



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:
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Siena New York Poll:

Spitzer Beats Faso by 46 Points; Wins with Reps

Clinton Continues 26 Point Lead Over Spencer;

Hevesi & Cuomo Strong Against Republican Opponents

Nearly ¾ of NYers Think New Gov Will Make NY Better

Loudonville, NY – In the wake of party conventions, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer maintains a three-to-one edge over former Assembly Minority Leader John Faso, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of New York voters released today. United States Senator Hillary Clinton, Comptroller Alan Hevesi and former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo all have significant leads against their designated Republican opponents. New York voters continue to have a pessimistic view on the direction the state is headed in, however, 72 percent believe that a new Governor will have the ability to make New York better.

“With 20 weeks until Election Day, Eliot Spitzer enjoys the highest favorability rating he has ever had (68-16 percent) and the support of two-thirds of New York voters in his race against John Faso,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “With a four-to-one positive favorability rating and a 67-21 percent lead over Faso, the race is clearly Spitzer’s to lose.

“Faso remains unknown to two-thirds of voters and among those who do know him, they are split with 18 percent having a favorable opinion and 17 percent an unfavorable opinion. Spitzer leads Faso in every region of the state and with every demographic group. He even beats Faso among Republicans 45-40 percent,” Caruso said.

“Twenty weeks is an extremely long time in the political world, but John Faso has an enormously large deficit to try and close against an opponent with an enormously large war chest,” Caruso said.

“New Yorkers – particularly those upstate – continue to believe the state is headed in the wrong direction right now. However, voters remain strongly optimistic about the future with nearly three-quarters believing that a new Governor will be able to enact the necessary reforms to make New York a better state in which to live and work,” Caruso said.

Overwhelmingly, voters – irrespective of who they are supporting – believe the next Governor will be a Democrat by a 65-17 percent margin. Republicans believe a Democrat will be elected Governor by a two-to-one margin (55-27 percent). And while a plurality of Democrats believes that they will carry all four statewide elections this year, a majority of Republicans (56 percent) believe that they will win at least one of the four offices (although other than Spencer, none of the Republican statewide candidates gets 50 percent of the Republican vote at this point).

In the race for the Senate, Clinton leads former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer 58-32 percent. She had a 58-33 percent lead last month.

“While Hillary maintains a 26 point lead over Spencer, her favorability rating (54-38 percent) is the lowest the Siena New York poll has seen in a year and a half. The frustrating part for Spencer is that with less than five months till the election and after a year of campaigning, he continues to be unknown to four out of five voters,” Caruso said.

Cuomo leads former Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro 54-28 percent. Cuomo’s favorable/unfavorable rating is 47-29 percent and Pirro’s is 25-25 percent. Hevesi leads Saratoga County Treasurer Christopher Callahan 50-21 percent. Hevesi has a favorable/unfavorable rating of 40-14 percent and Callahan’s is 7-5 percent.

“In the race for Attorney General, Cuomo now has a 26 point lead over Pirro, up from a 13 point lead in January,” Caruso said. “Cuomo gets a generally favorable rating from voters, although one-quarter don’t have an opinion. Pirro remains unknown to half of the voters, and has a split rating from those who do know her. And while half of the voters don’t have an opinion about Hevesi, he has a commanding lead over Callahan who is largely unknown to nearly all voters.”

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This SRI survey was conducted June 12-14, 2006 by telephone calls to 623 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 or Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858.



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Siena New York Poll Trends – June 2006

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

DATE	FASO	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	21	67	13
May 2006	17	64	18
March 2006	20	62	18
October 2005	19	63	19

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	68	16	16
May 2006	63	19	19
March 2006	62	18	20
January 2006	59	19	23
November 2005	65	15	20
October 2005	61	19	20
August 2005	60	14	26
July 2005	62	15	22
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

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Faso?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	18	17	65
May 2006	12	12	76
March 2006	15	11	74
October 2005	11	11	78

Siena New York Poll Trends – June 2006

Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	41	49	10
May 2006	38	55	7
March 2006	53	40	7
January 2006	48	44	8
November 2005	53	39	8
October 2005	48	44	8
August 2005	50	44	7
July 2005	52	40	8
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

Hillary Clinton 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 2006	57	38	5
May 2006	59	37	4
March 2006	57	38	5
January 2006	59	37	4
November 2005	58	36	6
October 2005	59	37	4
August 2005	56	39	6
July 2005	60	37	4
June 2005	59	34	7
May 2005	59	36	5
April 2005	60	34	5

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

DATE	CLINTON	SPENCER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	58	32	10
May 2006	58	33	10
March 2006	57	32	11
January 2006	58	31	11
November 2005	59	27	14

Siena New York Poll Trends – June 2006

Page 3

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	54	38	8
May 2006	58	36	6
March 2006	55	39	6
January 2006	60	37	3
November 2005	60	34	6
October 2005	59	35	6
August 2005	59	37	4
July 2005	60	34	6
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 John Spencer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	11	8	81
May 2006	13	11	76
March 2006	14	9	77
January 2006	12	9	79
November 2005	13	7	80

If the election for State Attorney General was held tomorrow and the candidates were Jeanine Pirro on the Republican line and Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	PIRRO	CUOMO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	28	54	19
January 2006	36	49	16

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	25	25	50
January 2006	26	30	45
November 2005	26	22	52
October 2005	24	25	51
July 2005	27	12	61
June 2005	23	12	65
May 2005	20	12	68

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Siena New York Poll Trends – June 2006

Page 4

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	47	29	24
January 2006	45	31	24

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Alan Hevesi?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2006	40	14	47
May 2006	37	10	53
July 2005	46	12	42

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 2006	29	45	26
May 2006	27	52	21
March 2006	35	39	26
January 2006	34	43	24
November 2005	38	41	22
October 2005	34	42	24
August 2005	36	44	20
July 2005	33	41	26
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