



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/sri

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

Tuesday, May 29, 2007
Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858

Siena New York Poll:

NYers Oppose Legislative Pay Raise; Support Death Penalty for Cop Killers; Nearly Evenly Divided on Gay Marriage

Support for Public Campaign Finance Reform; Voters Think Spitzer Hurts Chances to Enact Reform Given His Fundraising
Spitzer & Cuomo Job Performance Ratings Edge Up Slightly

Loudonville, NY By a nearly two-to-one margin, New York voters oppose a pay increase for state legislators, and they support reinstituting the death penalty for those convicted of killing police officers, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll released today. The new Siena poll also shows that New Yorkers are divided on the issue of gay marriage, support public campaign financing for statewide offices and believe that Governor Eliot Spitzer's campaign finance reform legislation would make elections fairer. They also believe that the Governor's fundraising makes it more difficult to enact campaign finance reform.

"While New York voters want the Legislature to enact campaign finance reform and bring back the death penalty for cop killers, on the issue of the Legislature giving itself a pay raise, New Yorkers say 'no' strongly and loudly," said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman.

By a margin of 62-32 percent, New York voters oppose a legislative pay hike. At least 56 percent of Democrats, Republicans, independents, New York City and suburban voters oppose the pay hike, and by a margin of 70-24 percent upstaters oppose it.

"On the issue of gay marriage, New Yorkers are divided. While 43 percent support legalizing gay marriage, 47 percent oppose it. A majority of Democrats, voters under 55 years old and Jewish voters support gay marriage. Republicans are most strongly opposed, although a majority of independent voters, Catholics, Protestants and voters 55 and older also oppose such a law," Greenberg said.

Reinstituting the death penalty for those convicted of killing law enforcement officials is supported by a margin of 52-42 percent. More than three-quarters of Republicans support it, a majority of Democrats oppose it and independent voters are nearly evenly divided. It has strong support in the downstate suburbs and upstate, but is opposed in New York City.

By a margin of 51-37 percent, New York voters support public campaign financing, with support strongest among Democrats, young voters and in New York City. Republicans and upstaters are essentially evenly divided. A plurality of every demographic group, and a majority of most, believe that the Governor's proposal on campaign finance reform would make elections fairer. Overall, 53 percent of voters think it would make elections fairer, seven percent think it would make elections less fair, and 28 percent think it would have no effect.

"New York voters tell Siena, 'Yes' to public campaign financing and 'Yes' to Governor Spitzer's campaign finance reform," Greenberg said. "But they also say the Governor is hurting his chances of getting reform because of the fundraising he has been doing, which has received a lot of attention."

Spitzer's favorable/unfavorable rating is 67-21 percent, virtually unchanged in the last month. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's favorable/unfavorable rating, 51-32 percent, was also essentially unchanged in the last month. Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's favorable/unfavorable rating fell to 7-18 percent, down from 11-14 percent in April.

"Spitzer and Cuomo both saw their favorable ratings remain constant but both enjoy strengthened job performance ratings. By a 57-36 margin, voters give Spitzer a positive job performance rating, and Cuomo has a positive 50-35 percent rating," Greenberg said. "Five months into their terms, both Cuomo and Spitzer are getting good reviews from most voters, although not from Republicans.

"New York voters remain overwhelmingly upbeat downstate, and even a plurality of upstaters think the state is headed in the right direction. Young voters and Democrats are very optimistic, while a plurality of Republicans say the state is headed in the wrong direction," Greenberg said.

###

This SRI survey was conducted May 18-25, 2007 by telephone calls to 620 registered New York State voters. It has a margin of error of \pm 3.9 percentage points. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY
www.siena.edu/sri

Siena New York Poll Trends – May 2007

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| May 2007 | 67 | 21 | 12 |
| April 2007 | 67 | 20 | 13 |
| 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 |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| May 2007 | 11 | 46 | 27 | 9 | 7 |
| April 2007 | 10 | 45 | 31 | 7 | 7 |
| 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 |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| May 2007 | 7 | 18 | 75 |
| April 2007 | 11 | 14 | 76 |
| March 2007 | 9 | 14 | 78 |
| February 2007 | 9 | 15 | 76 |

Siena New York Poll Trends – May 2007

Page 2

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| May 2007 | 51 | 32 | 18 |
| April 2007 | 52 | 31 | 18 |
| 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 |
|--------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| May 2007 | 9 | 41 | 26 | 9 | 16 |
| April 2007 | 8 | 39 | 29 | 9 | 15 |
| March 2007 | 5 | 35 | 29 | 8 | 23 |
| January 2007 | 11 | 37 | 15 | 4 | 33 |

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 2007 | 46 | 29 | 25 |
| April 2007 | 47 | 29 | 24 |
| 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 |

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 | 46% | 55% | 35% | 40% | 47% | 45% | 48% | 51% | 41% | 47% | 35% | 62% | 67% | 48% | 43% | 47% | 61% | 44% | 35% |
| wrong direction | 29% | 19% | 42% | 34% | 33% | 26% | 23% | 28% | 36% | 30% | 35% | 19% | 14% | 32% | 29% | 32% | 15% | 32% | 35% |
| don't know/no opinion | 25% | 26% | 23% | 25% | 20% | 29% | 29% | 21% | 23% | 24% | 30% | 19% | 20% | 20% | 28% | 21% | 24% | 24% | 31% |

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. 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 | 67% | 79% | 52% | 59% | 65% | 68% | 71% | 55% | 71% | 68% | 67% | 71% | 63% | 69% | 67% | 63% | 79% | 66% | 58% |
| unfavorable | 21% | 14% | 30% | 25% | 22% | 19% | 17% | 29% | 18% | 21% | 21% | 19% | 22% | 21% | 20% | 25% | 8% | 19% | 25% |
| don't know/no opinion | 12% | 7% | 18% | 16% | 12% | 12% | 12% | 16% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 10% | 16% | 10% | 13% | 12% | 13% | 15% | 16% |

4. Thomas DiNapoli

| | 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% | 8% | 7% | 9% | 5% | 7% | 10% | 6% | 8% | 2% | 14% | 12% | 10% | 5% | 9% | 3% | 3% | 4% |
| unfavorable | 18% | 18% | 18% | 17% | 20% | 15% | 18% | 17% | 17% | 17% | 16% | 33% | 31% | 17% | 16% | 18% | 11% | 17% | 20% |
| don't know/no opinion | 75% | 75% | 74% | 76% | 70% | 80% | 75% | 73% | 77% | 76% | 81% | 52% | 57% | 72% | 79% | 74% | 85% | 80% | 76% |

5. Andrew Cuomo

| | 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 | 51% | 67% | 26% | 45% | 47% | 53% | 61% | 44% | 45% | 48% | 70% | 71% | 49% | 46% | 53% | 47% | 68% | 46% | 51% |
| unfavorable | 32% | 18% | 53% | 35% | 35% | 29% | 26% | 40% | 31% | 34% | 14% | 24% | 27% | 33% | 32% | 36% | 15% | 31% | 31% |
| don't know/no opinion | 18% | 15% | 20% | 20% | 18% | 17% | 13% | 15% | 24% | 18% | 16% | 5% | 24% | 21% | 16% | 17% | 18% | 23% | 18% |

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

| | 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 |
| excellent | 11% | 15% | 6% | 9% | 12% | 10% | 12% | 12% | 10% | 11% | 14% | 14% | 14% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 13% | 10% | 9% |
| good | 46% | 52% | 36% | 45% | 45% | 46% | 44% | 39% | 52% | 46% | 44% | 48% | 47% | 45% | 45% | 40% | 58% | 53% | 38% |
| fair | 27% | 22% | 36% | 26% | 25% | 29% | 28% | 28% | 25% | 27% | 33% | 24% | 29% | 26% | 27% | 28% | 19% | 27% | 36% |
| poor | 9% | 5% | 14% | 11% | 10% | 8% | 8% | 12% | 9% | 10% | 2% | 10% | 4% | 10% | 9% | 15% | 0% | 5% | 9% |
| don't know/no opinion | 7% | 6% | 8% | 9% | 7% | 7% | 8% | 10% | 5% | 7% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 6% | 8% | 7% | 10% | 5% | 7% |

| | | 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 |
| excellent | 9% | 12% | 5% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 10% | 7% | 8% | 9% | 12% | 5% | 0% | 7% | 10% | 9% | 13% | 9% | 5% |
| good | 41% | 49% | 29% | 37% | 37% | 44% | 43% | 36% | 42% | 39% | 51% | 52% | 49% | 38% | 41% | 38% | 47% | 47% | 35% |
| fair | 26% | 21% | 36% | 22% | 25% | 26% | 25% | 28% | 24% | 26% | 21% | 29% | 37% | 23% | 26% | 29% | 13% | 22% | 31% |
| poor | 9% | 4% | 13% | 13% | 11% | 7% | 8% | 12% | 8% | 9% | 5% | 10% | 8% | 11% | 8% | 10% | 2% | 5% | 16% |
| don't know/no opinion | 16% | 14% | 16% | 21% | 19% | 14% | 14% | 17% | 18% | 17% | 12% | 5% | 6% | 21% | 16% | 14% | 26% | 17% | 13% |

| | | 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 |
| support | 43% | 56% | 26% | 37% | 44% | 43% | 49% | 42% | 38% | 46% | 33% | 48% | 63% | 51% | 37% | 36% | 60% | 35% | 35% |
| oppose | 47% | 34% | 65% | 53% | 47% | 47% | 42% | 50% | 49% | 44% | 53% | 48% | 29% | 41% | 51% | 53% | 26% | 53% | 58% |
| don't know/no opinion | 10% | 10% | 9% | 10% | 10% | 11% | 9% | 7% | 13% | 10% | 14% | 5% | 8% | 8% | 12% | 11% | 15% | 11% | 7% |

| | | 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 |
| support | 52% | 40% | 77% | 49% | 54% | 51% | 42% | 60% | 57% | 55% | 28% | 43% | 45% | 49% | 55% | 57% | 50% | 57% | 40% |
| oppose | 42% | 53% | 19% | 47% | 40% | 44% | 50% | 36% | 39% | 40% | 65% | 38% | 47% | 44% | 40% | 38% | 42% | 38% | 45% |
| don't know/no opinion | 6% | 7% | 4% | 4% | 7% | 5% | 8% | 5% | 4% | 5% | 7% | 19% | 8% | 8% | 5% | 5% | 8% | 5% | 15% |

| | | 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 |
| support | 51% | 57% | 42% | 49% | 53% | 48% | 58% | 52% | 42% | 50% | 53% | 62% | 59% | 45% | 52% | 43% | 63% | 50% | 47% |
| oppose | 37% | 31% | 43% | 40% | 38% | 36% | 31% | 37% | 42% | 38% | 30% | 38% | 31% | 43% | 35% | 45% | 23% | 36% | 35% |
| don't know/no opinion | 13% | 11% | 15% | 11% | 9% | 16% | 11% | 11% | 16% | 12% | 16% | 0% | 10% | 12% | 13% | 12% | 15% | 14% | 18% |

[illegible]

19. While the Governor is pushing the Legislature on campaign finance reform, he has been raising campaign money himself, even though his election is in 2010. While he has voluntarily and significantly reduced the amount of money his campaign will accept, some have said he is being hypocritical raising campaign funds while promoting campaign finance reform. Do you think the Governor's fundraising makes it more difficult to enact campaign finance reform?

[illegible]

20. State legislators currently receive a base salary of \$79,500, and most make additional money for committee or leadership assignments. Lately there has been talk of legislators increasing their salary for the first time since 1999. Do you support or oppose a pay hike for state legislators?

| | | 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 | 32% | 36% | 24% | 29% | 36% | 27% | 35% | 37% | 24% | 31% | 42% | 43% | 45% | 30% | 31% | 32% | 29% | 24% | 36% |
| no | 62% | 56% | 70% | 66% | 58% | 66% | 57% | 57% | 70% | 62% | 56% | 57% | 47% | 63% | 63% | 64% | 53% | 69% | 60% |
| don't know/no opinion | 7% | 8% | 6% | 5% | 6% | 7% | 8% | 6% | 6% | 7% | 2% | 0% | 8% | 8% | 6% | 4% | 18% | 6% | 4% |