



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, June 30, 2020

Contact:

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

Website/Twitter:

www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY

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

Siena College Poll:

By 60-35%, NYers Say Floyd & Brooks Killings Part of Broader Pattern of Excessive Police Violence Towards Black People, Not Isolated Instances; NYers: Systemic Racism Is Very (51%)/Somewhat (30%) Serious Problem

More than 80% Support: National Police Misconduct Database, Federal Ban on Chokeholds & Mental Health Professionals Riding with Police on Certain Calls

**Strong Support for Recent Demonstrations Across the Nation, 60-36%
80% Say Recent New NY Laws to Improve Policing Will Be Good for NY**

When Seeing Police Officer, 51% of White NYers Feel More Secure & 13% Less Secure; However, 46% of Black NYers Feel Less Secure & 13% More Secure

Loudonville, NY. By a 60-35 percent margin, New Yorkers say the recent killings of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks ‘are part of a broader pattern of excessive police violence toward Black people,’ rather than ‘tragic isolated instances.’ Eighty-one percent say that systemic racism in the country is a very (51 percent) or somewhat (30 percent) serious problem, while 18 percent say it’s not very (10 percent) or not at all (eight percent) a serious problem, according to a new Siena College Poll of registered New York State voters released today.

Creating a national database of police officer misconduct (84-10 percent), a federal law to ban the use of chokeholds by police officers (81-15 percent) and having mental health professionals respond alongside police officers to 911 calls dealing with homelessness, drug addiction and mental illness (82-12 percent) all have broad bipartisan support. Eliminating qualified immunity (63-26 percent support) has strong support from Democrats and independents and small plurality support from Republicans. A majority of New Yorkers oppose reducing police funding and strongly oppose defunding the police, while a plurality supports demilitarizing the police.

“While a clear majority of New Yorkers, 60 percent, say the recent killings of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks are part of a pattern of excessive police violence toward Black people, there are widespread racial, partisan and geographic differences,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “Eighty percent of Democrats say it’s part of a broader pattern, while 57 percent of Republicans and 48 percent of independents, a plurality, say the deaths are tragic isolated instances. Although 53 percent of white voters say it is part of a pattern, that view is held by 64 percent of Latinos and 91 percent of Black New Yorkers. New York City voters see a pattern 72-23 percent, while upstaters agree 55-39 percent and downstate suburbanites are closely divided.”

“While there is some disagreement by race, party, geography, and age as to whether systemic racism in the country is a ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ serious problem, at least two-thirds of voters agree – regardless of race, party, region or age – that systemic racism is at least a somewhat serious problem,” Greenberg said. “At least two-thirds of Democrats, Blacks, Latinos, voters under 35 and New York City voters say systemic racism is a very serious problem. Fewer than 30 percent of any demographic group says that systemic racism is not a very or not at all a serious problem, except for self-identified conservatives, of whom 43 percent say it is not a serious problem.

“Bringing it closer to home, 60 percent say people of color are not treated fairly by the criminal justice system in New York, with only a majority of Republicans and conservatives saying people of color are treated fairly by the state’s criminal justice system. Stunningly, though not necessarily surprisingly, 92 percent of Blacks and 72 percent of Latinos say people of color are treated unfairly,” Greenberg said. “The current 60-29 percent margin saying ‘not fairly’ compares to 52-40 percent, a much narrower margin, back in January 2015.”

Support / Opposition for Ideas to Address Policing in America		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind	Black	Latino	White
Create a national database of police officer misconduct	Support	84%	94%	70%	80%	95%	83%	82%
	Oppose	10%	5%	18%	15%	5%	17%	11%
Mental health professionals respond with police on certain 911 calls	Support	82%	89%	76%	74%	90%	77%	81%
	Oppose	12%	7%	15%	18%	5%	15%	13%
A federal law to ban the use of chokeholds by police officers	Support	81%	89%	71%	76%	95%	78%	79%
	Oppose	15%	9%	23%	17%	5%	22%	14%
Eliminate qualified immunity for police officers	Support	63%	77%	45%	57%	84%	75%	58%
	Oppose	26%	15%	42%	31%	7%	21%	30%
Demilitarize the police	Support	46%	58%	30%	39%	64%	57%	42%
	Oppose	40%	29%	55%	46%	24%	30%	44%
Reduce funding to police departments	Support	37%	52%	21%	25%	61%	52%	32%
	Oppose	57%	41%	73%	71%	31%	48%	62%
Defund the police	Support	30%	40%	19%	23%	54%	41%	24%
	Oppose	60%	47%	75%	69%	27%	50%	67%

Siena College Poll – June 30, 2020

“At least 70 percent of Democrats, Republicans, independents, Blacks, Latinos, and whites agree on each of three police reforms: creating a national database of police misconduct; a federal law banning chokeholds by police; and, having mental health professionals respond with police on calls involving homelessness, drug addiction or mental health,” Greenberg said. “Support for eliminating qualified immunity is also very strong, 63-26 percent, although white and independent support falls below 60 percent and Republicans barely support, 45-42 percent.

“Demilitarizing the police is supported 46-40 percent, with support coming from Democrats, Blacks and Latinos. Those same groups support reducing police department funding, although that is opposed by a majority of New Yorkers. Defunding the police is opposed two-to-one and is only supported by Blacks,” Greenberg said.

Blacks and Whites Have Very Different Reactions When Seeing a Police Officer

“Overall, 42 percent of New Yorkers feel more secure when they see a police officer, compared to 20 percent who feel less secure and 35 percent are unaffected. But that doesn’t tell the full story. When Blacks see a police officer, 46 percent feel less secure and only 13 percent feel more secure. It is the mirror image for whites with 51 percent feeling more secure and only 13 percent less secure. Pluralities of Latinos and voters under 35 also feel less secure,” Greenberg said. “It is certainly worth noting when one in five New Yorkers – including nearly half of Black New Yorkers – feels less secure simply from seeing one of New York’s Finest or another police officer.”

New Yorkers Strongly Support Demonstrations Taking Place Across the Nation

“About three-quarters of Democrats, New York City voters and voters under 35, as well as 88 percent of Blacks, support the recent demonstrations as mainly peaceful with an important message. However, a majority of Republicans oppose the demonstrations because too many have turned to rioting and looting. Independents and downstate suburbanites are closely divided, while clear majorities of whites and voters over 35 support the demonstrations,” Greenberg said. “One in five New Yorkers say that either they themselves or a member of their household participated in at least one rally over the last few weeks.”

Overwhelming Support for Recently Passed New York Laws to Improve Policing in NYS

“By an overwhelming 80-13 percent margin, voters say the recently passed legislation – including a ban on chokeholds by police, making disciplinary measures public and having a special unit in the State Attorney General’s office to investigate and prosecute civilian killings by police officers – will be good for New York. At least two-thirds of voters from every race, party, region, and age agree,” Greenberg said.

Cuomo Gets Thumbs Up, Trump Thumbs Down and de Blasio Thumbs Sideways on Floyd Killing Response

“New Yorkers approve of the job Governor Andrew Cuomo is doing in response to the George Floyd killing 57-24 percent. They disapprove of the job President Donald Trump has done, 64-27 percent. And New York City voters are split on Mayor Bill de Blasio’s handling, 44-43 percent approve,” Greenberg said.

Cuomo Ratings Little Changed from Last Month; Remain Strong

Cuomo’s favorability rating is 65-31 percent, little changed from 66-30 percent last month. His job performance rating is 62-37 percent, little changed from 63-36 percent. And voters approve his overall handling of the pandemic 76-21 percent, exactly the same as in May.

“Voters continue to give Cuomo high grades – strong favorability and job performance ratings – and continue to strongly approve of his overall handling of the pandemic,” Greenberg said. “While voters still give Cuomo a slightly negative rating for his handling of nursing homes, they give him exceptionally positive ratings for his communicating with New Yorkers about the pandemic and for his reopening plans. His plans for reopening New York were viewed positively 64-34 percent last month, that’s now up to 70-29 percent.”

Odds & Ends

- By a 70-22 percent margin, voters have a favorable view of their local police, down from 81-16 percent, the last time Siena asked this question in January 2015. While more than three-quarters of whites and 55 percent of Latinos have a favorable view, Blacks are closely divided, with 43 percent favorable and 47 percent unfavorable, down from 60-38 percent favorable in January 2015.
- Voters have a favorable view of the Black Lives Matter movement 66-26 percent, including 90 percent of Blacks, 69 percent of Latinos and 60 percent of whites. Republicans have an unfavorable view, 41-49 percent and conservatives view the BLM movement unfavorably 29-61 percent.
- New Yorkers continue to see the bigger danger for the state in opening too quickly rather than too slowly, 62-31 percent, down slightly from 65-32 percent last month.
- Joe Biden maintains the exact same 57-32 percent lead over President Trump that he held last month. A plurality of voters, 46 percent, now think Trump will not win re-election, compared to 42 percent who think he will. Last month, voters thought he would win re-election 46-41 percent.
- Voters say New York is on the right track and not heading in the wrong direction 52-38 percent, down a little from 56-34 percent last month.
- New Yorkers are currently more negative about the direction of the country, 28-64 percent, than at any time since October 2017, when it was 26-65 percent.
- Voters have a favorable view of the New York State Assembly 45-30 percent, down from 57-29 percent in April, and they view the State Senate favorably 45-34 percent, down from 58-31 percent in April.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted June 23-25, 2020 among 806 New York State registered voters with 472 voters contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 334 responses drawn from a proprietary online panel (Lucid) of New Yorkers. Telephone calls were conducted in English and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest person in the household. Telephone sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline (ASDE) and cell phone (Dynata) telephone numbers within New York State weighted to reflect known population patterns. Data from both collection modes (phone and web) was merged and statistically adjusted by age, party by region, race/ethnicity, and gender to ensure representativeness. It has an overall margin of error of ± 3.9 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. 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.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

Siena College Poll Trends – June 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
June 2020	52	38	10
May 2020	56	34	10
April 2020	65	28	7
March 2020	56	27	17
February 2020	41	46	13
January 2020	49	41	10
November 2019	45	42	13
October 2019	46	44	10
September 2019	47	40	12
HIGHEST EVER	65 (4/20)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (4/20, 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
June 2020	28	64	8
May 2020	35	56	9
April 2020	34	60	6
March 2020	42	47	11
February 2020	38	55	7
November 2019	32	58	10
October 2019	31	62	7
September 2019	33	59	8
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 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	33	62	5
May 2020	32	63	5
April 2020	31	66	2
March 2020	35	59	5
February 2020	36	61	3
January 2020	31	64	5
November 2019	32	65	3
October 2019	30	67	3
September 2019	32	64	4
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (4/20, 9/15)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	53	39	8
May 2020	51	40	9
April 2020	60	36	4
March 2020	51	40	9
February 2020	45	47	7
March 2016	50	30	10
HIGHEST EVER	62 (10/27/08)	47 (2/20)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	45 (2/20)	26 (9/08)	4 (4/20)

Siena College Poll Trends – June 2020 – Page 2

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	65	31	4
May 2020	66	30	5
April 2020	77	21	2
March 2020	71	23	6
February 2020	44	50	6
January 2020	49	45	6
November 2019	44	49	7
October 2019	49	47	4
September 2019	48	46	6
HIGHEST EVER	77 (4/20, 2/11)	50 (2/20, 8/19, 2/19)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	43 (8/19, 2/19)	14 (8/09)	2 (4/20)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	45	30	25
April 2020	57	29	14
February 2020	46	36	18
January 2020	40	35	25
November 2019	45	34	20
October 2019	44	39	17
September 2019	42	35	23
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	25 (6/20, 1/20)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	29 (4/20)	10 (5/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	45	34	21
April 2020	58	31	11
February 2020	46	39	14
January 2020	43	38	19
November 2019	45	39	16
October 2019	47	35	17
September 2019	46	36	18
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	21 (6/20)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	31 (4/20)	6 (7/09)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about your local police department?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	70	22	8
January 2015	81	16	2
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/15)	22 (6/20)	8 (6/20)
LOWEST EVER	70 (6/20)	16 (1/15)	2 (1/15)

Q. 10 If the election for President was being held today and the candidates were Joe Biden on the Democratic line and Donald Trump on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	BIDEN	TRUMP	OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	57	32	10
May 2020	57	32	11
April 2020	65	29	6
March 2020	58	33	10
February 2020	55	36	9
HIGHEST EVER	65 (4/20)	36 (2/20)	10 (3/20)
LOWEST EVER	55 (2/20)	29 (4/20)	6 (4/20)

Siena College Poll Trends – June 2020 – Page 3

Q. 11 Even though the general election is months away, if you had to predict today, do you think Donald Trump will or will not be re-elected President of the United States?

DATE	WILL	WILL NOT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	42	46	12
May 2020	46	41	13
April 2020	45	48	7
March 2020	51	37	12
February 2020	62	29	9
HIGHEST EVER	62 (2/20)	48 (4/20)	13 (5/20)
LOWEST EVER	42 (6/20)	29 (2/20)	7 (4/20)

Q. 12 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
June 2020	14	17	12	56	2
May 2020	14	16	19	50	1
April 2020	14	16	15	54	1
March 2020	19	14	16	49	1
November 2019	17	15	15	52	1
October 2019	13	15	14	56	1
September 2019	12	16	21	51	1
HIGHEST EVER	19 (3/20, 6/18)	19 (2/19, 7/17)	21 (9/19)	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)

Q. 13 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
June 2020	27	35	17	20	1
May 2020	29	34	18	18	1
April 2020	37	34	18	10	1
March 2020	27	36	22	13	1
February 2020	8	28	32	31	1
January 2020	10	31	29	27	3
November 2019	6	29	36	29	1
October 2019	6	35	30	27	1
September 2019	7	31	34	25	2
HIGHEST EVER	37 (4/20)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	32 (8/19)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	27 (2/19)	17 (6/20)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 14 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing to address the coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic? ^

DATE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	32	64	5
May 2020	35	61	5
April 2020	34	65	1
March 2020	41	56	3
HIGHEST EVER	41 (3/20)	65 (4/20)	5 (6/20, 5/20)
LOWEST EVER	32 (6/20)	56 (3/20)	1 (4/20)

Q. 15 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Andrew Cuomo is doing to address the coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic? ^

DATE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	76	21	4
May 2020	76	21	3
April 2020	84	15	1
March 2020	87	11	2
HIGHEST EVER	87 (3/20)	21 (6/20, 5/20)	4 (6/20)
LOWEST EVER	76 (6/20, 5/20)	11 (3/20)	1 (4/20)

Siena College Poll Trends – June 2020 – Page 4

Q. 16 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing handling the pandemic: Communicating with the people of New York? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	54	27	12	7	0
May 2020	56	25	11	7	1
HIGHEST EVER	56 (5/20)	27 (6/20)	12 (6/20)	7 (6/20, 5/20)	1 (5/20)
LOWEST EVER	54 (6/20)	25 (5/20)	11 (5/20)	7 (6/20, 5/20)	0 (6/20)

Q. 17 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing handling the pandemic: Addressing the needs of nursing homes across New York? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	17	26	22	29	7
May 2020	18	26	20	28	7
HIGHEST EVER	18 (5/20)	26 (6/20, 5/20)	22 (6/20)	29 (6/20)	7 (6/20, 5/20)
LOWEST EVER	17 (6/20)	26 (6/20, 5/20)	20 (5/20)	28 (5/20)	7 (6/20, 5/20)

Q. 18 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing handling the pandemic: Implementing the right plans for reopening New York? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	32	38	19	10	2
May 2020	30	34	19	15	2
HIGHEST EVER	32 (6/20)	38 (6/20)	19 (6/20, 5/20)	15 (5/20)	2 (6/20, 5/20)
LOWEST EVER	30 (5/20)	34 (5/20)	19 (6/20, 5/20)	10 (6/20)	2 (6/20, 5/20)

Q. 19 If you had to choose, which of the following choices is the bigger danger for New York: Moving too quickly to loosen stay-at-home orders, which would make the coronavirus spread faster, with more lives being lost, OR moving too slowly to loosen stay-at-home orders, which would make the economic impact worse, with more jobs being lost? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	TOO QUICKLY	TOO SLOWLY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	62	31	7
May 2020	65	32	4
HIGHEST EVER	65 (5/20)	32 (5/20)	7 (6/20)
LOWEST EVER	62 (6/20)	31 (6/20)	4 (5/20)

Q. 20 How would you describe the state of race relations in New York State? Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	4	27	41	23	4
January 2020	5	28	42	22	3
January 2019	5	30	43	19	2
January 2018	4	35	43	15	3
January 2015	4	27	38	28	3
January 2014	7	40	37	14	2
January 2013	7	47	35	11	1
January 2012	7	44	36	11	2
January 2011	7	48	33	10	2
HIGHEST EVER	7 (many)	48 (1/11)	44 (1/18)	28 (1/15)	4 (6/20)
LOWEST EVER	3 (1/08)	27 (6/20, 1/15)	33 (1/11)	8 (1/10)	1 (1/13)

Q. 21 Do you think minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics and Asians who live in New York State experience racial or ethnic discrimination, or not?

DATE	YES	NO	SOMETIMES/OCCASIONALLY/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	73	19	9
January 2020	73	18	9
January 2019	68	24	8
January 2018	68	22	10
HIGHEST EVER	73 (6/20, 1/20)	24 (1/19)	10 (1/18)
LOWEST EVER	68 (1/19, 1/18)	18 (1/20)	8 (1/19)

Siena College Poll Trends – June 2020 – Page 5

Q. 22 Do you think people of color are treated fairly by the criminal justice system in New York, or not fairly?

DATE	FAIRLY	NOT FAIRLY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2020	29	60	11
January 2015	40	52	8
December 2014	35	52	13
HIGHEST EVER	40 (1/15)	60 (6/20)	13 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	29 (6/20)	52 (1/15, 12/14)	8 (1/15)

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 September 2019. “Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” are provided at the bottom of each question.
 ^ Inconsequential wording change.

