



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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For Immediate Release:
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Siena New York Poll:

Spitzer Support Slides; Still Strong

On-time Budget Important – Good Budget More Important
Hillary & Rudy Romp in NY Primaries;
Clinton Strongest in General Election

Loudonville, NY – After millions of dollars have been spent attacking and defending his budget proposals, Governor Eliot Spitzer remains popular with New York voters, although his favorable rating has fallen from six-to-one positive to three-to-one positive in the last month, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters released today. Voters overwhelmingly think an on-time budget is important, but also strongly believe that a good budget is more important than an on-time budget. Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Rudy Giuliani continue to romp in the New York primaries, and Clinton has double-digit leads over Giuliani and John McCain.

“While Spitzer continues to earn strong public support, the budget battles are moving some New Yorkers from the pro-Spitzer column to the anti-Spitzer column,” said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman. “His favorability rating is down 12 points in the past month, while his unfavorable rating is up eight points. There has been a similar shift in his job performance rating.”

Less than half of voters – 47 percent – think he’s doing an excellent or good job, down from 58 percent last month, while 39 percent think he’s doing a fair or poor job, up from 24 percent.

“Spitzer is spending some of the political capital he earned in his record victory,” Greenberg said. “He’s taken some hits but voters continue to show support and they’re not ready to knock him down.”

More than nine in ten voters believe an on-time budget is very or somewhat important. Eight in ten voters think it’s more important to have a good budget than an on-time budget.

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“Voters believe an on-time budget is important but not nearly as important as a good budget,” Greenberg said. “And if the deadline is missed and there’s no budget by the weekend, voters spread the blame widely and don’t single out the Governor or either house of the Legislature. Forty-one percent place the blame on the Legislature and Governor equally, and one-third say both houses of the Legislature share blame equally for a late budget.”

Joe Bruno’s favorability rating (17 percent favorable, 37 percent unfavorable) is virtually unchanged since January. Shelly Silver’s (23 percent to 35 percent) is up slightly (from 20-37 percent).

On the New York presidential primary front, Clinton and Giuliani maintain commanding leads among members of their respective parties.

“Hillary and Rudy maintain strong leads with less than a year to go until the New York primaries,” Greenberg said. “No other candidate in either party is making a dent in New York. In fact, only Al Gore, Barack Obama and John McCain are getting double digit support.

DEMOCRATIC NY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY			
Candidate	Mar. '07	Feb. '07	Jan. '07
Clinton	43%	44%	58%
Gore	14%	11%	NA
Obama	11%	13%	11%
Edwards	7%	8%	9%
Richardson	4%	2%	4%
Kucinich	3%	2%	1%
Biden	1%	4%	4%
Dodd	0%	1%	0%
DK/NO	17%	15%	13%

“While Hillary would keep New York solidly blue, leading Rudy by 12 points and McCain by 19 points, Obama only leads McCain by eight points and is losing in a tight race against Rudy.”

REPUBLICAN NY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY			
Candidate	Mar. '07	Feb. '07	Jan. '07
Giuliani	48%	45%	47%
McCain	16%	17%	20%
Gingrich	8%	11%	9%
Pataki	7%	3%	5%
Romney	6%	5%	5%
Brownback	1%	1%	1%
DK/NO	14%	19%	13%

For the first time since the November election, New York voters are no longer optimistic about the direction of the State. They are now evenly divided with 37 percent saying New York is on

Month	Hillary Clinton vs.		Barack Obama vs.	
	Giuliani	McCain	Giuliani	McCain
March 2007	51-39-9	54-35-11	42-45-13	47-39-14
Nov. 2006	53-39-8	55-36-9	41-47-12	39-40-21
Aug. 2006	42-48-9	42-46-12		
Oct. 2005	43-48-9			

the right track and 37 percent saying it is headed in the wrong direction. Downstate voters remains optimistic, while upstate voters are – like before the election – much more pessimistic.

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This SRI survey was conducted March 19-22, 2007 by telephone calls to 622 registered New York State voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.9 percentage points. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858.



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Sienna New York Poll Trends – March 2007

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	62	20	18
February 2007	74	12	14
January 2007	75	10	16
November 15, 2006	75	14	12
November 3, 2006	74	17	10
October 2006	69	20	12
September 2006	74	16	10
August 2006	71	15	15
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

How would you rate the job that Eliot Spitzer is doing as Governor – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	8	39	31	8	13
February 2007	15	43	21	3	20
January 2007	11	37	15	4	33

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	9	14	78
February 2007	9	15	76

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	50	32	19
February 2007	45	35	20
January 2007	48	29	23
November 15, 2006	50	36	15
November 3, 2006	49	36	15
October 2006	44	42	15
September 2006	50	35	15
August 2006	44	35	21
June 2006	47	29	24
January 2006	45	31	24

How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Attorney General – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007					
March 2007	5	35	29	8	23
January 2007	11	37	15	4	33

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	56	37	8
February 2007	56	40	5
January 2007	60	33	7
November 15, 2006	65	29	6
November 3, 2006	61	33	6
October 2006	56	38	6
September 2006	60	37	4
August 2006	54	38	7
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

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	52	20	28
February 2007	52	21	28
January 2007	50	17	34
November 15, 2006	48	12	40

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	45	34	21
February 2007	47	33	19
January 2007	51	29	21
November 15, 2006	56	24	20

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rudy Giuliani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	60	33	8
February 2007	59	34	7
January 2007	63	29	9
November 15, 2006	63	32	5
April 2005	63	26	10
February 2005	61	28	11

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	17	37	46
January 2007	17	36	47
May 2006	21	29	50
July 2005	26	30	44
April 2005	18	30	52

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	23	35	42
January 2007	20	37	43
May 2006	24	31	45
July 2005	28	34	38
April 2005	19	30	50

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If the Democratic Primary were held today and the candidates for the presidential nomination were (rotate choices) Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Bill Richardson, Chris Dodd, Tom Vilsack, Dennis Kucinich, Joe Biden, or Al Gore who would you vote for? *(Note: Democrats only; choices rotated. Not all candidates were included in each poll; NA indicates where a candidate was not included.)*

DATE	OBAMA	CLINTON	EDWARDS	RICHARDSON	DODD
March 2007	11	43	7	4	0
February 2007	13	44	8	2	1
January 2007	11	58	9	4	0

	KUCINICH	BIDEN	GORE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
March 2007	3	1	14	17
February 2007	2	4	11	15
January 2007	1	4	NA	13

If the Republican Primary were held today and the candidates for the presidential nomination were (rotate choices) Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Sam Brownback, Mitt Romney, George Pataki, and Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for? *(Note: Republicans only; choices rotated)*

DATE	GIULIANI	MCCAIN	BROWNBACK	ROMNEY
March 2007	48	16	1	6
February 2007	45	17	1	5
January 2007	47	20	1	5

	PATAKI	GINGRICH	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	7	8	14
February 2007	3	11	19
January 2007	5	9	13

If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for (ROTATE CHOICES)?

DATE	CLINTON	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	51	39	9
November 15, 2006	53	39	8
August 2006	42	48	9
October 2005	43	48	9

If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and John McCain on the Republican line, who would you vote for (ROTATE CHOICES)?

DATE	CLINTON	MCCAIN	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	54	35	11
November 15, 2006	55	36	9
August 2006	42	46	12

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If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for (ROTATE CHOICES)?

DATE	OBAMA	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	42	45	13
November 15, 2006	41	47	12

If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and John McCain on the Republican line, who would you vote for (ROTATE CHOICES)?

DATE	OBAMA	MCCAIN	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2007	47	39	14
November 15, 2006	39	40	21

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 2007	37	37	26
February 2007	49	26	25
January 2007	45	26	30
November 15, 2006	52	30	18
November 3, 2006	36	43	21
October 2006	29	47	23
September 2006:	33	39	28
August 2006	29	47	25
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