



# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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## Siena College Poll:

### **Overwhelming Support for a Dozen of Cuomo's State of the State Proposals & a Boost to His Favorability & Job Performance Ratings**

By 12-Point Margin, Voters Say New Bail Law is Bad for New York; After Passage in April, Voters Thought it Would be Good for NY by 17 Points

### ***Taxes & Education Top 2020 State Issues for Voters; Jobs and Ethics Low on Voters' Minds; Criminal Justice Up the Most from Last Year***

Loudonville, NY. With at least two-thirds of voters supporting 11 of his State of the State proposals, Governor Andrew Cuomo saw a significant boost in his favorability and job performance ratings since November. Cuomo has a 49-45 percent favorability rating up from a *negative* 44-49 percent rating in November. His job performance rating jumped even more, going from a negative 30 points (35-65 percent) in November to now negative 15 points (41-56 percent), according to a new Siena College Poll of registered New York State voters released today.

By a 49-37 percent margin, voters say the new law eliminating monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges is bad for New York. Back in April, shortly after passage of the law, voters thought the law would be good for New York, 55-38 percent. While every demographic group moved more negative from April until now, independent, suburban and older voters moved the most, each from positive to strongly negative.

“In the last year, the Governor’s favorability has been up and down – half the months a little above water and half a little below water. Right now, a plurality of voters say they view Cuomo favorably, including more than two-thirds of Democrats. However, he’s viewed unfavorably by 51 percent of independents and 80 percent of Republicans,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “The boost in his favorability rating and the even bigger bump in his job performance rating – which still resides in negative territory – are a thank you from voters to kick off the new year.

“Although Republicans like many of the Governor’s State of the State proposals – albeit, with one exception, not as much as the Democrats – they clearly don’t agree with the Governor’s rhetoric surrounding those proposals. While overall voters agree with Cuomo’s statement that New York should be the progressive capital of the world 60-33 percent, 70 percent of Republicans disagree,” Greenberg said. “A majority of independents agree, as do a majority from each region of the state.”

Very Support Strong for Many of Cuomo’s State of the State Proposals

Support / Opposition for State of the State Initiatives					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Requiring businesses with 5+ employees to provide 5 paid sick days a year	Support	81%	92%	66%	73%
	Oppose	18%	7%	32%	26%
Reducing the corporate tax rate for small businesses from 6.5 to 4 percent	Support	79%	76%	82%	86%
	Oppose	15%	16%	16%	11%
Amending the New York State Constitution to include an Equal Rights Amendment	Support	76%	86%	53%	71%
	Oppose	18%	9%	40%	19%
Ensuring that workers in the ‘gig economy’ receive basic employee protections	Support	75%	87%	60%	66%
	Oppose	18%	7%	34%	26%
Creating new state domestic terrorism law to include mass violence motivated by hate, punishable by up to life in prison	Support	72%	78%	70%	64%
	Oppose	21%	16%	26%	27%
Banning the use of Styrofoam as single-use food containers and packaging material	Support	72%	81%	52%	74%
	Oppose	23%	13%	47%	23%
Asking voters to pass the \$3 billion ‘Restore Mother Nature’ environmental bond act to restore habitats & reduce flooding	Support	71%	83%	52%	69%
	Oppose	20%	10%	41%	22%
Requiring every elected official in NY who earns over \$100,000 a year to make their tax returns public	Support	71%	80%	55%	68%
	Oppose	25%	17%	42%	30%
Legalizing gestational surrogacy in New York while creating a surrogates’ bill of rights to protect surrogates and parents	Support	69%	75%	59%	65%
	Oppose	15%	10%	27%	17%
Banning flavored vaping products in New York	Support	69%	72%	62%	73%
	Oppose	25%	25%	34%	19%
Raising family income threshold from \$125K to \$150K/year for NY students applying for free tuition at SUNY & CUNY schools	Support	66%	76%	52%	59%
	Oppose	29%	21%	43%	36%
Legalizing the recreational use of marijuana	Support	58%	69%	31%	61%
	Oppose	38%	28%	65%	34%

Siena College Poll – January 21, 2020

“Legalizing marijuana in New York has the largest support its ever had in a Siena College poll – a 20-point margin, 58-38 percent. Eleven other proposals from Cuomo receive strong to overwhelming support from voters by margins of 37 to 63 points. Every one of those proposals – other than legalizing marijuana – enjoys strong bipartisan support,” Greenberg said.

Plurality Think New Bail Law is Bad for NY; After Passage in April, Majority Thought it Would be Good

Last year, New York passed a law eliminating monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges. Do you think this law is good for New York or bad for New York? (In April 2019, question asked was whether the new law “will be” good or bad for NY.)								
	January 2020				April 2019			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Good for NY	37%	53%	15%	29%	55%	64%	34%	60%
Bad for NY	49%	34%	78%	56%	38%	31%	55%	38%
Neither/Both/Don’t know	10%	10%	6%	12%	7%	6%	11%	3%

Siena College Polls – January 21, 2020 & April 16, 2019

“In April, at least 60 percent of Democrats and independents thought the new bail law would be good for New York, while 55 percent of Republicans thought it would be bad,” Greenberg said. “Today, independents have flipped from a 22-point margin thinking ‘good,’ to a 27-point margin saying ‘bad.’”

“While small majorities of suburban and upstate voters had thought the law would be ‘good,’ today, 56 percent of upstaters and 64 percent of downstate suburbanites think the law is ‘bad.’ While every demographic group moved more negative since April, joining independents and downstate suburbanites with the largest movement from ‘good’ to ‘bad’ was voters 55 and older. About two-thirds of black and Latino voters had thought the law would be ‘good’ and now that support is down to about half, still a plurality for both groups,” Greenberg said.

“Certainly, all the attention this new law has gotten across the state has had an impact with voters and it is clear that a sizeable number of New Yorkers, who were optimistic that the new bail law would be good for the state, now believe the law is bad for New York,” Greenberg said.

### **Taxes & Education Top 2020 Voter Priorities for Cuomo; Criminal Justice Jumped Most from Last Year**

One-third of voters calls taxes one of their top two issues for 2020 – 19 percent name it as top issue – and one-third say education is one of the top two, 14 percent top issue,” Greenberg said. “Infrastructure, last year’s top issue for voters, fell to fourth behind taxes, education and health care. Jobs fell to its lowest level since 2015 when Siena began asking this question; now, 23 percent call it one of their top two issues, it was 43 percent in 2015.

“While criminal justice was only a top or second priority for 13 percent of voters last year – and only five percent called it their top issue – this year, 27 percent named it one of their top two issues, including 14 percent who named it their top priority. Again, the new bail law is having an impact on how voters are viewing issues.”

### **Odds & Ends**

- By a 49-41 percent margin, voters say the state is headed on the right track, up from 45-42 percent in November, and the best it’s been since it was 49-40 percent in January 2019.
- Both United States Senators are doing well with voters heading into their stints as impeachment jurors. Chuck Schumer has a 54-36 percent favorability rating, up from 51-40 percent in November. Kirsten Gillibrand has a 45-29 percent favorability rating, up from 41-36 percent in September, her best since January 2019.
- President Donald Trump has a negative 31-64 percent favorability rating, unchanged from 32-65 percent in November. Michael Bloomberg has a 51-38 percent favorability rating, up from 47-39 percent in November.
- State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli has a 27-15 percent favorability rating, with 58 percent of voters not knowing him or having an opinion. Attorney General Letitia James has a 36-15-49 percent favorability rating.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted January 11-16, 2020 by telephone calls conducted in English to 814 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 (ASDE) and cell phone (Dynata) telephone numbers from within New York State. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party by region, race/ethnicity, 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](http://www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY).



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## Siena College Poll Trends – January 2020

**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 2020	49	41	10
November 2019	45	42	13
October 2019	46	44	10
September 2019	47	40	12
August 2019	45	44	11
June 2019	44	43	12
April 2019	42	46	13
March 2019	43	46	11
February 2019	44	45	11
January 2019	49	40	11
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (1/13)</b>	<b>76 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>30 (1/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (10/10)</b>	<b>26 (1/07)</b>	<b>7 (2/17, 5/13)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	49	45	6
November 2019	44	49	7
October 2019	49	47	4
September 2019	48	46	6
August 2019	43	50	7
June 2019	52	42	6
April 2019	47	48	5
March 2019	46	48	6
February 2019	43	50	7
January 2019	51	43	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (2/11)</b>	<b>50 (8/19, 2/19)</b>	<b>24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>43 (8/19, 2/19)</b>	<b>14 (8/09)</b>	<b>3 (10/16, 10/20/10)</b>

**Q. 3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	40	35	25
November 2019	45	34	20
October 2019	44	39	17
September 2019	42	35	23
August 2019	43	38	19
June 2019	47	36	17
April 2019	48	33	19
March 2019	44	35	21
February 2019	43	38	18
January 2019	48	32	20
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>48 (4/19, 1/19)</b>	<b>61 (7/10)</b>	<b>25 (1/20)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (7/10)</b>	<b>32 (1/19)</b>	<b>10 (5/15)</b>

## Siena College Poll Trends – January 2020 – Page 2

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	43	38	19
November 2019	45	39	16
October 2019	47	35	17
September 2019	46	36	18
August 2019	45	40	16
June 2019	46	39	16
April 2019	46	39	16
March 2019	46	38	16
February 2019	43	41	17
January 2019	49	38	13
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>50 (2/17)</b>	<b>74 (7/09)</b>	<b>19 (1/20)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (7/09)</b>	<b>35 (10/19, 5/17)</b>	<b>6 (7/09)</b>

**Q. 5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	31	64	5
November 2019	32	65	3
October 2019	30	67	3
September 2019	32	64	4
August 2019	35	62	3
June 2019	34	63	3
April 2019	38	59	3
March 2019	36	60	5
February 2019	35	59	6
January 2019	32	64	4
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (12/16)</b>	<b>72 (8/16)</b>	<b>10 (10/13)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (8/16)</b>	<b>53 (12/16)</b>	<b>2 (9/15)</b>

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Michael Bloomberg?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	51	38	11
November 2019	47	39	14
February 2016	52	38	10
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>67 (3/08)</b>	<b>42 (3/13)</b>	<b>21 (9/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>47 (11/19)</b>	<b>16 (9/08)</b>	<b>7 (3/13)</b>

**Q. 7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	27	15	58
August 2019	23	17	60
April 2019	29	17	54
January 2019	34	16	49
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>35 (10/14)</b>	<b>36 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>80 (6/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (6/07, 5/07)</b>	<b>9 (10/18)</b>	<b>37 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	36	15	49
August 2019	36	18	46
April 2019	34	18	48
January 2019	39	18	43
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>39 (1/19)</b>	<b>18 (8/19, 4/19, 1/19)</b>	<b>70 (6/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (6/18)</b>	<b>10 (10/18, 6/18)</b>	<b>43 (1/19)</b>

## Siena College Poll Trends – January 2020 – Page 3

**Q. 9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	54	36	11
November 2019	51	40	10
October 2019	49	41	10
September 2019	48	39	13
August 2019	53	39	8
June 2019	54	40	6
April 2019	49	43	8
March 2019	51	41	8
February 2019	47	46	7
January 2019	53	39	8
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>70 (7/05)</b>	<b>46 (2/19)</b>	<b>17 (2/05)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>47 (2/19)</b>	<b>20 (2/05, 11/06)</b>	<b>4 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 10** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	45	29	26
September 2019	41	36	23
August 2019	41	36	23
June 2019	44	36	20
April 2019	41	35	24
March 2019	43	33	23
February 2019	44	34	21
January 2019	48	31	21
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>61 (12/12)</b>	<b>36 (9/19, 8/19, 6/19)</b>	<b>56 (1/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>26 (3/09)</b>	<b>14 (1/09)</b>	<b>14 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 11** 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 2020	10	31	29	27	3
November 2019	6	29	36	29	1
October	6	35	30	27	1
September 2019	7	31	34	25	2
August 2019	6	28	32	32	2
June 2019	7	31	34	27	1
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (1/12)</b>	<b>47 (4/12, etc.)</b>	<b>40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)</b>	<b>32 (8/19)</b>	<b>28 (1/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>5 (9/16)</b>	<b>27 (2/19)</b>	<b>24 (1/11)</b>	<b>4 (2/11, 1/11)</b>	<b>0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)</b>

**Q. 14/15** As Andrew Cuomo begins his tenth year as Governor, which of the following issues do you think should be his top 2020 priority....and his next top priority? ^ (First number reflects combined top and 2<sup>nd</sup> top priority; number in parentheses is top priority only.) (CHOICES WERE ROTATED.)

ISSUE	JANUARY 2020	JANUARY 2019	JANUARY 2018	FEBRUARY 2016	JANUARY 2015
Taxes	34 (19)	31 (17)	40 (24)	31 (18)	31 (16)
Education	34 (14)	32 (15)	33 (14)	44 (22)	40 (21)
Health care	30 (17)	33 (18)	38 (20)	21 (9)	24 (12)
Infrastructure	28 (14)	36 (18)	32 (15)	24 (11)	22 (9)
Criminal justice	27 (14)	13 (5)	9 (4)	11 (4)	19 (9)
Jobs	23 (10)	27 (12)	29 (14)	39 (20)	43 (23)
State govt. ethics reform	14 (6)	21 (11)	17 (8)	25 (14)	19 (9)
Something else	5 (3)	3 (2)	1 (0)	3 (1)	2 (1)
Don't know/no opinion	4 (2)	3 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)

## Siena College Poll Trends – January 2020 – Page 4

**Q. 17** Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	58	38	4
November 2019	54	40	6
October 2019	54	41	6
September 2019	52	43	5
June 2019	55	40	5
April 2019	52	42	6
March 2019	53	43	4
February 2019	52	42	7
January 2019	56	41	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (1/20)</b>	<b>44 (4/18)</b>	<b>7 (2/19)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (9/19, 4/19, 2/19, 4/18)</b>	<b>38 (1/20)</b>	<b>3 (1/19)</b>

**Q. 24** Do you support or oppose amending the New York State Constitution to include an Equal Rights Amendment?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2020	76	18	7
June 2019	72	17	11
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>76 (1/20)</b>	<b>18 (1/20)</b>	<b>11 (6/19)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>72 (6/19)</b>	<b>17 (6/19)</b>	<b>7 (1/20)</b>

**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 2019.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.

