



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

Thursday, March 9, 2006
Joe Caruso at 518-783-2901 or
Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858

Siena New York Poll:

Spitzer Still Crushes All Republican Opponents Clinton Continues to Lead Spencer By 25 Points *NYers Won't Vote For Clinton or Pataki For President In '08 – Would, However, Prefer Hillary to George*

Loudonville, NY – Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is maintaining a better than three-to-one lead in the race for Governor over his three potential Republican opponents, who continue to be unknown to three-quarters of New Yorkers, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of New York voters released today. In the race for U.S. Senate, Hillary Clinton maintains a 25 point lead over former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer.

“While six in ten New York voters think Hillary is running for President in 2008, only slightly more than one-third think George Pataki is running for President,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “Only 20 percent said they would vote for the Governor if he ran for President, and Hillary did not fare well with New York voters either, with only 36 percent saying they would vote for her and 48 percent saying they would not.

“When matched up against each other, Hillary beats George 49-36 percent in a hypothetical 2008 presidential election. Hillary wins in every region of the state, and the only group she loses to Pataki with are Republicans,” Caruso said.

In the race for Governor, Spitzer leads former Massachusetts Governor William Weld 61-18 percent, former Assemblyman John Faso 62-20 percent, and former Secretary of State Randy Daniels 63-17 percent.

“Not only does Spitzer continue to crush the three potential Republicans who want to run against him, he beats each one of them by three-to-one margins in Upstate and in the downstate suburbs,” Caruso said. And Spitzer takes more than one-third of Republican voters, keeping all three potential opponents to no more than 41 percent of Republicans.”

Spitzer’s favorable-unfavorable rating is 62-18 percent (up slightly from 59-19 percent in January). Weld has an 11-13 percent favorable-unfavorable rating (up slightly from 9-15 percent in January). Faso is 15-11 percent (up slightly from 11-11 percent in October). Daniels is 7-8 percent (up slightly from 5-5 in August).

“While Spitzer is viewed favorably by more than six in ten voters, including half of the Republicans, the three Republicans are unknown to more than three-quarters of the voters, including three-quarters of the Republican voters,” Caruso said.

In the race for U.S. Senate, Clinton leads Spencer 57-32 percent (it was 58-31 percent in January). Clinton has a 55-39 percent favorable-unfavorable rating (down from 60-37 percent in January). Spencer has a 14-9 percent favorability rating (up slightly from 12-9 percent in January).

“While Hillary continues her strong showing for re-election, with a 25 point lead over Spencer, her favorability rating, at 55 percent, is lower than it’s been in more than one year,” Caruso said.

“Republicans are firming up their opposition to the junior senator and it’s starting to show.

“Governor Pataki’s favorability rating is now virtually the same as Hillary’s, yet New York voters see her as a likely candidate for President and do not see the Governor as likely to run. And if they were to oppose each other in 2008, Hillary wins but not by the large margin that traditionally “blue” New York has shown to other Democratic presidential candidates,” Caruso said.

Downstaters continue to see the state as being on the right track (45-30 percent in New York City and 39-32 percent in the downstate suburbs), while upstate voters believe by a nearly two-to-one margin that the state is headed in the wrong direction (27-50 percent).

###

This SRI survey was conducted March 1-7, 2006 by telephone calls to 620 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 or Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2006

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)

DATE	WELD	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2006	18	61	21
January 2006	17	60	23
November 2005	16	64	19
October 2005	18	62	20
August 2005	19	56	26
May 2005	15	57	28

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
March 2006	20	62	18
October 2005	19	63	19

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)

DATE	DANIELS	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2006	17	63	20
August 2005	15	58	28
May 2005	14	55	30

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2006

Page 2

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about William Weld?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2006	11	13	76
January 2006	9	15	76
November 2005	11	9	80
October 2005	9	16	75
August 2005	9	7	84
May 2005	10	11	79

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2006	15	11	74
October 2005	11	11	78

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Randy Daniels?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2006	7	8	86
August 2005	5	5	90
May 2005	8	8	84

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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

– more –

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2006

Page 3

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
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
March 2006	57	32	11
January 2006	58	31	11
November 2005	59	27	14

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
March 2006	14	9	77
January 2006	12	9	79
November 2005	13	7	80

– more –

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2006

Page 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
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

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	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
right track	35%	34%	34%	39%	34%	37%	45%	39%	27%	34%	40%	52%	56%	35%	31%	39%	55%	31%	30%
wrong direction	39%	41%	40%	35%	43%	35%	30%	32%	50%	40%	39%	41%	30%	42%	39%	38%	24%	37%	47%
don't know/no opinion	26%	25%	25%	26%	23%	28%	26%	29%	23%	26%	21%	7%	14%	23%	30%	23%	22%	32%	24%

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. [Names asked in rotated order]

2. George Pataki

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	53%	47%	64%	49%	52%	54%	49%	61%	51%	54%	46%	56%	65%	50%	53%	61%	45%	51%	53%
unfavorable	40%	45%	30%	43%	40%	39%	45%	31%	41%	40%	47%	41%	32%	44%	38%	33%	45%	40%	42%
don't know/no opinion	7%	7%	6%	8%	8%	7%	6%	8%	7%	6%	7%	4%	3%	6%	8%	6%	9%	8%	5%

3. Eliot Spitzer

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	62%	70%	49%	65%	63%	61%	65%	59%	61%	63%	65%	59%	58%	61%	64%	57%	82%	63%	52%
unfavorable	18%	11%	31%	17%	22%	15%	18%	21%	16%	19%	14%	19%	20%	17%	19%	22%	13%	20%	16%
don't know/no opinion	20%	19%	20%	17%	15%	24%	17%	19%	22%	18%	21%	22%	23%	22%	18%	21%	5%	17%	32%

4. Hillary Clinton

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	55%	76%	25%	55%	47%	62%	62%	51%	52%	50%	86%	67%	75%	53%	52%	52%	60%	45%	65%
unfavorable	39%	20%	69%	34%	45%	33%	30%	46%	41%	44%	12%	26%	23%	43%	40%	46%	35%	46%	28%
don't know/no opinion	6%	4%	6%	11%	7%	5%	8%	4%	7%	6%	2%	7%	3%	4%	8%	2%	5%	10%	7%

John Faso

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	15%	11%	18%	17%	18%	12%	14%	14%	15%	15%	14%	7%	14%	14%	16%	18%	9%	12%	15%
unfavorable	11%	13%	9%	8%	12%	10%	15%	7%	11%	9%	26%	19%	18%	9%	11%	8%	18%	9%	13%
don't know/no opinion	74%	76%	73%	74%	70%	79%	72%	79%	74%	75%	60%	74%	68%	77%	74%	74%	73%	79%	73%

6. John Spencer

	Party				GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	14%	14%	15%	14%	17%	11%	15%	16%	12%	13%	19%	15%	24%	15%	11%	18%	13%	10%	17%
unfavorable	9%	11%	6%	8%	10%	9%	8%	13%	8%	8%	19%	15%	17%	7%	9%	8%	7%	10%	13%
don't know/no opinion	77%	75%	79%	78%	73%	80%	77%	72%	79%	79%	61%	70%	59%	78%	80%	74%	80%	80%	70%

7. 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	11%	10%	11%	15%	15%	8%	12%	11%	11%	11%	12%	7%	13%	11%	11%	12%	11%	13%	9%	
unfavorable	13%	16%	10%	9%	14%	12%	16%	11%	11%	12%	21%	11%	18%	12%	12%	9%	20%	13%	9%	
don't know/no opinion	76%	74%	80%	76%	71%	81%	72%	78%	78%	77%	67%	81%	69%	77%	77%	79%	69%	75%	82%	

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	7%	7%	5%	8%	8%	5%	9%	4%	6%	5%	19%	7%	10%	8%	5%	7%	4%	7%	7%	
unfavorable	8%	8%	5%	10%	12%	5%	7%	9%	8%	6%	14%	15%	20%	4%	8%	6%	11%	5%	10%	
don't know/no opinion	86%	85%	89%	83%	80%	91%	84%	88%	85%	89%	67%	78%	70%	88%	87%	87%	85%	87%	83%	

10. I know it is a long way off, but 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)																				
	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	
John Faso	20%	8%	41%	15%	22%	17%	17%	21%	20%	23%	7%	19%	15%	22%	19%	26%	9%	25%	16%	
Eliot Spitzer	62%	81%	35%	64%	60%	64%	68%	63%	58%	61%	81%	74%	63%	58%	64%	55%	82%	59%	58%	
don't know/no opinion	18%	11%	24%	21%	18%	19%	15%	16%	22%	17%	12%	7%	21%	20%	16%	19%	9%	16%	26%	

11. How about if 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	18%	7%	38%	14%	21%	14%	15%	21%	18%	21%	9%	7%	13%	18%	19%	24%	7%	22%	13%	
Eliot Spitzer	61%	80%	35%	62%	59%	64%	66%	62%	58%	60%	75%	74%	66%	61%	60%	56%	84%	52%	59%	
don't know/no opinion	21%	13%	27%	24%	20%	22%	19%	17%	25%	19%	16%	19%	21%	21%	21%	20%	9%	25%	28%	

13. How about if 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	17%	7%	37%	14%	21%	14%	16%	17%	18%	19%	9%	7%	15%	19%	16%	23%	7%	19%	16%	
Eliot Spitzer	63%	80%	37%	66%	61%	65%	67%	64%	60%	62%	75%	81%	61%	63%	63%	56%	82%	58%	58%	
don't know/no opinion	20%	13%	27%	20%	19%	21%	18%	19%	22%	19%	16%	11%	24%	18%	21%	21%	11%	22%	26%	

14. 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	57%	78%	28%	55%	52%	62%	68%	51%	54%	52%	89%	70%	72%	55%	55%	53%	67%	49%	64%	
prefer someone else	38%	17%	69%	36%	42%	33%	27%	42%	42%	42%	9%	26%	24%	40%	39%	43%	29%	46%	32%	
don't know/no opinion	5%	5%	2%	10%	6%	4%	5%	8%	4%	5%	2%	4%	4%	5%	6%	4%	4%	6%	5%	

15. Again, I know it is 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 John Spencer 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%	80%	27%	55%	51%	63%	68%	54%	51%	53%	86%	74%	72%	55%	55%	53%	64%	49%	61%
John Spencer	32%	15%	61%	30%	38%	27%	22%	33%	39%	37%	7%	22%	17%	33%	36%	38%	25%	39%	30%
don't know/no opinion	11%	5%	12%	15%	11%	10%	10%	13%	10%	10%	7%	4%	11%	12%	9%	9%	11%	12%	9%

16. Do you think George Pataki is planning on running for President in 2008?

	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
Yes	37%	39%	36%	34%	39%	34%	37%	39%	35%	37%	33%	48%	27%	38%	38%	39%	36%	33%	31%
No	43%	40%	48%	41%	41%	44%	41%	39%	46%	43%	47%	37%	51%	42%	41%	43%	40%	46%	42%
don't know/no opinion	21%	21%	16%	24%	19%	22%	22%	22%	19%	20%	19%	15%	23%	19%	21%	18%	24%	21%	27%

17. Would you vote for George Pataki for President in 2008?

	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
Yes	20%	12%	30%	18%	20%	19%	20%	21%	18%	17%	18%	44%	37%	19%	16%	20%	20%	19%	23%
No	58%	69%	42%	59%	58%	57%	62%	54%	57%	58%	70%	48%	44%	61%	58%	52%	69%	53%	56%
don't know/no opinion	23%	19%	27%	23%	21%	24%	18%	24%	26%	25%	12%	7%	20%	20%	25%	28%	11%	28%	22%

18. Do you think Hillary Clinton is planning on running for President in 2008?

	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
Yes	60%	58%	67%	58%	65%	56%	55%	63%	61%	61%	53%	67%	68%	57%	61%	67%	49%	58%	53%
No	22%	21%	20%	23%	20%	23%	19%	22%	23%	22%	18%	11%	21%	23%	20%	19%	24%	20%	25%
don't know/no opinion	19%	21%	13%	19%	16%	21%	26%	15%	16%	17%	30%	22%	11%	20%	19%	13%	27%	22%	22%

19. Would you vote for Hillary Clinton for President in 2008?

	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
Yes	36%	55%	16%	27%	28%	43%	41%	33%	35%	31%	67%	56%	56%	31%	35%	33%	44%	29%	47%
No	48%	29%	75%	49%	55%	41%	41%	51%	50%	52%	28%	33%	31%	53%	48%	53%	42%	56%	38%
don't know/no opinion	16%	17%	9%	24%	17%	16%	18%	17%	15%	17%	5%	11%	13%	16%	17%	15%	15%	15%	16%

20. What if the election for President was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and George Pataki 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	49%	71%	20%	45%	43%	54%	58%	46%	44%	45%	81%	67%	58%	47%	48%	43%	58%	43%	52%
George Pataki	36%	20%	63%	32%	40%	32%	28%	44%	37%	40%	7%	33%	34%	35%	38%	43%	35%	39%	32%
don't know/no opinion	15%	9%	17%	22%	16%	14%	13%	9%	19%	15%	12%		8%	17%	14%	14%	7%	19%	16%

