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Siena College NYS Democratic Primary Poll:

Cuomo Increases Lead Over Nixon to 41 Points, 63-22% Tight AG Race: Maloney 25%, James 24%, Teachout 18%, Eve 3% *Hochul Widens Lead Over Williams for LG 43-21%; 35% Remain Undecided*

Loudonville, NY. Just days before Democrats choose their nominees for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, Governor Andrew Cuomo has extended his lead over Cynthia Nixon. Cuomo leads Nixon 63-22 percent, up from 60-29 percent at the end of July, according to a new Siena College poll of likely Democratic primary voters. Cuomo's favorability rating stands at 68-24 percent, up from 67-29 percent in July, while Nixon's 41-33 percent favorability rating has slipped from 43-30 percent.

The race for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General is wide open as Representative Sean Patrick Maloney has the support of 25 percent of likely Democrats, New York City Public Advocate Letitia James has the support of 24 percent of likely voters, Zephyr Teachout has the support of 18 percent, and Leecia Eve trails far behind with three percent support. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul leads New York City Councilman Jumaane Williams 43-21 percent, up from 30-21 percent in July, although 35 percent remain undecided.

"Cuomo has expanded his two-to-one lead in July and now seems poised to overwhelm Nixon in Thursday's Democratic primary. With a lead of nearly 40 points among all likely voters, Cuomo has a lead of at least 20 points with every demographic group and leads by at least 30 points in every region of the state," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"While the Nixon campaign has talked about increased turnout among new, young and more progressive voters, it doesn't appear that that will help her – even if an increase in turnout among those groups occurs. Cuomo has a lead of more than two-to-one, 59-28 percent, with voters under 35 years old and he has an even larger lead among self-described liberals, 65-24 percent," Greenberg said. "There is also a sizable gender gap as Cuomo leads by 31 points with men and an even larger 48 points with women.

"Likely Democratic primary voters view Cuomo far more favorably, 68-24 percent, than they view Nixon, 41-33 percent. Liberals give Cuomo a 50-point net positive favorability rating, compared to an only 14-point net positive favorability rating for Nixon," Greenberg said. "While black voters view Cuomo favorably 83-5 percent, they view Nixon *unfavorably* 27-32 percent."

Andrew Cuomo vs. Cynthia Nixon								
	September 10			July 31			Cuomo Lead	
	Cuomo	Nixon	DK/ Other	Cuomo	Nixon	DK/ Other	9/10	7/31
Likely Primary Voters	63%	22%	15%	60%	29%	11%	41 Points	31 Points
New York City	68%	18%	15%	60%	31%	8%	50 Points	29 Points
Downstate Suburbs	59%	22%	19%	74%	16%	10%	37 Points	58 Points
Upstate	59%	27%	14%	54%	33%	13%	32 Points	21 Points
Men	59%	28%	12%	59%	33%	8%	31 Points	26 Points
Women	66%	18%	17%	61%	27%	12%	48 Points	34 Points
White	58%	26%	15%	56%	33%	11%	32 Points	23 Points
Black	84%	7%	9%	75%	19%	6%	77 Points	56 Points
Latino	76%	15%	9%	67%	28%	5%	61 Points	39 Points
18-34 years old	59%	28%	12%	51%	37%	12%	31 Points	14 Points
35-54 years old	48%	28%	25%	54%	37%	9%	20 Points	17 Points
55+ years old	70%	19%	11%	64%	25%	10%	51 Points	39 Points
Siena College Poll – September 10, 2018 – Likely Democratic Primary Voters								

“Nearly 90 percent of Democrats supporting Cuomo say they are voting *for* him more than voting *against* Nixon, however, half of Nixon voters say their vote is more *against* Cuomo than it is *for* her,” Greenberg said.

“By 26-point margins Democrats say Cuomo would be better than Nixon on improving public education and creating fair tax policies. They say he would be better on infrastructure, including mass transit, by 44 points. And while closely divided on two issues, they give a small nod to Cuomo on advancing progressive policies and a small nod to Nixon on combatting corruption in state government,” Greenberg said.

Who Will Do A Better Job – Cuomo or Nixon – on Issues?			
		9/10	7/31
Combatting corruption in state government	Cuomo	39%	40%
	Nixon	42%	46%
Fixing NY’s infrastructure, including mass transit as well as roads & bridges	Cuomo	65%	61%
	Nixon	21%	26%
Advancing progressive policies	Cuomo	44%	40%
	Nixon	42%	45%
Improving public education	Cuomo	55%	48%
	Nixon	29%	34%
Creating a tax structure fair for all New Yorkers	Cuomo	54%	51%
	Nixon	28%	30%
Siena College Poll – September 10, 2018 – Likely Democratic Primary Voters			

Maloney & James Each Have Support from About Quarter of Democrats; Teachout Close Behind

Maloney has a 35-13 percent favorability rating, up from 21-12 percent in July. James has a 37-10 percent favorability rating, essentially unchanged from 36-10 percent in July. Teachout’s favorability rating is 30-11 percent, up a little from 27-12 percent in July. Eve is at 12-8 percent, largely unmoved from 9-7 percent in July.

“With nearly one-third of likely Democratic primary voters still undecided just days before they go to the polls, the race for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General is going down to the wire with Maloney, James and Teachout all within striking distance of each other,” Greenberg said. “It comes down to two issues: who can bring undecided voters into their column and which campaign does a better job of turning out its supporters.”

“James has a significant lead in New York City – which is likely to account for about half of primary voters – a similar lead with voters under 35 and with Latino voters. She has a commanding lead with black voters, having the support of 58 percent, with Maloney in a distant second at 12 percent,” Greenberg said. “Maloney leads by seven points over Teachout upstate, with James a distant third, and has a significant lead in the downstate suburbs, with James 20 points back and Teachout right behind her.

“Liberals could not be more closely divided, with 24 percent supporting Maloney, 24 percent supporting Teachout and 23 percent supporting James,” Greenberg said. “Among men, Maloney leads James by four points with Teachout six points behind James. Women are also closely divided, with 25 percent supporting James and 24 percent supporting Maloney; Teachout has 18 percent support.

“Democrats supporting Cuomo for Governor give James the edge over Maloney 28-25 percent, with Teachout at 13 percent. Those supporting Nixon are closely divided between Teachout at 30 percent and Maloney at 29 percent; James runs third with 20 percent,” Greenberg said.

Hochul Extends Lead Over Williams in LG Race; She Leads 43-21 Percent; More than 1/3 Still Undecided

Hochul has a 35-12-54 percent favorability rating, up from 21-11-68 percent in July, compared to Williams’ 22-9-69 percent favorability rating, largely unchanged from 20-8-72 percent in July.

“While Hochul has a two-to-one lead over Williams – up from a nine-point lead in July – she is still well shy of the 50 percent plus one needed to win the race, as 35 percent of Democrats remain undecided,” Greenberg said. “It’s not particularly surprising that there is such a large undecided bloc this late in the race given how little voters know about both candidates. Hochul has become a little bit more well known over the last several weeks but she remains largely unknown to more than half, as Williams remains largely unknown to more than two-thirds.

“Hochul has a small six-point lead in New York City, where she previously trailed by nine points. She has a better than two-to-one lead in the downstate suburbs and she trounces Williams upstate,” Greenberg said. “In July, Williams had a large lead with black voters but that has evaporated as black voters are now nearly evenly divided. Latino voters support Williams by eight points but white voters favor Hochul by 31 points. As expected she has a large lead among Democrats supporting Cuomo, 48-20 percent, but she also has a lead among Nixon supporters, 41-28 percent.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted September 4-7, 2018 by telephone calls conducted in English to 509 likely New York State Democratic primary voters. It has an overall margin of error of ± 4.3 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers from the L-2 Voter list. A likely-to-vote probability was computed for each respondent based on both their stated likelihood to vote as well as by virtue of the imputation of a turnout probability score based on past voting behavior. This probability to vote was applied as a weight along with a weight that considered historic-by-region turnout, age and gender. Polling support was provided by PORL at the University of North Florida. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey cross-tabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Democratic Primary Poll Trends – September 2018

Q. 1 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
September 2018	59	22	18
July 2018	55	28	17
HIGHEST EVER	59 (9/18)	28 (7/18)	18 (9/18)
LOWEST EVER	55 (7/18)	22 (9/18)	17 (7/18)

Q. 2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	68	24	8
July 2018	67	29	4
HIGHEST EVER	68 (9/18)	29 (7/18)	8 (9/18)
LOWEST EVER	67 (7/18)	24 (9/18)	4 (7/18)

Q. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Cynthia Nixon?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	41	33	26
July 2018	43	30	27
HIGHEST EVER	43 (7/18)	33 (9/18)	27 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	41 (9/18)	30 (7/18)	26 (9/18)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	37	10	53
July 2018	36	10	54
HIGHEST EVER	37 (9/18)	10 (9/18, 7/18)	54 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	36 (7/18)	10 (9/18, 7/18)	53 (9/18)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Leecia Eve?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	12	8	80
July 2018	9	7	83
HIGHEST EVER	12 (9/18)	8 (9/18)	83 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	9 (7/18)	7 (7/18)	80 (9/18)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Zephyr Teachout?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	30	11	59
July 2018	27	12	61
HIGHEST EVER	30 (9/18)	12 (7/18)	61 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	27 (7/18)	11 (9/18)	59 (9/18)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sean Patrick Maloney?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	35	13	52
July 2018	21	12	67
HIGHEST EVER	35 (9/18)	13 (9/18)	67 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	21 (7/18)	12 (7/18)	52 (9/18)

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Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	35	12	54
July 2018	21	11	68
HIGHEST EVER	35 (9/18)	12 (9/18)	68 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	21 (7/18)	11 (7/18)	54 (9/18)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jumaane Williams?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	22	9	69
July 2018	20	8	72
HIGHEST EVER	22 (9/18)	9 (9/18)	72 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/18)	8 (7/18)	69 (9/18)

Q. 10 If the Democratic primary for Governor was held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo and Cynthia Nixon, who would you vote for? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	OTHER/NOBODY/DK/NO
September 2018	63	22	15
July 2018	60	29	11
HIGHEST EVER	63 (9/18)	29 (7/18)	15 (9/18)
LOWEST EVER	60 (7/18)	22 (9/18)	11 (7/18)

Q. 11 (CUOMO VOTERS:) Would you describe yourself as more for Cuomo or more against Nixon?

DATE	FOR CUOMO	AGAINST NIXON	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	89	7	4
July 2018	83	11	6
HIGHEST EVER	89 (9/18)	11 (7/18)	6 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	83 (7/18)	7 (9/18)	4 (9/18)

Q. 12 (NIXON VOTERS:) Would you describe yourself as more for Nixon or more against Cuomo?

DATE	FOR NIXON	AGAINST CUOMO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2018	45	50	5
July 2018	38	60	2
HIGHEST EVER	45 (9/18)	60 (7/18)	5 (9/18)
LOWEST EVER	38 (7/18)	50 (9/18)	2 (7/18)

Q. 13 If the Democratic primary for Attorney General was held today and the candidates were Leecia Eve, Letitia James, Zephyr Teachout, and Sean Patrick Maloney, who would you vote for? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	EVE	JAMES	TEACHOUT	MALONEY	OTHER/NOBODY/DK/NO
September 2018	3	24	18	25	31
July 2018	4	25	13	16	42
HIGHEST EVER	4 (7/18)	25 (7/18)	18 (9/18)	25 (9/18)	42 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	3 (9/18)	24 (9/18)	13 (7/18)	16 (7/18)	31 (9/18)

Q. 14 If the Democratic primary for Lieutenant Governor was held today and the candidates were Kathy Hochul and Jumaane Williams, who would you vote for? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	HOCHUL	WILLIAMS	OTHER/NOBODY/DK/NO
September 2018	43	21	36
July 2018	30	21	50
HIGHEST EVER	43 (9/18)	21 (9/18, 7/18)	50 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	30 (7/18)	21 (9/18, 7/18)	36 (9/18)

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Q. 15 As you think about each of the following issues, which of the two candidates for the Democratic Nomination for Governor – Andrew Cuomo or Cynthia Nixon – do you think will do a better job as Governor of New York – combatting corruption in state government? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	NEITHER/BOTH/DK/NO
September 2018	39	42	18
July 2018	40	46	15
HIGHEST EVER	40 (7/18)	46 (7/18)	18 (9/18)
LOWEST EVER	39 (9/18)	42 (9/18)	15 (7/18)

Q. 16 As you think about each of the following issues, which of the two candidates for the Democratic Nomination for Governor – Andrew Cuomo or Cynthia Nixon – do you think will do a better job as Governor of New York – fixing New York’s infrastructure, including mass transit as well as roads and bridges? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	NEITHER/BOTH/DK/NO
September 2018	65	21	14
July 2018	61	26	13
HIGHEST EVER	65 (9/18)	26 (7/18)	14 (9/18)
LOWEST EVER	61 (7/18)	21 (9/18)	13 (7/18)

Q. 17 As you think about each of the following issues, which of the two candidates for the Democratic Nomination for Governor – Andrew Cuomo or Cynthia Nixon – do you think will do a better job as Governor of New York – advancing progressive policies? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	NEITHER/BOTH/DK/NO
September 2018	44	42	14
July 2018	40	45	15
HIGHEST EVER	44 (9/18)	45 (7/18)	15 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	40 (7/18)	42 (9/18)	14 (9/18)

Q. 18 As you think about each of the following issues, which of the two candidates for the Democratic Nomination for Governor – Andrew Cuomo or Cynthia Nixon – do you think will do a better job as Governor of New York – improving public education? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	NEITHER/BOTH/DK/NO
September 2018	55	29	15
July 2018	48	34	18
HIGHEST EVER	55 (9/18)	34 (7/18)	18 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	48 (7/18)	29 (9/18)	15 (9/18)

Q. 19 As you think about each of the following issues, which of the two candidates for the Democratic Nomination for Governor – Andrew Cuomo or Cynthia Nixon – do you think will do a better job as Governor of New York – creating a tax structure fair for all New Yorkers? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	NEITHER/BOTH/DK/NO
September 2018	54	28	17
July 2018	51	30	19
HIGHEST EVER	54 (9/18)	30 (7/18)	19 (7/18)
LOWEST EVER	51 (7/18)	28 (9/18)	17 (9/18)

Poll Trend Notes: Both surveys are surveys of likely Democratic primary voters