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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo, Senate, Assembly Each Start 2019 Viewed Favorably by About Half of Voters; Assembly, Best Ever; Senate Nearly Best

Voters Give Thumbs Down to Recommendations of Pay Raise Commission; Two Thumbs Down to Legislature OKing Gov's Raise Infrastructure Top Issue Voters Want Gov to Work On this Year; Strong to Overwhelming Support for Many Initiatives on Gov's 2019 Agenda

Loudonville, NY. Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 51-43 percent favorability rating among registered voters, up from a *negative* 45-49 percent favorability rating in November among likely 2018 voters. The Assembly has a 48-32 percent favorability rating – its best ever – up from *negative* 40-43 percent in June with likely voters, while the State Senate has a 49-38 percent favorability rating, just shy of its best ever, up from *negative* 41-45 percent in June with likely voters, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters.

New Yorkers disapprove of the recent decision by the pay raise commission to increase the salary of legislators *and* restrict their outside income and limit stipends by a 57-35 percent margin. By an overwhelming 80-15 percent margin, voters say the Legislature should not approve the pay commission's recommendation to increase salaries for state leaders. Infrastructure replaces taxes as the top issue voters want the governor to focus on this year. And there is strong to overwhelming support for many initiatives on Cuomo's 2019 agenda.

“As he begins his third term, Andrew Cuomo moves back into positive territory, with a small majority of voters, 51 percent, viewing him favorably, although it's a far cry from the 70 percent favorability rating he had beginning his first term and even the 60 percent favorability rating he had beginning his second term,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “More than two-thirds of Democrats view Cuomo favorably, while independents are divided and three-quarters of Republicans view him unfavorably.

“Clearly, the Governor's efforts to highlight his opposition to the President and push what he calls ‘the most progressive agenda’ in state history is resonating with New Yorkers since more now call him a liberal and fewer call him a moderate or conservative than ever before,” Greenberg said. “While his job performance rating is up from the middle of last year, it still remains under water, with 43 percent saying he's doing a good or excellent job as governor, compared to 56 percent rating his job performance as only fair or poor.”

Legislature Starts the Year with Stronger Favorability Ratings than Governor

“While Cuomo has an eight-point net positive favorability rating, the Senate has an 11-point net positive favorability rating and the Assembly has its best favorability rating ever, net positive 16 points,” Greenberg said. “The Senate and the Assembly are each viewed favorably by a strong majority of Democrats and a plurality of independents. But a majority of Republicans views the Assembly unfavorably and an even bigger GOP majority views the Senate unfavorably.

“Both legislative leaders are largely unknown to more than two-thirds of voters. Speaker Carl Heastie has a nearly break-even 14-15 percent favorability rating, while Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has a 20-12 percent favorability rating,” Greenberg said.

New Yorkers Don’t Like Pay Raise for Legislature, Even with Limits on Outside Income & Stipends

“Although Democrats are evenly divided about the pay commission’s recent recommendation to raise legislative pay, even as it imposes limits on outside income and vastly reduces the number of legislative leadership stipends, 78 percent of Republicans and 62 percent of independents disapprove,” Greenberg said. “Forty-nine percent of New York City voters, 56 percent of downstate suburbanites and 68 percent of upstaters disapprove of the pay raise.

“When it comes to the Legislature approving a raise for the governor and other state leaders, New Yorkers overwhelmingly say you shouldn’t do it,” Greenberg said. “That includes nearly three-quarters of Democrats and about 90 percent of Republicans and independents.”

Infrastructure Replaces Taxes as Top Issue NYers Want Cuomo Focused on in 2019

“Taxes, which was the top issue New Yorkers wanted the Governor focused on at the beginning of last year, dropped to fourth place at the

What Issue Should be Cuomo’s Top Priority?				
Issue	2019	2018	2016	2015
	Top 2 (Top)	Top 2 (Top)	Top 2 (Top)	Top 2 (Top)
Infrastructure	36% (18%)	32% (15%)	24% (11%)	22% (9%)
Health care	33% (18%)	38% (20%)	21% (9%)	24% (12%)
Education	32% (15%)	33% (14%)	44% (22%)	40% (21%)
Taxes	31% (17%)	40% (24%)	31% (18%)	31% (16%)
Jobs	27% (12%)	29% (14%)	39% (20%)	43% (23%)
State government ethics reform	21% (11%)	17% (8%)	25% (14%)	19% (9%)
Criminal justice	13% (5%)	9% (4%)	11% (4%)	19% (9%)

beginning of this year, while infrastructure jumped from the fourth spot to top issue,” Greenberg said. “Health care and education retained the second and third spots respectively. Jobs, the top issue four years ago, retains its fifth-place position, while ethics reform and criminal justice continue to round out the bottom of the list.”

Half Dozen Cuomo 2019 Initiatives – Some Old; Some Newer – Enjoy Overwhelming Support

“Enacting the Child Victims Act and increasing the waiting period for a gun from three to 10 days are each supported by three-quarters of New Yorkers,” Greenberg said. “Republicans support that gun law by 28 points.”

Support/Oppose 2019 Gov. Cuomo Initiatives					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Pass the Child Victims Act, which would, among other provisions, eliminate the statute of limitations for all sexually-related criminal cases committed against a person less than 18-years old, and extend the statute of limitations for civil litigation	Support	77%	79%	78%	72%
	Oppose	16%	15%	16%	19%
Extend the waiting period for purchasing a gun from three days to 10 days	Support	75%	81%	63%	76%
	Oppose	22%	17%	35%	22%
Make New York's two percent property tax cap permanent	Support	65%	66%	63%	68%
	Oppose	21%	19%	23%	22%
Pass the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act to provide protections for transgendered New Yorkers	Support	68%	83%	48%	63%
	Oppose	26%	14%	48%	31%
Make New York's law on abortion consistent with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade	Support	63%	75%	48%	58%
	Oppose	23%	14%	36%	27%
Ban corporate campaign contributions in New York elections	Support	66%	73%	63%	58%
	Oppose	30%	22%	31%	40%
Pass a law to eliminate monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges	Support	59%	71%	45%	52%
	Oppose	32%	21%	43%	42%
Eliminate the so-called LLC loophole that allows corporations or individuals to donate almost unlimited amounts of money to candidates in New York	Support	60%	66%	51%	61%
	Oppose	36%	31%	45%	35%
Make election day a state holiday	Support	59%	70%	41%	57%
	Oppose	38%	27%	58%	42%
Pass the New York Dream Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education	Support	58%	76%	25%	56%
	Oppose	39%	22%	74%	41%
Legalize the recreational use of marijuana	Support	56%	65%	39%	57%
	Oppose	41%	32%	59%	40%
Institute congestion pricing for parts of Manhattan to help fund the MTA, which operates New York City subways, downstate suburban railroads and many downstate bridges and tunnels	Support	52%	58%	39%	50%
	Oppose	39%	32%	50%	42%
Siena College Poll – January 14, 2019					

“Making the property tax cap permanent, enacting GENDA, banning corporate political contributions, and codifying Roe v. Wade in New York law are each supported by more than 60 percent of New Yorkers,” Greenberg said. “Other proposals advanced by Cuomo – including legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, passing the Dream Act and instituting congestion pricing in Manhattan to help fund the MTA – are each supported by a significant majority of New Yorkers, just not quite as strongly as some of the other proposals.”

New Yorkers More Optimistic About Direction of State Compared to Before Election Day

“New Yorkers say the state is headed on the right track by a 49-40 percent margin, up from likely voters in November thinking the state was headed in the wrong direction, 47-40 percent,” Greenberg said. “Downstaters, particularly those from the City, are more optimistic about the state’s direction and upstaters are less pessimistic.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted January 6-10, 2019 by telephone calls conducted in English to 805 New York State registered voters. Respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest male in the household. It has an overall margin of error of + 4.1 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers (both from ASDE Survey Sampler) from within New York State. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party by region, and gender to ensure representativeness. 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 Poll Trends – January 2019

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
January 2019	49	40	11
November 2018*	40	47	13
October 2018*	42	44	14
June 2018*	45	41	14
April 2018	44	44	12
March 2018	46	42	12
February 2018	48	39	13
January 2018	50	35	15
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (2/17, 5/13)

Q. 2 How would you describe the fiscal condition of New York State right now? Would you describe it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	4	27	39	24	7
January 2018	3	27	42	23	5
July 2017	2	27	42	23	5
HIGHEST EVER	4 (1/19)	29 (7/14)	49 (8/12)	67 (3/22/10)	7 (1/19)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc.)	25 (3/22/10)	21 (12/16)	0 (4/11, etc.)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	51	43	6
November 2018*	45	49	5
October 2018*	50	46	4
June 2018*	51	44	5
April 2018	49	44	6
March 2018	52	40	8
February 2018	53	40	7
January 2018	62	30	8
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	49 (11/18)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/16, 10/20/10)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	48	32	20
June 2018*	40	43	17
April 2018	41	41	18
March 2018	41	38	20
February 2018	44	35	21
January 2018	42	36	22
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/19)	61 (7/10)	21 (2/18, 5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	32 (1/19)	10 (5/15)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2019 – Page 2

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	49	38	13
June 2018*	41	45	14
April 2018	41	45	15
March 2018	39	44	16
February 2018	44	40	16
January 2018	44	39	17
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (1/18, 5/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	35 (5/17)	6 (7/09)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	14	15	71
April 2018	10	12	77
January 2018	12	11	77
HIGHEST EVER	14 (1/19)	20 (10/15)	78 (1/17, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	11 (1/18)	69 (4/15)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrea Stewart-Cousins?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	20	12	69
April 2018	12	9	79
HIGHEST EVER	20 (1/19)	12 (1/19)	79 (4/18)
LOWEST EVER	12 (4/18)	9 (4/18)	69 (1/19)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	39	18	43
November 2018*	28	12	60
October 2018*	31	10	58
June 2018*	20	10	70
HIGHEST EVER	39 (1/19)	18 (1/19)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	43 (1/19)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	34	16	49
November 2018*	33	16	52
October 2018*	29	9	62
June 2018*	32	15	53
April 2018	26	15	58
March 2018	28	14	58
January 2018	27	12	62
HIGHEST EVER	35 (10/14)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	9 (10/18)	37 (10/31/10)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	38	46	16
January 2018	44	37	19
July 2017	32	49	18
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/18)	49 (7/17)	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	32 (7/17)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

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Q. 15 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	9	34	31	25	1
June 2018*	7	33	34	25	1
April 2018	7	34	33	24	1
March 2018	8	34	32	25	1
February 2018	7	38	32	21	2
January 2018	11	39	33	15	2
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	25 (1/19, 6/18, etc.)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	32 (12/15, etc.)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 16 Based on what you've seen of him as Governor, would you describe Andrew Cuomo as a liberal, a moderate or a conservative?

DATE	LIBERAL	MODERATE	CONSERVATIVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	49	37	5	9
June 2018*	44	40	7	8
April 2018	41	41	9	10
March 2018	46	41	6	8
January 2018	41	40	10	9
HIGHEST EVER	49 (1/19)	60 (3/11)	15 (4/11, 2/11)	10 (4/18, 7/15, 4/11, 1/11)
LOWEST EVER	21 (2/11)	37 (1/19)	5 (1/19)	6 (9/13)

Q. 17/18 As Andrew Cuomo begins his ninth year as Governor, which of the following issues do you think should be his top 2019 priority....and his next top priority? ^ (First number reflects combined top and 2nd top priority; number in parentheses is top priority only.) (CHOICES WERE ROTATED.)

ISSUE	JANUARY 2019	JANUARY 2018	FEBRUARY 2016	JANUARY 2015
Jobs	27 (12)	29 (14)	39 (20)	43 (23)
Education	32 (15)	33 (14)	44 (22)	40 (21)
Criminal justice	13 (5)	9 (4)	11 (4)	19 (9)
Taxes	31 (17)	40 (24)	31 (18)	31 (16)
State govt. ethics reform	21 (11)	17 (8)	25 (14)	19 (9)
Health care	33 (18)	38 (20)	21 (9)	24 (12)
Infrastructure	36 (18)	32 (15)	24 (11)	22 (9)
Something else	3 (2)	1 (0)	3 (1)	2 (1)
Don't know/no opinion	3 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)

Q. 19 Do you support or oppose – Legalize the recreational use of marijuana?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	56	41	3
April 2018	52	44	4
February 2018	56	40	4
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/19, 2/18)	44 (4/18)	4 (4/18, 2/18)
LOWEST EVER	52 (4/18)	40 (2/18)	3 (1/19)

Q. 20 Do you support or oppose – Make New York's law on abortion consistent with the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	63	23	14
April 2018	65	18	17
February 2018	60	22	18
January 2018	59	23	18
June 2013	60	24	15
HIGHEST EVER	65 (4/18)	24 (6/13)	18 (2/18, 1/18)
LOWEST EVER	59 (1/18)	18 (4/18)	14 (1/19)

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Q. 21 Do you support or oppose – Pass a law to eliminate monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	59	32	9
April 2018	56	35	9
February 2018	55	35	10
January 2018	57	35	9
HIGHEST EVER	59 (1/19)	35 (4/18, 2/18, 1/18)	10 (2/18)
LOWEST EVER	55 (2/18)	32 (1/19)	9 (1/19, 4/18, 1/18)

Q. 22 Do you support or oppose – Pass the Child Victims Act, which would, among other provisions, eliminate the statute of limitations for all sexually-related criminal cases when committed against a person less than 18 years old, and extend the state of limitations for civil litigation?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	77	16	7
April 2018	74	20	6
February 2018	79	14	7
January 2018	76	17	7
HIGHEST EVER	79 (2/18)	20 (4/18)	7 (1/19, 2/18, 1/18)
LOWEST EVER	74 (4/18)	14 (2/18)	6 (4/18)

Q. 23 Do you support or oppose – Pass the New York Dream Act, which would allow the children of undocumented immigrants to receive financial aid for higher education?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	58	39	2
April 2018	59	38	3
February 2018	61	37	3
January 2018	60	36	4
March 2017	53	42	5
HIGHEST EVER	61 (2/18)	52 (2/16)	8 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	44 (4/15, 12/14)	36 (1/18)	2 (1/19, 2/17)

Q. 29 Do you support or oppose – Eliminate the so-called LLC loophole that allows corporations or individuals to donate almost unlimited amounts of money to candidates in New York?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2019	60	36	4
January 2017	55	40	5
February 2016	62	35	2
HIGHEST EVER	62 (2/16)	40 (1/17)	5 (1/17)
LOWEST EVER	55 (1/17)	35 (2/16)	2 (2/16)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: June thru November 2018, November 2017, September thru November 2016, July thru October 2014, August/October 2012, October 2010, September/October 2008, and September/October 2006, which are polls of likely voters.

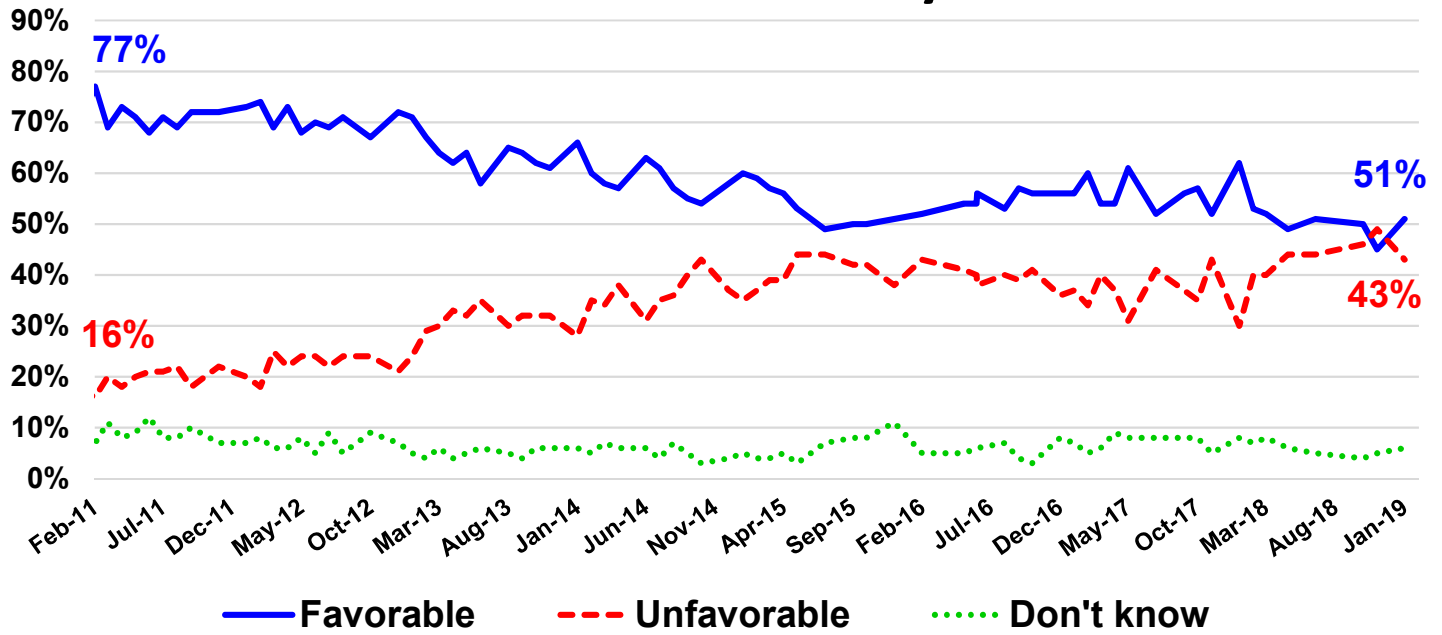
Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2018.

“Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” are provided at the bottom of each question.

^ Inconsequential wording change.

Andrew Cuomo Favorability 2011-2019



Siena College Polls 2011-2019