



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:
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Siena New York Poll:

Spitzer Expands Huge Lead Over Republicans Clinton Leads Spencer By 25 Points & McFarland by 28 *Pataki Popularity Tanks in Wake of State Budget Action*

Loudonville, NY – Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has increased his already large lead over former Massachusetts Governor William Weld and former Assembly Minority Leader John Faso, 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 and has a 28 point lead over former Reagan Administration official Kathleen “KT” McFarland.

Governor George Pataki saw his favorable/unfavorable rating drop dramatically to 38 percent favorable, 55 percent unfavorable (from 53-40 percent favorable in March). This is the highest unfavorable rating the Governor has ever received in a Siena New York poll.

“Less than a month from the Republican and Democratic state party conventions and six months from election day, Eliot Spitzer and Hillary Clinton continue their electoral dominance over any potential Republican opponents,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “Spitzer has expanded his lead over both Faso and Weld. He leads Weld by 51 points and Faso by 47 points, grabbing the support of nearly two-thirds of New York voters.

“And Spitzer beats both Faso and Weld handily among *Republicans*, approaching 50 percent of the Republican vote against both men. With a double digit lead among Republicans, Eliot Spitzer is so far leaving the competition in the dust,” Caruso said.

“Hillary maintains a 25 point lead over Spencer, 58 to 33 percent, and leads McFarland by 28 points, 59 to 31 percent,” Caruso said.

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Spitzer's favorable-unfavorable rating is 63-19 percent (virtually unchanged from 62-18 percent in March). Weld has a 9-14 percent favorable-unfavorable rating (down slightly from 11-13 percent in March). Faso is 12-12 percent (down slightly from 15-11 percent in March). Clinton is 58-36 percent (up slightly from 55-39 percent in March). Spencer is 13-11 percent (down slightly from 14-9 percent in March). McFarland is 11-6 percent.

“Governor Pataki saw his favorability rating crash since Siena's March poll, from a net-positive rating of 13 points to a net-negative rating of 17 points. Whether it's the result of his position on the budget, the constant drumbeat of negative commercials, or his increased visibility on the presidential campaign circuit, New Yorkers are liking George Pataki less and less. Even among Republicans, the Governor has only a 49-45 percent favorability rating,” Caruso said. “On the other side of the Capitol equation, there is also not much love among New Yorkers for the legislative leaders.”

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has a 24-31 percent favorable-unfavorable rating and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno stands at 21-29 percent.

“The good news for Silver and Bruno is that almost half of New York voters don't know either one. Of course being unknown to only half the voters would be a major step up for any of the Republican candidates for Governor or U.S. Senator,” Caruso said.

Voters are far more convinced that the state is headed in the “wrong direction” than at any time in the last year and a half. Only 27 percent believe the state is headed on the right track, while 52 percent say the state is headed in the wrong direction.

“By a nearly two-to-one margin, New Yorkers, including two-thirds of upstaters and nearly half of downstate suburbanites, believe the state is headed in the wrong direction. Even optimistic New York City, which had a 15 point margin for the state headed on the right track in March, has only a split view, with 40 percent now saying right track vs. 37 percent wrong direction,” Caruso said.

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This SRI survey was conducted April 24-May 2, 2006 by telephone calls to 620 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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Sienna New York Poll Trends – May 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
May 2006	16	67	17
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
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
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
May 2006	12	12	76
March 2006	15	11	74
October 2005	11	11	78

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2006	9	14	77
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 George Pataki?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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 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 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

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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 John Spencer on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	CLINTON	SPENCER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2006	58	33	10
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
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
May 2006	13	11	76
March 2006	14	9	77
January 2006	12	9	79
November 2005	13	7	80

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2006	24	31	45
July 2005	28	34	38
April 2005	19	30	50

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joseph Bruno?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2006	21	29	50
July 2005	26	30	44
April 2005	18	30	52

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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

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	27%	31%	24%	24%	27%	26%	40%	32%	15%	22%	34%	52%	50%	23%	24%	24%	35%	20%	24%
wrong direction	52%	48%	56%	57%	53%	52%	37%	45%	67%	58%	39%	32%	32%	59%	53%	61%	37%	59%	40%
don't know/no opinion	21%	21%	21%	19%	20%	22%	23%	24%	18%	20%	27%	16%	18%	18%	23%	15%	28%	20%	36%

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	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	38%	29%	49%	40%	37%	39%	39%	50%	30%	36%	40%	55%	45%	37%	37%	39%	30%	35%	46%
unfavorable	55%	63%	45%	53%	55%	54%	55%	41%	62%	57%	55%	29%	47%	56%	55%	53%	61%	56%	49%
don't know/no opinion	7%	8%	6%	7%	8%	7%	6%	9%	8%	7%	5%	16%	8%	6%	8%	8%	9%	9%	4%

3. 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	63%	73%	55%	56%	63%	62%	61%	63%	63%	64%	66%	58%	50%	64%	64%	61%	79%	62%	54%
unfavorable	19%	12%	23%	27%	21%	17%	17%	19%	19%	20%	5%	16%	23%	18%	19%	21%	16%	21%	18%
don't know/no opinion	19%	15%	22%	17%	16%	21%	22%	17%	18%	15%	29%	26%	27%	18%	17%	18%	5%	17%	29%

4. 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%	79%	31%	54%	51%	65%	69%	52%	53%	51%	89%	81%	62%	60%	56%	56%	58%	50%	73%
unfavorable	36%	14%	65%	40%	42%	31%	25%	40%	42%	44%	3%	19%	33%	36%	37%	39%	39%	44%	20%
don't know/no opinion	6%	7%	4%	6%	8%	4%	6%	7%	5%	5%	8%	0%	5%	4%	7%	5%	4%	6%	8%

5. John Faso

	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	12%	9%	16%	13%	13%	11%	8%	16%	13%	14%	8%	6%	15%	12%	12%	18%	4%	9%	8%
unfavorable	12%	14%	8%	12%	14%	10%	11%	12%	12%	11%	15%	13%	14%	10%	12%	8%	11%	14%	16%
don't know/no opinion	76%	77%	76%	76%	73%	79%	81%	71%	75%	75%	77%	81%	71%	78%	76%	74%	86%	77%	76%

6. John Spencer

	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	13%	14%	11%	17%	14%	13%	15%	14%	12%	13%	23%	13%	15%	15%	12%	16%	5%	13%	13%
unfavorable	11%	9%	11%	13%	14%	8%	11%	16%	7%	9%	13%	26%	17%	11%	9%	9%	9%	10%	13%
don't know/no opinion	76%	77%	78%	71%	72%	79%	74%	71%	80%	78%	65%	61%	68%	74%	79%	75%	86%	77%	74%

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	9%	6%	12%	13%	13%	6%	6%	12%	10%	10%	5%	6%	11%	8%	10%	10%	9%	10%	4%
unfavorable	14%	16%	11%	12%	15%	12%	13%	14%	14%	14%	16%	6%	14%	13%	14%	8%	12%	15%	14%
don't know/no opinion	77%	78%	77%	75%	72%	81%	81%	74%	77%	76%	79%	87%	76%	78%	77%	82%	79%	75%	81%

8. Kathleen "KT" McFarland																			
	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%	11%	10%	11%	11%	12%	10%	11%	16%	10%	17%	12%	9%	14%	9%	8%	12%
unfavorable	6%	9%	4%	3%	7%	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	6%	10%	6%	6%	6%	5%	4%	6%	5%
don't know/no opinion	83%	80%	86%	86%	82%	83%	84%	81%	82%	83%	77%	81%	77%	83%	84%	81%	88%	86%	82%

9. Joseph Bruno																			
	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	21%	15%	31%	19%	22%	20%	17%	20%	24%	21%	19%	23%	11%	21%	23%	30%	14%	18%	15%
unfavorable	29%	31%	24%	36%	36%	23%	33%	26%	28%	32%	23%	19%	26%	29%	30%	22%	44%	29%	23%
don't know/no opinion	50%	54%	46%	45%	42%	57%	49%	53%	48%	47%	58%	58%	64%	50%	47%	49%	42%	53%	62%

10. Sheldon Silver																			
	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	24%	30%	16%	23%	25%	22%	34%	21%	18%	22%	31%	19%	23%	22%	24%	17%	63%	18%	16%
unfavorable	31%	24%	38%	35%	37%	26%	23%	29%	38%	37%	10%	13%	24%	28%	35%	31%	23%	39%	19%
don't know/no opinion	45%	46%	46%	43%	38%	52%	43%	50%	44%	41%	60%	68%	53%	50%	41%	51%	14%	43%	65%

11. Alan Hevesi																			
	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	37%	44%	33%	29%	40%	34%	47%	43%	26%	36%	42%	32%	21%	38%	40%	35%	68%	34%	32%
unfavorable	10%	10%	6%	13%	14%	6%	12%	9%	8%	9%	15%	6%	14%	9%	9%	7%	7%	9%	13%
don't know/no opinion	53%	46%	61%	57%	47%	60%	41%	47%	66%	55%	44%	61%	65%	53%	51%	58%	25%	57%	55%

12. I know it's a long way off, but if the election for governor was 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	17%	4%	34%	18%	18%	17%	13%	22%	18%	21%	5%	16%	17%	19%	17%	20%	9%	22%	19%
Eliot Spitzer	64%	84%	46%	54%	64%	65%	67%	61%	64%	62%	77%	61%	55%	67%	65%	59%	74%	63%	62%
don't know/no opinion	18%	12%	20%	28%	18%	19%	20%	16%	18%	17%	18%	23%	29%	14%	18%	20%	18%	15%	20%

13. 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)																				
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
		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	16%	4%	31%	19%	17%	15%	13%	19%	17%	19%	3%	10%	15%	16%	17%	18%	11%	22%	15%	
Eliot Spitzer	67%	84%	49%	58%	67%	66%	72%	63%	65%	63%	84%	68%	62%	69%	66%	63%	79%	64%	65%	
don't know/no opinion	17%	12%	20%	23%	16%	18%	16%	18%	18%	17%	13%	23%	23%	15%	17%	19%	11%	14%	20%	

14. 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?																				
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
		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%	31%	50%	51%	66%	70%	55%	53%	52%	87%	74%	58%	58%	59%	56%	60%	50%	70%	
prefer someone else	37%	15%	65%	43%	44%	32%	27%	42%	42%	44%	10%	26%	41%	37%	37%	41%	39%	44%	24%	
don't know/no opinion	4%	3%	4%	7%	6%	2%	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%	0%	2%	5%	4%	3%	2%	6%	5%	

15. 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 John Spencer on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)																				
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
		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%	28%	49%	53%	62%	70%	52%	52%	50%	89%	71%	62%	56%	57%	53%	65%	47%	70%	
John Spencer	33%	12%	62%	33%	37%	29%	22%	39%	37%	40%	6%	26%	29%	32%	35%	41%	21%	42%	19%	
don't know/no opinion	10%	5%	11%	18%	10%	9%	8%	10%	11%	9%	5%	3%	9%	12%	8%	6%	14%	11%	11%	

16. How about if the election for US Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Kathleen "KT" McFarland on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)																				
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
		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%	85%	28%	49%	53%	64%	70%	57%	52%	52%	84%	81%	61%	57%	60%	56%	67%	51%	68%	
Kathleen "KT" McFarland	31%	9%	60%	35%	36%	27%	20%	33%	37%	39%	10%	13%	29%	32%	32%	36%	19%	40%	20%	
don't know/no opinion	10%	6%	12%	17%	11%	9%	10%	10%	10%	9%	6%	6%	11%	11%	9%	8%	14%	9%	12%	

