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Contact:

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

Website/Twitter:

www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY

[@SienaResearch](https://twitter.com/SienaResearch)

Siena College Poll:

Voters Strongly Say Permanent Property Tax Cap & Plastic Bag Ban Are Good for NY; Banning Release of Mug Shots Is Bad

Overwhelming Opposition to Increased Salary for Governor and the Public Campaign Finance Plan Included in the Budget

Over Last 5 Years, Voters Say NYS's Fiscal Condition Has Worsened (38-19%) & It's Harder for Businesses to Succeed in NYS (51-11%)

Loudonville, NY. Looking at several proposals included in the recently enacted state budget, a strong majority of New Yorkers think the permanent property tax cap (64-22 percent), the ban on plastic bags (62-33 percent) and the elimination of cash bail for misdemeanors and non-violent felonies (55-38 percent) will be good for New York. A strong majority think the banning of the release of mug shots (58-31 percent) will be bad for New York. Congestion pricing and requiring all online retailers to collect sales tax got mixed reviews, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

By a nearly two-to-one margin (32-62 percent), voters oppose the Legislature increasing the Governor's salary and by nearly three-to-one (23-63 percent), they oppose the public campaign finance plan included in the budget. There was little change in voters' attitude toward Governor Andrew Cuomo this month compared to last month.

"When it comes to the recently passed budget, voters give it mixed reviews. Overall, 39 percent think the budget will be good for New York and 35 percent think it will be bad for the state. Democrats think it will be good by a two-to-one margin and Republicans think it will be bad by more than two-to-one, with independents closely divided," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"By strong bi-partisan margins, New Yorkers say making the property tax cap permanent and banning plastic bags will be good for New York. Both proposals also have strong support from voters in every region of the state," Greenberg said. "Eliminating bail for the vast majority of those arrested is seen as good for the state, with two-to-one support among Democrats and New York City voters. It has strong support with independents and majority support from voters upstate and in the downstate suburbs. A majority of Republicans think it will be bad for the state. About two-thirds of black and Latino voters say it will be good, as do a majority of white voters."

“Two new laws included in the budget get mixed reviews. A narrow plurality of voters thinks both congestion pricing and requiring all online retailers to collect sales tax will be bad for New York. Democrats think both will be good for the state, while Republicans and independents think both will be bad,” Greenberg said.

Will New Laws in Budget Be Good or Bad for New York?					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Make permanent the two-percent property tax cap	Good for NY	64%	60%	67%	70%
	Bad for NY	22%	24%	20%	20%
Ban single-use plastic bags in grocery stores	Good for NY	62%	67%	56%	58%
	Bad for NY	33%	29%	37%	37%
Eliminate bail for misdemeanor & non-violent felony charges	Good for NY	55%	64%	34%	60%
	Bad for NY	38%	31%	55%	38%
Require all online retailers to collect sales tax on purchases by NYers	Good for NY	46%	53%	34%	44%
	Bad for NY	48%	41%	60%	53%
Institute congestion pricing for parts of Manhattan to help fund the MTA	Good for NY	41%	50%	31%	37%
	Bad for NY	44%	39%	55%	46%
Ban release of mugshots by police for people arrested in NY	Good for NY	31%	39%	24%	25%
	Bad for NY	58%	50%	67%	65%
Siena College Poll – April 16, 2019					

“Voters from every party and every region – as well as 58 percent of whites, 63 percent of blacks and 65 percent of Latinos – agree that banning the release of mugshots will be bad for New York,” Greenberg said.

Strong Opposition to Pay Raise for Gov & For New Public Campaign Finance Plan

“Three-quarters of Republicans, two-thirds of independents and a clear majority of Democrats oppose the recent action by the Legislature to increase the salary for the Governor. It is opposed by 55 percent from New York City, 64 percent from the downstate suburbs and 69 percent of upstaters,” Greenberg said.

“The public campaign finance scheme in the budget gets a strong thumbs down from the voters,” Greenberg said. “A majority of Democrats, more than two-thirds of independents and more than three-quarters of Republicans are opposed. While self-identified liberals are closely divided, moderates and conservatives are overwhelmingly opposed, as are big majorities of men and women, young and old, and black, white and Latino voters.”

Dems Strongly Support Single-Payer Health Insurance; Independents Oppose; Reps Strongly Oppose

“There is little change in voters’ attitudes on vaccinations and recreational marijuana in the last month. Voters still oppose licenses for undocumented immigrants, although opposition is down from 61 percent to 55 percent,” Greenberg said. “On

Support or Oppose Proposed New Laws					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Requiring parents to have their children vaccinated for certain diseases	Support	78%	83%	81%	74%
	Oppose	17%	15%	18%	20%
Legalizing the recreational use of marijuana	Support	52%	62%	33%	53%
	Oppose	42%	33%	64%	42%
Implementing single-payer health insurance system in NYS	Support	48%	65%	21%	42%
	Oppose	44%	28%	70%	52%
Allowing undocumented immigrants to get a NY driver’s license	Support	40%	55%	19%	36%
	Oppose	55%	42%	80%	60%
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single-payer health care, New Yorkers are divided. Two-thirds of Democrats support it, a majority of independents oppose it, and more than two-thirds of Republicans are opposed.”

Voters Say State’s Fiscal Condition Worsened Over Last Five Years; Harder for Businesses to Succeed

“About one-quarter of New Yorkers think the fiscal condition of the state is excellent or good, while more than one-third think it’s fair and 30 percent say it’s poor,” Greenberg said. “Only 19 percent think it has gotten better over the last five years, while twice that number, 38 percent, say it’s gotten worse, and 37 percent say it’s about the same. Voters under 35 are the only demographic that has more voters saying it’s gotten better, not worse.

“When it comes to the ability of businesses to succeed in New York, only 11 percent say it’s gotten easier in the last five years, while 51 percent say it’s gotten harder and 29 percent say it’s stayed about the same,” Greenberg said. “A majority or plurality of voters from every party and every region say it’s gotten harder.”

Cuomo’s Ratings Little Changed; Trump Ratings Up a Little

Cuomo has a negative 47-48 percent favorability rating, virtually unchanged from negative 46-48 percent in March. His job performance rating is negative 37-62 percent, little changed from last month’s 38-61 percent.

Favorability Ratings				
	Fav	Unfav	DK/NO	Net
Letitia James	34%	18%	48%	+16
NYS Assembly	48%	33%	19%	+15
Tom DiNapoli	29%	17%	54%	+12
NYS Senate	46%	39%	16%	+7
Chuck Schumer	49%	43%	8%	+6
Kirsten Gillibrand	41%	35%	24%	+6
Andrew Cuomo	47%	48%	5%	-1
Bill de Blasio	33%	50%	17%	-17
Donald Trump	38%	59%	3%	-21
Siena College Poll – April 16, 2019				

“Voters’ attitude about Cuomo is essentially the same today as it was a month ago, even with the passage of a timely budget for the ninth straight

year, and a budget that included many provisions touted by the Governor and the Legislature,” Greenberg said.

“Interestingly, the Senate saw no movement in its favorability rating, while the Assembly improved with voters and is now tied for its best favorability rating ever.”

President Trump has a negative 38-59 percent favorability rating, up slightly from 36-60 percent last month. His job performance rating climbed to negative 35-65 percent, up from 31-68 percent in March.

“Trump remains unpopular with his home state voters largely because of how ‘blue’ New York is. More than three-quarters of Democrats and a majority of independents both view him unfavorably and give him a negative job performance rating,” Greenberg said. “However, Republicans are bullish on the President, with 74 percent viewing him favorably and 70 percent giving him a positive job performance rating.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted April 8-11, 2019 by telephone calls conducted in English to 735 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 Survey Sampling International) 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 crosstabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – April 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
April 2019	42	46	13
March 2019	43	46	11
February 2019	44	45	11
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
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 Is the United States on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	36	54	9
March 2019	34	57	9
February 2019	35	57	8
January 2019	32	62	6
November 2018*	39	56	5
October 2018*	38	56	7
June 2018*	39	54	7
April 2018	30	63	6
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

Q. 3 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
April 2019	4	23	37	30	6
January 2019	4	27	39	24	7
January 2018	3	27	42	23	5
HIGHEST EVER	4 (4/19, 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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	47	48	5
March 2019	46	48	6
February 2019	43	50	7
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
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	50 (2/19)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	43 (2/19)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/16, 10/20/10)

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2019 – Page 2

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	48	33	19
March 2019	44	35	21
February 2019	43	38	18
January 2019	48	32	20
June 2018*	40	43	17
April 2018	41	41	18
HIGHEST EVER	48 (4/19, 1/19)	61 (7/10)	21 (3/19, 2/18, 5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	32 (1/19)	10 (5/15)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	46	39	16
March 2019	46	38	16
February 2019	43	41	17
January 2019	49	38	13
June 2018*	41	45	14
April 2018	41	45	15
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (2/19, 1/18, 5/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	35 (5/17)	6 (7/09)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	29	17	54
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
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. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	34	18	48
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 (4/19, 1/19)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	43 (1/19)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	38	59	3
March 2019	36	60	5
February 2019	35	59	6
January 2019	32	64	4
November 2018*	39	58	3
October 2018*	37	59	4
June 2018*	38	59	3
April 2018	31	65	4
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

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Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	49	43	8
March 2019	51	41	8
February 2019	47	46	7
January 2019	53	39	8
June 2018*	56	37	6
April 2018	53	38	10
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	46 (2/19)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	47 (2/19)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	41	35	24
March 2019	43	33	23
February 2019	44	34	21
January 2019	48	31	21
November 2018*	46	34	20
October 2018*	49	33	19
June 2018*	53	28	19
April 2018	48	29	23
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	35 (4/19)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (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
April 2019	33	50	17
March 2019	34	50	16
January 2019	38	46	16
January 2018	44	37	19
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/18)	50 (4/19, 3/19)	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	32 (7/17)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

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
April 2019	8	29	32	30	2
March 2019	7	31	32	29	1
February 2019	8	27	33	31	2
January 2019	9	34	31	25	1
June 2018*	7	33	34	25	1
April 2018	7	34	33	24	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	31 (2/19)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	27 (2/19)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 16 How would you rate the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	17	18	17	48	0
March 2019	14	17	19	49	2
February 2019	14	19	16	50	1
June 2018*	19	17	12	51	1
April 2018	14	13	17	54	1
HIGHEST EVER	19 (6/18)	19 (2/19, 7/17)	20 (2/17)	63 (10/17)	3 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	8 (10/17, 9/17)	13 (4/18)	12 (6/18)	48 (4/19, 2/17)	0 (4/19, 10/17)

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Q. 26 Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	52	42	6
March 2019	53	43	4
February 2019	52	42	7
January 2019	56	41	3
April 2018	52	44	4
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/19, 2/18)	44 (4/18)	7 (2/19)
LOWEST EVER	52 (4/19, 2/19, 4/18)	40 (2/18)	3 (1/19)

Q. 27 Do you support or oppose allowing undocumented immigrants to get a New York driver's license?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	40	55	5
March 2019	34	61	5
HIGHEST EVER	40 (4/19)	61 (3/19)	5 (4/19, 3/19)
LOWEST EVER	34 (3/19)	55 (4/19)	5 (4/19, 3/19)

Q. 28 Do you support or oppose requiring parents to have their children vaccinated for diseases such as measles before the children can attend school, regardless of the parents' religious beliefs?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2019	78	17	5
March 2019	79	18	3
HIGHEST EVER	79 (3/19)	18 (3/19)	5 (4/19)
LOWEST EVER	78 (4/19)	17 (4/19)	3 (3/19)

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 April 2018.
“Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” are provided at the bottom of each question.
^ Inconsequential wording change.

