



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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Joe Caruso at 518-783-2901

Siena New York Poll: Spitzer Beats Pataki; Loses to Giuliani Hillary Crushes Pataki and Beats Rudy Democratic A.G. Candidates Unknown

Loudonville, NY – If the election were held today, Governor George Pataki would be easily beaten in seeking a fourth term, and would be trounced if he challenged Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton for the U.S. Senate, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of New York voters released today.

Pataki would lose to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer 51-35 percent and he would be beaten 58-32 percent in a race for Senate against Clinton.

“After ten years as governor, George Pataki does not have the support of the majority of New Yorkers,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “As things stand now, he couldn’t get re-elected to a fourth term and he’d get crushed in a Senate race against Senator Clinton.”

“Rudy Giuliani, however, would beat Spitzer handily – today (49-40 percent). And in a match up of two New York political titans, a race between Rudy and Hillary for the U.S. Senate would have the Senator winning re-election comfortably (52-43 percent),” Caruso said.

Other than Pataki, New Yorkers have a very favorable view of the major political figures:

- George Pataki: 39 percent favorable; 45 percent unfavorable
- Charles Schumer: 63 percent favorable; 20 percent unfavorable
- Hillary Clinton: 61 percent favorable; 33 percent unfavorable
- Rudy Giuliani: 61 percent favorable; 28 percent unfavorable
- Eliot Spitzer: 48 percent favorable; 17 percent unfavorable

Siena asked Democrats for their preference in the Democratic primary for Attorney General:

- Andrew Cuomo: 19 percent
- Mark Green: 17 percent
- Denise O’Donnell: 4 percent
- Richard Brodsky: 1 percent
- Michael Gianaris: 1 percent
- Charlie King: 1 percent
- Sean Maloney: 0 percent
- Don’t know/no opinion: 56 percent

“For the moment, the winner in the Democratic Attorney General’s primary is ‘none of the above,’” Caruso said. “While Cuomo and Green have some name recognition and the early lead, the rest of the candidates are not yet on the voters’ radar screen.”

New York voters are more concerned about health and education than other major issues. Voters were asked to indicate how important six issues were on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being most important and 1 being not at all important.

	Most Important (5)	Somewhat Important (3,4)	Not Important (1,2)
Education:	64%	28%	7%
Health care:	59%	30%	10%
State budget:	57%	33%	9%
Crime:	46%	40%	12%
Environment:	39%	50%	11%
State government reform:	33%	46%	16%

“While reforming Albany is important to some, it’s not close in importance to issues like education, health care and the state budget for most voters,” Caruso said.

The Empire Page, in partnership with the Siena Research Institute, previously released the results of two questions where 58 percent of New Yorkers said that they believe the Governor should not run for re-election, and while 27 percent said that they would vote to re-elect him if he does run, 57 percent said they would prefer to vote for someone else.

Empire/SRI will be releasing results of two questions every month. SRI will conduct extensive polls of the New York electorate on a regular basis.

This SRI survey was conducted January 31-February 3, 2005 by telephone calls to 621 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of \pm 3.9 points. For more information or comments, please call Joe Caruso, SRI Director of Polling, at 518-783-2901.

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

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
right track	32%	27%	36%	36%	28%	36%	35%	37%	34%	24%	30%	31%	56%	48%	35%	22%
wrong direction	44%	45%	45%	42%	49%	40%	38%	35%	43%	58%	48%	41%	25%	36%	46%	46%
don't know/no opinion	24%	28%	20%	22%	23%	25%	28%	28%	23%	17%	22%	28%	19%	16%	20%	32%

2. Over the last few years, have economic conditions in New York State become better, worse, or are they about the same?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
better	10%	7%	16%	11%	10%	10%	10%	11%	16%	8%	10%	14%	8%	13%	8%	12%
worse	51%	57%	40%	57%	53%	50%	50%	49%	45%	57%	51%	51%	61%	47%	54%	51%
about the same	36%	33%	42%	29%	34%	37%	36%	39%	39%	31%	36%	32%	28%	38%	38%	32%
don't know/no opinion	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	0%	5%

I'm going to name a few issues state government will face this year. For each issue, please indicate how important you think each is. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being most important, how would rate:

3. the state budget

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
1 - not at all important	4%	5%	3%	2%	5%	2%	5%	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%	8%	1%	4%	5%
2	5%	4%	4%	7%	6%	4%	8%	3%	5%	4%	4%	11%	3%	7%	5%	5%
3	16%	15%	18%	14%	16%	15%	19%	16%	12%	14%	15%	14%	25%	19%	14%	16%
4	17%	17%	16%	17%	18%	16%	17%	19%	18%	14%	17%	16%	14%	24%	19%	12%
5 - most important	57%	57%	58%	59%	53%	61%	49%	59%	61%	62%	59%	54%	44%	48%	58%	61%
don't know/no opinion	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	6%	1%	1%	2%

I'm going to name a few issues state government will face this year. For each issue, please indicate how important you think each is. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being most important, how would rate:

4. Crime

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
1 - not at all important	3%	4%	3%	1%	5%	1%	5%	1%	2%	3%	2%	4%	6%	2%	3%	3%
2	9%	10%	11%	5%	11%	7%	9%	6%	8%	12%	9%	8%	3%	11%	6%	11%
3	21%	20%	23%	24%	27%	15%	19%	20%	20%	25%	22%	19%	8%	22%	26%	16%
4	19%	17%	18%	24%	16%	22%	19%	20%	18%	18%	19%	16%	22%	25%	14%	21%
5 - most important	46%	48%	43%	46%	39%	53%	47%	50%	47%	42%	45%	53%	61%	40%	49%	47%
don't know/no opinion	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	4%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%

I'm going to name a few issues state government will face this year. For each issue, please indicate how important you think each is. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being most important, how would rate:

5. Education

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
1 - not at all important	2%	2%	5%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%	2%	4%
2	5%	7%	5%	3%	5%	5%	7%	4%	2%	5%	5%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%
3	11%	9%	11%	14%	12%	10%	15%	9%	7%	10%	10%	14%	0%	13%	9%	12%
4	17%	15%	22%	14%	19%	15%	15%	14%	22%	19%	18%	8%	22%	16%	17%	17%
5 - most important	64%	67%	58%	68%	61%	67%	60%	69%	65%	64%	64%	68%	69%	64%	66%	62%
don't know/no opinion	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%

I'm going to name a few issues state government will face this year. For each issue, please indicate how important you think each is. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being most important, how would rate:

6. Environment

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
1 - not at all important	4%	3%	6%	1%	5%	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%	6%	2%	4%
2	7%	6%	9%	7%	10%	4%	12%	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	19%	11%	7%	6%
3	23%	17%	30%	27%	26%	20%	21%	22%	23%	27%	23%	20%	17%	27%	24%	21%
4	27%	27%	30%	23%	23%	31%	17%	31%	29%	31%	30%	15%	25%	24%	28%	26%
5 - most important	39%	46%	25%	42%	36%	42%	46%	38%	40%	33%	37%	54%	36%	32%	39%	42%
don't know/no opinion	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

I'm going to name a few issues state government will face this year. For each issue, please indicate how important you think each is. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being most important, how would rate:

7. health care

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
1 - not at all important	4%	5%	5%	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%
2	6%	5%	6%	8%	7%	5%	8%	4%	6%	7%	6%	8%	3%	5%	5%	7%
3	12%	12%	12%	13%	15%	10%	12%	10%	18%	12%	13%	11%	14%	19%	14%	9%
4	18%	15%	23%	18%	19%	17%	17%	21%	13%	18%	20%	11%	14%	19%	18%	18%
5 - most important	59%	63%	54%	58%	56%	62%	58%	61%	55%	59%	57%	65%	64%	53%	59%	62%
don't know/no opinion	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

I'm going to name a few issues state government will face this year. For each issue, please indicate how important you think each is. On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all important and 5 being most important, how would rate:

8. state government reform

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
1 - not at all important	7%	8%	5%	7%	8%	5%	10%	6%	6%	4%	7%	4%	8%	6%	6%	8%
2	9%	9%	11%	7%	12%	6%	10%	6%	7%	11%	10%	7%	11%	16%	8%	7%
3	24%	22%	28%	25%	23%	26%	21%	34%	27%	19%	25%	30%	8%	28%	28%	19%
4	22%	22%	20%	23%	18%	26%	27%	21%	22%	17%	20%	18%	42%	26%	24%	18%
5 - most important	33%	33%	33%	35%	35%	31%	25%	29%	33%	45%	32%	39%	28%	19%	31%	41%
don't know/no opinion	5%	6%	3%	3%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	3%	5%	3%	3%	4%	3%	7%

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

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
favorable	39%	27%	62%	37%	37%	41%	28%	49%	45%	40%	41%	28%	39%	35%	44%	36%
unfavorable	45%	60%	23%	45%	49%	42%	58%	35%	37%	45%	44%	58%	50%	42%	42%	50%
don't know/no opinion	16%	14%	15%	18%	14%	17%	15%	16%	18%	15%	15%	14%	11%	23%	13%	14%

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

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
favorable	48%	52%	46%	46%	55%	42%	47%	48%	48%	49%	50%	43%	44%	35%	47%	56%
unfavorable	17%	16%	21%	16%	18%	17%	21%	14%	19%	17%	16%	28%	17%	24%	17%	15%
don't know/no opinion	34%	32%	33%	38%	27%	42%	32%	38%	33%	34%	34%	28%	39%	42%	36%	29%

11. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Charles Schumer?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
favorable	63%	66%	59%	61%	66%	60%	66%	69%	49%	61%	64%	70%	58%	52%	60%	70%
unfavorable	20%	19%	26%	19%	22%	19%	21%	16%	25%	21%	19%	16%	33%	23%	23%	17%
don't know/no opinion	17%	15%	15%	20%	12%	21%	14%	15%	25%	18%	17%	14%	8%	25%	17%	13%

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

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
favorable	61%	83%	32%	56%	59%	63%	74%	53%	49%	62%	52%	95%	92%	70%	57%	62%
unfavorable	33%	13%	64%	35%	33%	33%	22%	42%	43%	31%	41%	5%	6%	23%	38%	32%
don't know/no opinion	6%	4%	4%	10%	8%	4%	5%	5%	7%	7%	6%	0%	3%	7%	5%	6%

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

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
favorable	61%	45%	82%	65%	57%	65%	51%	67%	69%	64%	65%	38%	64%	65%	61%	60%
unfavorable	28%	41%	11%	25%	32%	23%	41%	25%	19%	21%	24%	54%	31%	25%	29%	28%
don't know/no opinion	11%	14%	6%	10%	10%	12%	9%	7%	12%	16%	11%	8%	6%	10%	10%	12%

14. Should George Pataki run for a 4th term as governor of New York State in 2006?

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
yes	35%	25%	51%	37%	33%	38%	28%	48%	34%	33%	37%	30%	36%	40%	38%	31%
no	58%	68%	44%	58%	61%	56%	68%	45%	59%	60%	57%	66%	58%	52%	58%	61%
don't know/no opinion	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%	6%	4%	7%	7%	7%	6%	4%	6%	8%	3%	8%

15. If George Pataki does run for Governor in 2006, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else? (rotate choices)

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
re-elect Pataki	27%	15%	47%	26%	25%	29%	19%	39%	27%	26%	30%	18%	39%	30%	30%	24%
prefer someone else	57%	73%	31%	59%	59%	55%	68%	43%	55%	58%	53%	70%	58%	47%	56%	62%
don't know/no opinion	16%	12%	22%	14%	16%	16%	13%	19%	18%	16%	17%	12%	3%	23%	14%	14%

16. 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		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
George Pataki	35%	14%	61%	42%	32%	37%	23%	44%	42%	35%	40%	11%	33%	37%	37%	31%
Eliot Spitzer	51%	73%	24%	44%	52%	50%	62%	43%	40%	52%	47%	77%	56%	49%	51%	52%
don't know/no opinion	15%	13%	15%	14%	17%	13%	16%	13%	18%	14%	13%	12%	11%	14%	12%	17%

17. What if the candidates were Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the democratic line, for whom would you vote for governor? (rotate choices)

	Party				GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
Rudy Giuliani	49%	29%	76%	52%	45%	53%	39%	57%	53%	51%	54%	18%	64%	53%	52%	45%
Eliot Spitzer	40%	58%	16%	36%	43%	37%	51%	37%	34%	34%	36%	69%	31%	39%	38%	42%
don't know/no opinion	11%	12%	8%	12%	12%	11%	10%	7%	13%	15%	10%	14%	6%	8%	10%	14%

18. Looking at the race for United States Senate, if the candidates were Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line and Hillary Clinton on the democratic line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

	Total	Party			GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
Rudy Giuliani	43%	18%	79%	48%	44%	43%	27%	56%	57%	43%	53%	9%	17%	36%	45%	46%
Hillary Clinton	52%	77%	17%	47%	50%	53%	69%	40%	36%	51%	43%	86%	78%	59%	51%	49%
don't know/no opinion	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	4%	7%	6%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	6%

19. What if the candidates were George Pataki on the Republican line and Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

	Total	Party			GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
George Pataki	32%	12%	66%	31%	29%	36%	17%	47%	45%	30%	40%	4%	8%	24%	34%	35%
Hillary Clinton	58%	83%	24%	54%	60%	56%	76%	45%	41%	59%	50%	89%	89%	70%	56%	55%
don't know/no opinion	10%	5%	10%	15%	11%	8%	7%	9%	14%	10%	10%	7%	3%	6%	10%	10%

20a. (For Democrats only): If the Democratic primary for New York State Attorney General were held tomorrow and the candidates were: (rotate choices)

	Total	Party			GENDER		Region				Ethnic			AGE		
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Up. East	Up. West	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+
Richard Brodsky	1%	1%	-	-	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
Andrew Cuomo	19%	19%	-	-	16%	22%	18%	19%	25%	20%	24%	11%	14%	8%	23%	22%
Michael Gianaris	1%	1%	-	-	1%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Mark Green	17%	17%	-	-	22%	12%	31%	13%	0%	4%	14%	21%	14%	10%	22%	16%
Charlie King	1%	1%	-	-	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	4%	2%	1%	0%
Sean Maloney	0%	0%	-	-	0%	1%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Denise O'Donnell	4%	4%	-	-	4%	4%	7%	2%	0%	3%	1%	9%	7%	7%	4%	3%
don't know/no opinion	56%	56%	-	-	55%	57%	41%	65%	71%	68%	58%	54%	61%	71%	49%	55%

Demographics:

Party:	Percent
Democrat	44
Republican	29
Ind./Other	25
Refused	3
Total	100

Age:	Percent
18-34	18.2
35-54	40.3
55+	41.4
refused	0.2
Total	100.0

Race/Ethnicity:	Percent
Caucasian/white	72.0
African American/Black	11.9
Hispanic/Latino	5.8
Other	7.9
refused	2.4
Total	100.0

Gender:	Percent
male	49.6
female	50.4
Total	100.0

Region:	Percent
Upstate West	30.9
Upstate East	13.4
NYC Sub	25.9
NYC	29.8
Total	100.0