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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo's Handling of Pandemic Still Gets Strong Approval, Particularly for Communicating and Providing Accurate Info; Mixed on Managing Vaccine Rollout & Reopening Plans; Negative for Making COVID Nursing Home Deaths Data Public

New Yorkers Overwhelmingly Support Biden's \$1.9T COVID Relief Plan

16% of Voters Vaccinated; 59% Plan to Get Vaccine; 22% Do Not

Loudonville, NY. Voters approve the job Governor Andrew Cuomo is doing to address the coronavirus pandemic 61-34 percent, down slightly from 63-32 percent last month. On specific aspects of his handling of the pandemic, Cuomo gets positive grades for communicating with New Yorkers (67-33 percent) and providing accurate information (61-36 percent). He gets mixed grades for managing the vaccine rollout (48-49 percent) and implementing the right plans for reopening New York. However, voters give Cuomo a negative grade, 39-55 percent, on making public all data about COVID deaths of nursing home patients, according to a new Siena College Poll of New York State voters released today.

New Yorkers strongly support President Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan, 75-18 percent, as well as strongly supporting many of its specific proposals. So far, 16 percent of voters say they've been vaccinated, 59 percent plan to get vaccinated, and 22 percent of New Yorkers say they do not plan to get vaccinated.

This Siena College poll was concluded Thursday, February 11, prior to the most recent round of news coverage on Governor Cuomo and nursing homes, and the final verdict in the impeachment trial of former President Trump.

"Voters – especially Democrats – continue to give Cuomo strong marks for his overall handling of the pandemic. He gets a positive rating from 83 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of independents. However, 72 percent of Republicans give him a negative grade," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "Similarly, he gets overwhelmingly positive grades from Democrats, positive grades from independents and strongly negative grades from Republicans for communicating with New Yorkers and providing accurate information during the pandemic.

"While Democrats are positive about Cuomo's handling of the vaccine rollout and his plans to reopen New York, Republicans are overwhelming negative, and independents are negative as well," Greenberg said.

“When it comes to making public the data about the deaths of nursing home patients – the issue on which voters most harshly grade Cuomo – he only gets approval from 54 percent of Democrats, while 81 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of independents give him negative grades. New York City voters are closely divided but downstate suburbanites and upstaters give Cuomo negative grades,” Greenberg said.

Rating Governor Cuomo’s Handling of the Pandemic					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Oth
Do you approve or disapprove of the job Andrew Cuomo is doing to address the COVID-19 pandemic?	Approve	61%	83%	25%	52%
	Disapprove	34%	12%	72%	42%
Specific Issues Related to Gov’s Handling of Pandemic					
Communicating with the people of New York	Ex/Good	67%	86%	33%	60%
	Fair/Poor	33%	13%	66%	39%
Providing accurate information during the course of the pandemic	Ex/Good	61%	81%	27%	54%
	Fair/Poor	36%	17%	68%	45%
Managing ongoing vaccine rollout, recognizing the Gov. does not control the number of vaccines NY receives	Ex/Good	48%	68%	18%	38%
	Fair/Poor	49%	28%	79%	57%
Implementing the right plans for reopening New York	Ex/Good	48%	66%	19%	38%
	Fair/Poor	50%	31%	79%	59%
Making public all data about COVID-related deaths of nursing home patients	Ex/Good	39%	54%	17%	30%
	Fair/Poor	55%	37%	81%	63%
Siena College Poll – February 16, 2021					

Cuomo has a 56-39 percent favorability rating, little changed from 57-39 percent in January. His job performance rating is 51-47 percent, down from 56-42 percent in January. Currently, 46 percent of voters say they are prepared to re-elect Cuomo if he runs for re-election in 2022 and 45 percent say they would ‘prefer someone else,’ down a little from 48-42 percent in November.

“While Cuomo remains popular and gets strong ratings across the board from Democrats, independents are closely divided on their feelings toward Cuomo. Republicans, who had shown Cuomo some love early in the pandemic last spring, are now overwhelmingly negative in their views on Cuomo,” Greenberg said.

“Voters – at least Democrats – still believe the Legislature should continue to give Cuomo extraordinary executive powers to manage the pandemic, 53-37 percent, identical to last month’s finding,” Greenberg said.

“Democrats support Cuomo keeping executive powers 73-18 percent, while independents oppose it 47-40 percent and Republicans want those powers taken away 70-22 percent.”

Overwhelming Support for Biden’s \$1.9T COVID Relief Plan – and All of its Major Components

“Three-quarters of New Yorkers, including 91 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of independents and 45 percent of Republicans – support Biden’s \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan, even though they ‘may or may not agree with all of the components.’ Other than Republicans and conservatives – both are virtually break-even – at least two-thirds of every other demographic group support the plan,” Greenberg said.

“Interestingly, while Republicans are break-even on the overall package, they support – and in several cases, strongly support – each of six components of the plan,” Greenberg said. “At least 82 percent of Democrats and at least 62 percent of independents support each of those components.”

Support/Opposition for President Biden’s COVID Relief Proposals					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Oth
Overall, do you support or oppose Congress passing Biden’s \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan?	Support	75%	91%	45%	71%
	Oppose	18%	4%	47%	21%
Components of Biden’s COVID Relief Plan					
\$160 billion to support vaccine distribution, increased testing, and additional PPE	Support	85%	92%	77%	81%
	Oppose	10%	4%	18%	14%
\$1,400 checks for most Americans, adding to the \$600 approved in December	Support	83%	92%	65%	82%
	Oppose	14%	5%	29%	16%
\$170 billion in aid to schools and colleges across the country	Support	77%	92%	57%	69%
	Oppose	16%	4%	36%	23%
14-weeks of paid leave for caregivers dealing with closed schools or care centers	Support	74%	87%	54%	64%
	Oppose	19%	6%	39%	27%
\$350 billion in aid to state and local governments	Support	73%	88%	54%	62%
	Oppose	19%	5%	37%	29%
An additional \$400 per week in enhanced unemployment insurance	Support	71%	82%	52%	67%
	Oppose	23%	13%	43%	28%
Siena College Poll – February 16, 2021					

One in Seven Voters Has Already Been Vaccinated; 22% Not Planning on Getting Vaccinated

“While between 12 and 19 percent of voters from every region and party have been vaccinated, with Democrats and upstaters leading the way, there are distinct racial and income disparities in this early vaccination period,” Greenberg said. “Although 20 percent of white voters have been vaccinated, only 10 percent of Black voters and five percent of Latino voters have been. Only nine percent earning less than \$50,000 have been vaccinated, compared to 14 percent who earn between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and 25 percent of those earning over \$100,000.

“When it comes to whether or not they plan to get vaccinated, there are wide differences by party and race. While only 17 percent of Democrats and 21 percent of independents do not plan to get vaccinated, 35 percent of Republicans say they will pass on the vaccine,” Greenberg said. “Eighteen percent of white voters say no to the vaccine. However, 34 percent of Latino and 37 percent of Black voters say they don’t plan on getting vaccinated.”

Plurality of New Yorkers Now Believe the Worst of the Pandemic is Behind Us

In a significant shift from last month, voters say, by a 46-36 percent margin, *the worst of the pandemic is over*, rather than the worst is still to come. Last month, voters said 55-31 percent that *the worst was still to come*.

“While Republicans are most optimistic, 57-24 percent, that the worst is behind us, independents agree 42-32 percent and Democrats are virtually evenly divided. A plurality of voters from every region – between 45 and 47 percent – are optimistic,” Greenberg said. “White voters say the worst is behind us, 49-31 percent, however, a majority of Black voters and a plurality of Latino voters say the worst is still to come.”

Odds & Ends

- In his first month in office, Biden is enjoying a honeymoon with New York voters. He has a 65-29 percent favorability rating, up from 62-32 percent in January. He is viewed favorably by 90 percent of Democrats and 53 percent of independents, while 68 percent of Republicans view him unfavorably.
- Biden's first job performance rating as President is 55-38 percent, thanks to a 79 percent positive rating from Democrats. Seventy-two percent of Republicans and 46 percent of independents, a plurality, give him a negative job performance rating.
- By a 61-33 percent margin, voters wanted to see the United States Senate convict former President Trump in his second impeachment trial. Eighty-seven percent of Democrats supported conviction and 72 percent of Republicans favored acquittal. Independents supported conviction 49-43 percent.
- Sixty percent of New Yorkers think that Biden will have a positive impact on New York, compared to 17 percent who think he'll have a negative impact and 18 percent who say his Administration will have no real impact on New York.
- Trump has a negative 26-67 percent favorability rating. While 88 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of independents view Trump unfavorably, 62 percent of Republicans continue to view him favorably.
- Support for legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in New York is at its highest level ever in a Siena College poll, 63-29 percent, up from 56-33 percent last month. It is supported by more than two-thirds of Democrats and independents, and by a small 48-43 percent margin, Republicans oppose it.
- By a 50-33 percent margin, up a little from 48-35 percent in January, voters support online sports betting. It's supported by 52 percent of Democrats, 53 percent of Republicans and a plurality, 46 percent, of independents. It has plurality support, 47-36 percent, in New York City and stronger majority support outside the City.
- In a major turnaround, voters say the country is headed in the right direction 49-42 percent. In January, voters said the country was on the wrong track, 59-31 percent. Last month, Democrats said the country was on the wrong track 49-40 percent. Today Democrats like the direction of the country 69-23 percent. Republicans continue to be very negative on the direction of the country, 71-22 percent.
- Voters say the state is headed in the right direction, 48-41 percent, down slightly from 50-40 percent last month. Seventy percent of Democrats are optimistic about the direction of the state, compared to 69 percent of Republicans and 53 percent of independents who say the state is headed on the wrong track.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted February 7-11, 2021 among 804 New York State registered voters with 504 voters contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 300 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, education, and gender to ensure representativeness. It has an overall margin of error of ± 4.3 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.



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Siena College Poll Trends – February 2021

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
February 2021	48	41	11
January 2021	50	40	10
November 2020	50	37	13
October 2020*	46	34	20
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
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 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
February 2021	4	16	33	42	5
November 2020	5	19	33	37	5
April 2020	6	18	36	36	4
February 2020	2	26	35	31	6
HIGHEST EVER	6 (4/20)	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. 3 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
February 2021	49	42	9
January 2021	31	59	10
November 2020	38	48	14
October 2020*	24	62	14
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
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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	26	67	6
January 2021	30	66	5
November 2020	33	64	4
October 2020*	29	66	5
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
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (4/20, 9/15)

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Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	65	29	5
January 2021	62	32	6
November 2020	63	31	6
October 2020*	62	33	6
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
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	47 (2/20)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	45 (2/20)	26 (9/08)	4 (4/20)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	56	39	5
January 2021	57	39	4
November 2020	56	39	5
October 2020*	59	33	7
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
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. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	45	31	24
January 2021	48	28	24
November 2020	47	28	25
June 2020	45	30	25
April 2020	57	29	14
February 2020	46	36	18
January 2020	40	35	25
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	25 (6/20, 1/20)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	28 (1/21, 11/20)	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
February 2021	47	33	20
January 2021	51	30	19
November 2020	50	31	18
June 2020	45	34	21
April 2020	58	31	11
February 2020	46	39	14
January 2020	43	38	19
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	21 (6/20)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	30 (1/21)	6 (7/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	49	39	12
January 2021	45	39	16
November 2020	45	39	16
April 2020	55	39	6
March 2020	52	38	9
February 2020	54	38	9
January 2020	54	36	11
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	46 (2/19)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	45 (1/21, 11/20)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	36	17	47
January 2021	35	17	48
November 2020	33	17	49
January 2020	36	15	49
HIGHEST EVER	39 (1/19)	18 (8/19, 4/19, 1/19)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	43 (1/19)

Q. 12 Do you think the Biden Administration will have a positive impact on New York State, a negative impact on New York, or no real impact on New York? ^

DATE	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO REAL IMPACT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	60	17	18	5
January 2021	54	23	16	7
HIGHEST EVER	60 (2/21)	23 (1/21)	18 (2/21)	7 (1/21)
LOWEST EVER	54 (1/21)	17 (2/21)	16 (1/21)	5 (2/21)

Q. 13 Do you think that having Chuck Schumer, serving as Majority Leader of the United States Senate, will have a positive impact on New York State, , a negative impact on New York, or no real impact on New York? ^

DATE	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO REAL IMPACT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	50	21	18	12
January 2021	49	22	18	11
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/21)	22 (1/21)	18 (2/21, 1/21)	12 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	49 (1/21)	21 (2/21)	18 (2/21, 1/21)	11 (1/21)

Q. 22 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
February 2021	18	33	20	27	2
January 2021	24	32	15	27	2
November 2020	23	31	18	27	1
October 2020*	30	31	18	20	1
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
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)	15 (1/21)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

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Q. 23 If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as governor in 2022, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect Cuomo or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT CUOMO	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	46	45	10
January 2021	48	42	10
November 2020	51	42	7
HIGHEST EVER	51 (11/20)	45 (2/21)	10 (2/21, 1/21)
LOWEST EVER	46 (2/21)	42 (1/21, 11/20)	7 (11/20)

Q. 24 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
February 2021	61	34	5
January 2021	63	32	6
November 2020	63	30	7
October 2020*	73	24	3
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)	34 (2/21)	7 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	61 (2/21)	11 (3/20)	1 (4/20)

Q. 25 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
February 2021	37	30	14	19	1
June 2020	54	27	12	7	0
May 2020	56	25	11	7	1
HIGHEST EVER	56 (5/20)	30 (2/21)	14 (2/21)	19 (2/21)	1 (2/21, 5/20)
LOWEST EVER	37 (2/21)	25 (5/20)	11 (5/20)	7 (6/20, 5/20)	0 (6/20)

Q. 28 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
February 2021	17	31	20	30	3
June 2020	32	38	19	10	2
May 2020	30	34	19	15	2
HIGHEST EVER	32 (6/20)	38 (6/20)	20 (2/21)	30 (2/21)	3 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	17 (2/21)	31 (2/21)	19 (6/20, 5/20)	10 (6/20)	2 (6/20, 5/20)

Q. 30 Last spring, in response to the pandemic, the State Legislature gave Governor Cuomo extraordinary executive powers to be able to manage the state during this critical time. Do you think the Legislature should or should not allow the Governor to continue managing the state using these executive powers?

DATE	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	53	37	10
January 2021	53	37	10
November 2020	57	35	8 (11/20)
HIGHEST EVER	57 (11/20)	37 (2/21, 1/21)	10 (2/21, 1/21)
LOWEST EVER	53 (2/21, 1/21)	35 (11/20)	8 (11/20)

Q. 31 Do you think that the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is over, or do you think the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is still to come?

DATE	WORST OVER	WORST TO COME	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	46	36	18
January 2021	31	55	14
HIGHEST EVER	46 (2/21)	55 (1/21)	18 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	31 (1/21)	36 (2/21)	14 (1/21)

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Q. 32/33 Have you gotten vaccinated for COVID-19? Do you plan to get vaccinated for COVID-19, or not? *(Asked among only those who have not been vaccinated.)*

DATE	VACCINATED	PLAN TO GET VACCINATED	NOT PLANNING TO GET VACCINATED	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	16	59	22	3
January 2021	7	64	25	4
HIGHEST EVER	16 (2/21)	64 (1/21)	25 (1/21)	4 (1/21)
LOWEST EVER	7 (1/21)	59 (2/21)	22 (2/21)	3 (2/21)

Q. 34 Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	63	29	9
January 2021	56	33	11
November 2020	60	32	7
February 2020	55	40	5
January 2020	58	38	4
HIGHEST EVER	63 (2/21)	44 (4/18)	11 (1/21)
LOWEST EVER	52 (9/19, 4/19, 2/19, 4/18)	29 (2/21)	3 (1/19)

Q. 35 The state allows sports betting at commercial casinos. Do you support or oppose broadening the sports betting law to allow for online sports betting? ^

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2021	50	33	17
January 2021	48	35	17
November 2020	50	32	18
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/21, 11/20)	44 (2/19)	18 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	44 (2/19)	32 (11/20)	12 (2/19)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: October 2020; 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 2020.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.

