



# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:  
Contact:

Tuesday, June 14, 2005  
Joe Caruso at 518-783-2901

## **Siena New York Poll:**

### **Spitzer Continues to Lead Pataki & Other Republicans**

### ***Hillary Maintains 2:1 Lead Over Pirro & Cox***

### ***NYers Want Bottle Bill Expanded;***

### ***76% Support Legalizing Marijuana for Medical Purposes***

**Loudonville, NY** – Democrats Eliot Spitzer and Hillary Clinton continue to maintain strong leads over potential Republican opponents in next year’s gubernatorial and senate races. Spitzer has a 13-point lead (50-37 percent) over George Pataki, and he beats Jeanine Pirro by 33 points and Thomas Golisano by 31 points. Clinton beats either Pirro or Edward Cox by 30 points.

“While the Governor’s favorability increased among Republicans, suburbanites and upstaters, he continues to trail Spitzer by a considerable margin and voters are equally divided about their view of Pataki, with 46 percent having a favorable opinion of him and 45 percent having an unfavorable opinion,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “As the Governor prepares to make public his decision on whether he will seek re-election, he would begin his quest for a fourth term from a difficult position with 28 percent of voters (and only 33 percent of Republicans) saying they would re-elect him, while twice as many voters would prefer someone else.

“If the Governor does not run, Spitzer would clobber Pirro if she decides to seek the state’s highest office,” Caruso said. “And he would also crush perennial Independence Party gubernatorial candidate Thomas Golisano, should he try and run as a Republican.”

United States Senator Hillary Clinton’s favorability rating (60-33 percent) and re-elect number (59 percent) are essentially unchanged in the last month.

“Hillary’s popularity among New York voters – with the exception of Republicans – remains strong, with three in five having a favorable opinion of her and believing she should be re-elected,” Caruso said. “Hillary beats Westchester D.A. Pirro or Nixon son-in-law Edward Cox by 30 points.”

More than half of New York voters (52 percent) support expanding the bottle bill to include deposits on juice, water, sports drinks and iced tea, while only 27 percent would support eliminating deposits on all beverage containers and instituting a new tax on recyclable or litter-generating products. One in ten would keep the law as is with no changes.

By a margin of 76-17 percent New York voters support legislation to allow people with illnesses to use marijuana for medical purposes, as long as it’s under the supervision of a physician who prescribed it.

“As the legislative session winds down, there is strong support for two bills being considered,” Caruso said. “By a two-to-one margin, New York voters support expanding the bottle bill to include other beverage containers as opposed to eliminating deposits all together and instituting a new tax to help dispose of these materials. And by more than 4 to 1, voters support legislation legalizing marijuana for medical purposes.”

For the fifth consecutive month, fewer than one-third of New York voters feel the state is headed on the ‘right track,’ while 44% continue to believe the state is head in the ‘wrong direction.’

“Downstaters, minority voters and those under 35 are a bit more optimistic about the direction of the state,” Caruso said. “However, those over 35, whites and upstaters overwhelmingly believe the state is headed in the wrong direction.”

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**This SRI survey was conducted June 6-10, 2005 by telephone calls to 622 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.9$  percentage points. For more information or comments, please call Joe Caruso, SRI Director of Polling, at 518-783-2901.**



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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
June, 2005	28	56	16
May, 2005	23	61	16
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
June, 2005	37	50	14
May, 2005	32	55	13
April, 2005	34	48	18
March, 2005	30	53	17
February, 2005	35	51	15

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June, 2005	46	45	9
May, 2005	40	53	7
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
June, 2005	59	15	25
May, 2005	58	17	25
April, 2005	53	18	29
March, 2005	50	18	32
February, 2005	48	17	34

Hillary Clinton has indicated that 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?

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June, 2005	59	34	7
May, 2005	59	36	5
April, 2005	60	34	5

# Siena New York Poll Trends

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If the election for United States Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Jeanine Pirro on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	CLINTON	PIRRO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June, 2005	59	29	12
May, 2005	57	29	14

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June, 2005	60	33	7
May, 2005	58	35	7
April, 2005	60	33	6
March, 2005	58	34	8
February, 2005	61	33	6

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeanine Pirro?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June, 2005	23	12	65
May, 2005	20	12	68

**DEMOCRATS ONLY:** If the Democratic primary for New York State Attorney General were held tomorrow and the candidates were (ROTATE CHOICES) for whom would you vote?

DATE	BRODSKY	CUOMO	GIANARIS	GREEN	KING	MALONEY	O'DONNELL
June, 2005	3	30	1	21	1	1	5
February, 2005	1	19	1	17	1	0	4

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
June, 2005	30	44	26
May, 2005	29	46	25
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
June, 2005	5	27	4	18
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
June, 2005	19	14	N/A	13	1
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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
right track	30%	30%	29%	30%	30%	29%	36%	38%	21%	29%	36%	46%	45%	26%	29%	35%	28%	24%	33%
wrong direction	44%	43%	44%	49%	49%	40%	35%	37%	55%	48%	27%	21%	35%	49%	44%	44%	39%	47%	35%
don't know/no opinion	26%	27%	26%	21%	21%	30%	29%	25%	24%	23%	37%	33%	21%	25%	27%	20%	33%	29%	32%

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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
fighting crime	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	8%	5%	3%	6%	5%	9%	2%	4%
improving education	27%	32%	19%	29%	22%	32%	41%	27%	18%	23%	51%	50%	35%	27%	25%	26%	22%	26%	34%
protecting the environment	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%	6%	4%	4%	2%	0%	7%	4%	3%	2%	2%	6%	4%
improving health care	18%	19%	20%	13%	15%	21%	16%	17%	19%	21%	10%	4%	8%	18%	21%	18%	22%	20%	15%
creating new jobs	19%	19%	21%	17%	19%	19%	16%	19%	21%	17%	19%	25%	28%	17%	17%	21%	13%	16%	24%
reforming state government	14%	11%	17%	14%	18%	9%	8%	10%	20%	16%	3%	8%	4%	18%	13%	17%	13%	11%	10%
other	13%	12%	13%	16%	17%	10%	11%	16%	14%	13%	10%	4%	12%	12%	15%	11%	19%	19%	7%
don't know/no opinion	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%

3. The State Legislature is currently considering two opposite proposals:

- One would expand the existing "bottle bill" to include deposits on juice, water, sports drinks and iced tea
  - The other proposal would eliminate the deposit on all beverage containers and instead put a new tax on recyclable or litter-generating products. Those containers would then be disposed with other recyclable glass, metal and plastic.
- Which option would you support?

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
expand existing bottle bill	52%	51%	54%	52%	55%	49%	43%	50%	60%	54%	51%	67%	65%	52%	49%	52%	43%	55%	49%
eliminate deposit on beverages	27%	30%	25%	25%	26%	28%	33%	28%	22%	25%	29%	21%	20%	30%	27%	26%	33%	20%	37%
don't change; keep as is	10%	8%	12%	10%	8%	11%	11%	8%	10%	10%	7%	4%	5%	8%	12%	10%	15%	14%	4%
don't know/no opinion	11%	12%	9%	13%	11%	12%	13%	14%	8%	10%	14%	8%	10%	11%	12%	12%	9%	11%	11%

4. Under New York law, the use of marijuana is illegal, including for medical purposes. The State Legislature is considering a bill that would allow people with cancer, MS, and other serious illnesses to use marijuana for medical purposes, as long as it is under the supervision of a physician who has prescribed it. Do you support or oppose this measure?

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
support	76%	80%	72%	79%	76%	76%	77%	78%	75%	80%	66%	63%	75%	79%	74%	77%	89%	70%	72%
oppose	17%	16%	20%	13%	17%	18%	16%	19%	17%	14%	31%	29%	21%	16%	17%	16%	7%	23%	23%
don't know/no opinion	7%	4%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	4%	8%	6%	3%	8%	4%	5%	8%	7%	4%	6%	5%

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.

5. George Pataki

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	46%	35%	58%	50%	45%	48%	39%	60%	43%	47%	37%	63%	64%	43%	44%	55%	33%	47%	37%
unfavorable	45%	58%	32%	43%	47%	43%	51%	34%	48%	45%	54%	29%	32%	50%	46%	37%	57%	40%	59%
don't know/no opinion	9%	8%	10%	7%	8%	10%	10%	6%	10%	9%	8%	8%	4%	7%	11%	7%	9%	13%	5%

6. Eliot Spitzer

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	59%	66%	55%	55%	66%	53%	66%	60%	54%	62%	51%	46%	49%	57%	64%	53%	93%	57%	54%
unfavorable	15%	10%	19%	22%	15%	16%	11%	17%	18%	15%	17%	17%	17%	16%	15%	20%	2%	16%	15%
don't know/no opinion	25%	24%	26%	23%	19%	31%	22%	24%	28%	23%	32%	38%	34%	27%	22%	26%	6%	27%	32%

7. Hillary Clinton

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	60%	81%	34%	61%	57%	63%	73%	56%	54%	56%	90%	46%	66%	59%	59%	56%	74%	55%	85%
unfavorable	33%	14%	58%	33%	36%	30%	21%	37%	39%	38%	5%	8%	26%	36%	33%	40%	20%	34%	10%
don't know/no opinion	7%	5%	8%	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	5%	4%	8%	5%	7%	4%	6%	11%	5%

8. Jeanine Pirro

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	23%	23%	25%	21%	25%	21%	30%	34%	12%	22%	34%	17%	21%	22%	24%	26%	28%	20%	22%
unfavorable	12%	14%	8%	16%	14%	11%	16%	15%	8%	12%	12%	13%	15%	11%	12%	11%	28%	6%	16%
don't know/no opinion	65%	63%	67%	63%	62%	68%	54%	52%	80%	66%	54%	71%	64%	67%	64%	64%	44%	73%	62%

9. Edward Cox

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	23%	25%	23%	19%	25%	21%	22%	24%	23%	23%	22%	33%	21%	17%	28%	26%	17%	27%	13%
unfavorable	12%	13%	10%	16%	13%	12%	12%	13%	12%	11%	19%	17%	21%	11%	10%	14%	13%	5%	20%
don't know/no opinion	65%	62%	67%	65%	62%	67%	66%	63%	64%	66%	59%	50%	59%	72%	62%	60%	70%	68%	67%

10. Thomas Golisano

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	28%	25%	35%	23%	28%	27%	14%	20%	42%	30%	17%	29%	32%	29%	26%	34%	9%	28%	22%
unfavorable	17%	18%	13%	22%	20%	14%	20%	16%	15%	16%	24%	21%	12%	19%	17%	14%	26%	14%	15%
don't know/no opinion	56%	57%	52%	55%	52%	59%	65%	65%	43%	53%	59%	50%	57%	52%	57%	51%	65%	58%	63%

11. 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
re-elect Pataki	28%	22%	33%	29%	26%	29%	26%	37%	24%	27%	25%	50%	39%	27%	25%	30%	24%	32%	28%
prefer someone else	56%	68%	44%	54%	56%	56%	63%	43%	59%	56%	68%	46%	47%	57%	58%	52%	70%	47%	62%
don't know/no opinion	16%	10%	23%	17%	17%	15%	11%	20%	18%	17%	7%	4%	14%	16%	17%	18%	6%	21%	10%

12. 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
George Pataki	37%	21%	55%	39%	34%	39%	27%	45%	38%	38%	24%	50%	41%	36%	36%	46%	13%	42%	28%
Eliot Spitzer	50%	69%	31%	44%	52%	48%	63%	42%	45%	48%	63%	46%	46%	52%	49%	43%	76%	41%	59%
don't know/no opinion	14%	10%	14%	17%	14%	13%	10%	12%	17%	14%	14%	4%	13%	11%	15%	12%	11%	17%	13%

13. How about if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Jeanine Pirro 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Jeanine Pirro	21%	9%	33%	25%	18%	23%	16%	30%	18%	22%	15%	8%	18%	20%	22%	28%	11%	19%	15%
Eliot Spitzer	54%	73%	37%	44%	56%	51%	63%	45%	52%	53%	61%	54%	58%	51%	54%	48%	81%	46%	56%
don't know/no opinion	26%	18%	31%	31%	25%	26%	21%	25%	29%	25%	24%	38%	24%	29%	24%	23%	7%	35%	29%

14. How about if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Thomas Golisano 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Thomas Golisano	22%	8%	41%	23%	22%	23%	10%	21%	32%	25%	3%	17%	26%	24%	20%	30%	4%	23%	17%
Eliot Spitzer	53%	77%	29%	49%	56%	51%	67%	53%	44%	51%	75%	63%	55%	52%	53%	43%	89%	45%	60%
don't know/no opinion	24%	15%	31%	28%	23%	26%	23%	26%	24%	25%	22%	21%	18%	24%	26%	27%	7%	31%	23%

15. 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
re-elect Clinton	59%	78%	33%	61%	54%	63%	73%	52%	53%	54%	88%	96%	63%	59%	57%	53%	80%	58%	80%
prefer someone else	34%	15%	61%	32%	38%	31%	21%	39%	41%	39%	7%	4%	28%	36%	35%	41%	15%	36%	15%
don't know/no opinion	7%	7%	6%	7%	8%	6%	5%	9%	6%	7%	5%	0%	9%	5%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%

16. If the election for US Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Jeanine Pirro 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Hillary Clinton	59%	81%	32%	58%	57%	61%	75%	52%	52%	55%	83%	92%	63%	59%	57%	51%	80%	56%	77%
Jeanine Pirro	29%	11%	54%	26%	30%	28%	18%	34%	34%	32%	10%	4%	22%	31%	30%	36%	11%	30%	15%
don't know/no opinion	12%	8%	15%	16%	13%	12%	7%	14%	15%	13%	7%	4%	15%	10%	13%	13%	9%	14%	9%

17. How about if the election for US Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Edward Cox 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Hillary Clinton	58%	83%	30%	53%	56%	59%	75%	50%	50%	52%	88%	96%	64%	59%	55%	52%	70%	55%	78%
Edward Cox	28%	10%	50%	26%	28%	27%	14%	30%	35%	31%	8%	4%	23%	26%	31%	33%	13%	31%	13%
don't know/no opinion	15%	7%	19%	21%	16%	13%	11%	19%	15%	17%	3%		13%	16%	14%	15%	17%	14%	9%

Demographics:			
<b>Party:</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>t</b>
Democrat	42%	M	49%
Republican	34%	F	51%
Ind./Other	22%	Total	100%
Refused	2%		
Total	100%	<b>Age:</b>	<b>t</b>
		18-34	15%
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b>	<b>t</b>	35-54	35%
Caucasian/white	77%	55+	50%
African American/Black	10%	refused	1%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	Total	100%
Other	7%		
refused	3%		
Total	100%		
<b>Region:</b>	<b>t</b>		
Upstate West	30%		
Upstate East	26%		
NYC Sub	13%		
NYC	31%		
Total	100%		
<b>Religion:</b>	<b>t</b>		
Catholic	41%		
Jewish	9%		
Protestant	21%		
other	13%		
no affiliation	14%		
refused	1%		
Total	100%		