



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:
Contact:

Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Joe Caruso at 518-783-2901

Siena New York Poll: Spitzer Cruises Past Pataki, Daniels, Weld *Hillary 2:1 Over Weld, Pirro*

More NYers Would Cut Property Tax Over Any Other Tax

Loudonville, NY – Attorney General Eliot Spitzer easily beats Governor George Pataki (55-32 percent) in a head-to-head match up, and he crushes Secretary of State Randy Daniels (55-14 percent) and former Massachusetts Governor William Weld (57-15 percent), according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of New York voters released today.

“Governor Pataki’s unfavorable rating is the highest it’s been all year,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “And the number of people saying they would prefer to elect someone else rather than re-electing the governor is also the highest Siena has tracked. It’s no surprise, therefore, that Spitzer has widened his lead over Pataki to 23 points, up from 14 points last month.

“William Weld and Randy Daniels are largely unknown by the New York electorate. Four of five voters don’t know either well enough to have an opinion of them and both would lose to Spitzer by more than 40 points,” Caruso said.

United States Senator Hillary Clinton’s favorability rating (58-35 percent) and re-elect number (59 percent) remained high this month. Her potential adversaries tested in the poll, Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro and former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, are still too unknown to New York voters to pose a credible threat.

Do you have a <i>favorable or unfavorable</i> opinion about ...			
CANDIDATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
Randy Daniels	8%	8%	84%
Jeanine Pirro	20%	12%	68%
William Weld	10%	11%	79%

“Hillary remains widely popular among New York voters, with nearly three in five having a favorable opinion of her and believing she should be re-elected,” Caruso said. “Hillary would beat Jeanine Pirro or William Weld by a two-to-one margin, garnering a comfortable 57 percent of the vote against either.”

When presented with the option of reducing only one tax, 39 percent of New York voters selected the local property tax. Twenty-three percent said sales tax, 15 percent chose federal income tax, 12 percent opted for state income tax, and 7 percent identified a different tax to cut.

“While all taxes are burdensome, no tax is more of a burden than the property tax. More than half of downstate suburban voters and 45 percent of voters who own their homes single out the property tax as the tax they most want reduced,” Caruso said. “More renters and New York City voters would opt to reduce the sales tax rather than the property tax.

“And nearly one-quarter of voters polled by Siena – a plurality – identified a tax issue as the single most important issue for state government to address in 2005,” Caruso said.

- **Tax issues** was the number one choice for *Republicans (35%), Independents and other party members (28%); Men (29%); Whites (27%); 35-54 year olds (28%); ages 55+ (22%); Catholics (27%); Protestants (30%)* and in *Upstate New York (31%)* and the *NYC Suburbs (25%)*.
- **Education issues** was number one choice for *Democrats (23%); women (22%); African-Americans (24%); Latinos (27%); 18-34 year olds (22%); Jewish (35%);* and in *New York City (27%)*.

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

“While New York’s political landscape will undoubtedly change over the next year, New York’s Republican Party has its work cut out if they are to find candidates who can mount credible campaigns against Hillary Clinton and keep the Governor’s Mansion in Republican hands,” Caruso said.

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This SRI survey was conducted May 2-6, 2005 by telephone calls to 621 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 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
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
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
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
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
May, 2005	59	36	5
April, 2005	60	34	5

Siena New York Poll Trends

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

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

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
May, 2005	29	46	25
April, 2005	29	44	27
March, 2005	26	47	27
February, 2005	32	44	24



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

Siena New York Poll Trends

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

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

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
May, 2005	29	46	25
April, 2005	29	44	27
March, 2005	26	47	27
February, 2005	32	44	24

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	29%	31%	32%	23%	29%	29%	33%	38%	21%	27%	37%	52%	41%	28%	25%	32%	31%	26%	31%
wrong direction	46%	44%	48%	47%	49%	43%	39%	38%	55%	48%	31%	27%	40%	50%	45%	46%	39%	47%	35%
don't know/no opinion	25%	25%	20%	30%	22%	28%	27%	25%	24%	24%	33%	20%	19%	22%	30%	22%	29%	26%	34%

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
State budget issues	5%	6%	5%	2%	6%	3%	4%	4%	6%	6%	0%	2%	2%	4%	7%	4%	8%	5%	5%
Business climate/jobs	8%	10%	7%	6%	9%	7%	4%	6%	11%	8%	6%	9%	6%	9%	7%	10%	0%	6%	9%
Taxes	23%	14%	35%	28%	29%	18%	10%	25%	31%	27%	4%	14%	19%	28%	22%	27%	10%	30%	14%
Don't know	6%	7%	8%	2%	7%	6%	8%	8%	5%	5%	12%	7%	12%	4%	7%	5%	4%	10%	11%
Economy	4%	4%	2%	7%	4%	4%	3%	6%	3%	4%	2%	5%	2%	2%	6%	4%	2%	3%	3%
Education	17%	23%	11%	16%	12%	22%	27%	16%	11%	16%	24%	27%	22%	18%	15%	15%	35%	15%	20%
Health care issues	11%	13%	9%	11%	7%	14%	8%	9%	14%	11%	12%	7%	7%	10%	13%	11%	6%	12%	11%
Govt. reform	3%	2%	5%	4%	5%	2%	1%	3%	5%	4%	2%	0%	2%	4%	3%	2%	6%	6%	2%
Political issues	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%
Environmental issues	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%
other	19%	19%	17%	20%	15%	22%	33%	17%	11%	16%	37%	27%	24%	18%	18%	20%	24%	13%	23%

3. If you could reduce only ONE tax, which would you choose?(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
Federal income tax	15%	18%	9%	18%	14%	16%	19%	16%	12%	14%	29%	16%	13%	16%	16%	13%	16%	17%	14%
New York State income tax	12%	12%	14%	13%	14%	11%	13%	5%	16%	13%	12%	9%	16%	16%	9%	13%	16%	11%	12%
sales tax	23%	29%	23%	13%	20%	26%	32%	13%	24%	23%	20%	34%	28%	20%	24%	23%	35%	22%	22%
local property tax	39%	30%	46%	49%	41%	38%	26%	55%	40%	39%	35%	34%	39%	39%	40%	42%	22%	41%	45%
Other	7%	7%	8%	4%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	8%	0%	7%	1%	7%	8%	7%	6%	7%	5%
don't know/no opinion	3%	4%	1%	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	3%	4%	0%	3%	2%	3%	1%	6%	3%	3%

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.

6. 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	40%	35%	47%	39%	42%	38%	41%	47%	35%	40%	41%	50%	47%	40%	38%	45%	37%	45%	34%
unfavorable	53%	58%	45%	55%	52%	55%	54%	47%	56%	54%	47%	41%	47%	56%	54%	50%	59%	46%	57%
don't know/no opinion	7%	6%	8%	6%	6%	7%	5%	6%	8%	6%	12%	9%	5%	5%	8%	5%	4%	9%	9%

7. 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	58%	66%	46%	57%	60%	56%	63%	59%	54%	59%	53%	50%	47%	55%	63%	55%	69%	54%	57%
unfavorable	17%	13%	24%	18%	21%	14%	14%	20%	17%	17%	14%	20%	21%	17%	16%	21%	16%	14%	12%
don't know/no opinion	25%	21%	30%	24%	19%	30%	23%	20%	29%	24%	33%	30%	32%	28%	21%	24%	16%	32%	31%

8. 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	58%	81%	33%	46%	53%	63%	71%	58%	50%	51%	90%	82%	67%	51%	60%	56%	65%	55%	60%
unfavorable	35%	15%	60%	43%	39%	31%	23%	36%	42%	41%	4%	16%	32%	40%	32%	38%	27%	37%	35%
don't know/no opinion	7%	5%	8%	10%	8%	6%	6%	6%	8%	8%	6%	2%	1%	9%	7%	7%	8%	8%	5%

9. Randy Daniels

	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	8%	7%	11%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	7%	12%	18%	12%	10%	6%	10%	4%	8%	12%
unfavorable	8%	9%	8%	6%	9%	6%	11%	9%	5%	6%	10%	18%	17%	8%	5%	9%	6%	8%	6%
don't know/no opinion	84%	84%	81%	87%	82%	85%	82%	83%	85%	86%	78%	64%	72%	83%	89%	81%	90%	85%	82%

10. 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	20%	21%	22%	16%	22%	19%	24%	28%	14%	19%	24%	25%	25%	18%	20%	20%	20%	16%	23%
unfavorable	12%	15%	9%	12%	14%	9%	13%	15%	9%	11%	10%	9%	12%	11%	12%	11%	14%	14%	9%
don't know/no opinion	68%	64%	70%	72%	64%	72%	63%	57%	78%	69%	65%	66%	63%	71%	68%	69%	67%	71%	68%

11. William Weld

	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	10%	9%	15%	6%	14%	6%	10%	10%	9%	11%	6%	9%	16%	12%	6%	10%	8%	10%	9%
unfavorable	11%	12%	10%	10%	14%	8%	10%	13%	10%	10%	14%	14%	14%	11%	10%	10%	16%	10%	6%
don't know/no opinion	79%	80%	75%	84%	72%	86%	80%	77%	80%	79%	80%	77%	71%	78%	84%	80%	76%	80%	85%

12. 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	23%	19%	32%	18%	23%	23%	24%	27%	19%	23%	22%	32%	34%	22%	20%	25%	27%	24%	22%	
prefer someone else	61%	71%	51%	57%	62%	61%	63%	57%	62%	60%	71%	55%	59%	58%	65%	58%	59%	60%	63%	
don't know/no opinion	16%	10%	18%	24%	15%	17%	13%	16%	18%	17%	6%	14%	7%	20%	15%	17%	14%	16%	15%	

13. 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	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other	
George Pataki	32%	17%	53%	34%	33%	31%	26%	38%	32%	35%	22%	27%	37%	34%	28%	37%	25%	34%	32%	
Eliot Spitzer	55%	71%	35%	51%	55%	55%	60%	52%	53%	52%	67%	59%	55%	52%	58%	50%	55%	50%	55%	
don't know/no opinion	13%	12%	12%	15%	12%	14%	14%	10%	15%	13%	10%	14%	8%	14%	14%	13%	20%	17%	12%	

14. How about if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Randy Daniels 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	
Randy Daniels	14%	5%	30%	13%	16%	12%	8%	12%	19%	15%	6%	14%	20%	13%	13%	13%	8%	17%	17%	
Eliot Spitzer	55%	76%	32%	46%	55%	56%	67%	53%	49%	53%	71%	64%	57%	51%	58%	55%	65%	43%	60%	
don't know/no opinion	30%	19%	38%	41%	29%	32%	24%	35%	32%	32%	22%	23%	23%	36%	29%	32%	27%	40%	23%	

15. How about if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were William Weld 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	
William Weld	15%	5%	33%	13%	18%	11%	11%	14%	18%	16%	2%	16%	14%	15%	15%	15%	10%	20%	12%	
Eliot Spitzer	57%	77%	34%	46%	58%	56%	67%	59%	50%	53%	78%	73%	62%	51%	60%	56%	63%	47%	63%	
don't know/no opinion	28%	18%	33%	41%	24%	32%	23%	27%	33%	31%	20%	11%	24%	34%	25%	29%	27%	34%	25%	

16. 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%	82%	30%	47%	57%	61%	73%	57%	50%	51%	92%	82%	68%	50%	62%	56%	67%	52%	65%	
prefer someone else	36%	16%	65%	42%	39%	34%	23%	39%	44%	43%	6%	18%	28%	43%	34%	39%	29%	42%	34%	
don't know/no opinion	5%	2%	5%	11%	4%	6%	5%	4%	6%	6%	2%		3%	7%	4%	5%	4%	6%	2%	

17. 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 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	57%	81%	27%	48%	55%	59%	71%	54%	49%	50%	88%	86%	69%	52%	57%	54%	59%	52%	66%	
Jeanine Pirro	29%	10%	56%	32%	32%	26%	15%	34%	35%	35%	2%	7%	19%	34%	28%	33%	25%	33%	26%	
don't know/no opinion	14%	9%	17%	20%	13%	15%	14%	12%	15%	15%	10%	7%	12%	13%	15%	13%	16%	15%	8%	

18. How about if the election for US Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and William Weld 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	57%	82%	24%	49%	54%	60%	69%	54%	50%	51%	88%	77%	67%	52%	57%	53%	57%	50%	66%	
William Weld	29%	8%	59%	32%	33%	26%	18%	30%	36%	34%	2%	16%	22%	33%	28%	33%	25%	34%	26%	
don't know/no opinion	14%	9%	17%	19%	13%	15%	13%	16%	14%	15%	10%	7%	11%	15%	14%	14%	18%	16%	8%	

Demographics:

Party:	t
Democrat	45.6
Republican	30.0
Ind./Other	20.5
Refused	4.0
Total	100

Gender	t
M	47.8
F	52.2
Total	100.0

Race/Ethnicity:	Percent
Caucasian/white	75.0
African American/Black	7.9
Hispanic/Latino	7.1
Other	7.4
refused	2.6
Total	100.0

Age:	t
18-34	15.3
35-54	35.1
55+	49.3
refused	0.3
Total	100.0

Region:	Percent
Upstate West	30.6
Upstate East	25.3
NYC Sub	13.0
NYC	31.1
Total	100.0

Religion:	Percent
Catholic	43.6
Jewish	8.2
Protestant	21.4
other	10.5
no affiliation	13.4
refused	2.9
Total	100