57%	57%	64%	77%	56%	70%	47%	55%	86%	86%	70%	64%	54%	56%	69%	49%	78%
prefer someone else	34%	15%	62%	35%	37%	31%	18%	36%	25%	49%	40%	10%	10%	27%	32%	39%	40%	20%	48%	17%
don't know/no opinion	5%	4%	4%	7%	6%	5%	5%	8%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	3%	4%	7%	5%	11%	3%	5%

18. Again, I know it's a long way off but if the election for US Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Rudolph Giuliani on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? [ROTATE CHOICES]

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Hillary Clinton	52%	75%	22%	48%	50%	53%	71%	42%	61%	40%	46%	88%	62%	61%	54%	46%	44%	60%	42%	68%
Rudolph Giuliani	41%	19%	71%	44%	42%	40%	22%	51%	30%	53%	48%	5%	24%	30%	40%	46%	46%	31%	56%	22%
don't know/no opinion	8%	6%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%	8%	7%	7%	14%	10%	6%	8%	10%	9%	2%	10%

Demographics:

Party:	t	Gender	t
Democrat	42.6	M	47.8
Republican	28.4	F	52.2
Ind./Other	26.6	Total	100.0
Refused	2.4		
Total	100		

Race/Ethnicity:	Percent	Age:	t
Caucasian/white	74.2	18-34	16.2
African American/Black	10.0	35-54	36.8
Hispanic/Latino	3.6	55+	46.6
Other	9.1	refused	0.5
refused	3.1	Total	100.0
Total	100.0		

Region:	Percent
Upstate West	27.7
Upstate East	27.5
NYC Sub	11.5
NYC	33.3
Total	100.0

Religion:	Percent
Catholic	40.5
Jewish	7.7
Protestant	22.5
other	13.4
no affiliation	13.1
refused	2.7
Total	100