

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:

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Siena College Poll:

# In a Fall Preview of June's Primary, Democrats Give Hochul Early Double-Digit Lead in 3 Potential Candidate Scenarios

New Gov Has Positive Favorability Rating – Comparable to AG James – But Her Job Performance Rating is Tilting Negative; Under Water on Several Issues Reducing Crime Is Most Important State Issue for Voters - Dems, Reps & Inds.

Loudonville, NY. As New Yorkers learn more about their new governor and Democrats look ahead to a June gubernatorial primary, Governor Kathy Hochul leads her closest opponent by between 14 and 19 points in three potential primary scenarios, according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters.

In one potential five-way primary, Hochul leads with 31 percent, followed by former Governor Andrew Cuomo, 17 percent, Attorney General Letitia James, 14 percent, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, seven percent, and NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, six percent. With Cuomo excluded, Hochul gets 39 percent, James 20 percent, de Blasio 10 percent, and Williams eight percent. In a head-to-head match-up, Hochul leads James 47-31 percent.

Hochul has a 42-26 percent favorability rating, down from 42-17 percent last month. Her job performance rating is now negative 43-45 percent, down from 44-37 percent in September. Only between 27 and 42 percent of New Yorkers give Hochul positive grades on five different issues, while between 38 and 51 percent give her negative grades; she is close to break even on her handling of the pandemic and natural disasters but gets negative grades for cleaning up Albany corruption, strengthening the economy and 'addressing issues important to you.'

"Predicting June's Democratic gubernatorial ballot 36 weeks from primary day, four months before a state party convention with only Hochul declared is not for the faint hearted. That said, Siena presented Democrats with three potential primary matchups and in each case, Hochul leads by double digits. But let's repeat, we are 36 weeks away with an unknown field, and most potential candidates being, like Hochul, largely unknown to a wide swath of voters," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"In all three horseraces, the vote is tight in New York City, the region producing the most Democratic primary votes, but downstate suburban and upstate Democrats give Hochul large leads in all three matchups," Greenberg said. "James leads Hochul with Black Democrats in all three configurations, while Hochul is ahead by even larger margins with both white and Latino Democrats in all three. Hochul leads with both liberals and moderates."

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"Then there's the elephant – or perhaps the donkey – in the room. Will Cuomo run again, trying for electoral redemption? While one out of six Democrats say they would support Cuomo over Hochul, James, et. al., 57 percent of Democrats say Cuomo should have resigned, compared to 35 percent who said he should have stayed, and by two-to-one Democrats say Cuomo has sexually harassed multiple women," Greenberg said.

"Interestingly, Hochul (58-12 percent) and James (54-12 percent) have similar favorability ratings among Democrats. And while both are more known to Democrats than other voters, both are still largely unknown to about one-third of Democrats. A long way to go," Greenberg said. "Williams has a 37-10 favorability rating with Democrats, while Cuomo is 49-43 percent and de Blasio is 36-47 percent."

Voters Divided on Hochul's Overall Job Performance Rating and Some Specifics; Negative on Others

| Governor Hochul Job Performance  |                           |       |     |     |           |
|--|---------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------|
|  | Rating                    | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind/Other |
| How would you rate the job that Kathy                                    | Excellent / Good          | 43%   | 59% | 25% | 30%       |
| Hochul is doing as Governor?   | Fair / Poor               | 45%   | 28% | 67% | 57%       |
| Now I want to ask you about some spe<br>Governor Hochul is doing an exce |                           |       |     |     |           |
| Loading the state through the pandamic                                   | Excellent / Good          | 42%   | 58% | 25% | 32%       |
| Leading the state through the pandemic                                   | Fair / Poor               | 44%   | 30% | 64% | 51%       |
| Handling the state's response to natural                                 | Excellent / Good          | 39%   | 52% | 29% | 26%       |
| disasters  | Fair / Poor               | 38%   | 28% | 51% | 40%       |
| Address in a increase increase to the contract to                        | Excellent / Good          | 33%   | 46% | 19% | 23%       |
| Addressing issues important to you                                       | Fair / Poor               | 50%   | 36% | 69% | 59%       |
| Strongthoning Now York's cooperate                                       | Excellent / Good          | 31%   | 42% | 17% | 21%       |
| Strengthening New York's economy   | Fair / Poor               | 51%   | 39% | 70% | 56%       |
| Classing up corruption in Albany   | Excellent / Good          | 27%   | 38% | 18% | 15%       |
| Cleaning up corruption in Albany   | Fair / Poor               | 48%   | 36% | 65% | 54%       |
| Siena Co   | llege Poll: October 19, 2 | 2021  |     |     |           |

"Voters – particularly Republicans and independents – are not cutting the new governor much slack in judging her early performance. Independents are nearly two-to-one negative and Republicans rate her even more negatively than that," Greenberg said. "On specific issues, Republicans and independents rate her negatively on all. Democrats give her positive grades for the pandemic, handling natural disasters and addressing issues important to them, and virtual breakeven grades on the economy and cleaning up corruption."

Voters Rate Importance of State Issues: Crime, 82%; Racism, 61%; Vaccinations, 58% (Chart next page) "Voters universally call reducing community crime an important state priority – 82 percent say very important – and 85 percent say that addressing systemic racism is too, 61 say percent very important," Greenberg said.

"While it may not be surprising that Republicans, Democrats and independents don't agree on the importance of addressing systemic racism or ensuring more New Yorkers get vaccinated, it should be noted that when it comes to the importance of reducing crime and reimbursing landlords for lost rent, there is virtually no difference of opinion among Democrats, Republicans and independents," Greenberg said.

| Importance of Issues                                   |   |       |     |     |            |  |
|--|---|-------|-----|-----|------------|--|
|  | te moving forward and for each one I men<br>very important, somewhat important, not |       |     |     |            |  |
| Policy Issues  | Rating  | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind/ Other |  |
| Poducing crime in                                      | Very Important  | 82%   | 83% | 86% | 78%        |  |
| Reducing crime in communities across the state         | Total Important (very / somewhat)   | 96%   | 97% | 97% | 95%        |  |
| Communities across the state                           | Not Important (not very / not at all)   | 4%    | 3%  | 3%  | 5%         |  |
|  | Very Important  | 61%   | 76% | 39% | 51%        |  |
| Addressing systemic racism                             | Total Important (very / somewhat)   | 85%   | 94% | 68% | 85%        |  |
|  | Not Important (not very / not at all)   | 13%   | 5%  | 29% | 13%        |  |
| Chausing many Many Varleage                            | Very Important  | 58%   | 76% | 39% | 44%        |  |
| Ensuring more New Yorkers get the COVID-19 vaccination | Total Important (very / somewhat)   | 76%   | 91% | 57% | 67%        |  |
| get the COVID-19 vaccination                           | Not Important (not very / not at all)   | 23%   | 7%  | 41% | 33%        |  |
| Making sure landlords are                              | Very Important  | 48%   | 47% | 51% | 47%        |  |
| reimbursed for lost rent due to                        | Total Important (very / somewhat)   | 84%   | 86% | 81% | 81%        |  |
| eviction moratorium                                    | Not Important (not very / not at all)   | 14%   | 11% | 14% | 18%        |  |
| Putting in place the system to                         | Very Important  | 28%   | 32% | 20% | 28%        |  |
| begin retail sale of                                   | Total Important (very / somewhat)   | 55%   | 60% | 50% | 53%        |  |
| recreational cannabis in NY                            | Not Important (not very / not at all)   | 43%   | 39% | 47% | 46%        |  |
|  | Siena College Poll: October 19, 20  | 021   |     |     |            |  |

### **Odds & Ends**

- Former President Donald Trump has long been the pol with the lowest favorability rating among New York voters. No more. Trump has a 37-59 percent favorability rating, net 22 points negative. Cuomo is 33-60 percent, net 27 points negative. And de Blasio is 25-56 percent, net 31 points negative.
- ➤ In July 2012, 63 percent of New Yorkers including 71 percent of Democrats, 58 percent of independent and 52 percent of Republicans had a favorable view of the United States Supreme Court. Today, only 51 percent have a favorable view of the Court. While nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65 percent) view the Court favorably, only pluralities of 47 percent of Democrats and 46 percent of independents do so.
- ➤ President Joe Biden has a 51-44 percent favorability rating, down from 57-37 percent last month and 63-34 percent in June. His job performance rating is 40-58 percent, down from last month's 46-52 percent and June's 52-46 percent.
- New York's best days are ahead of us, not behind us, voters still say. Currently, voters say New York's best days lie ahead 50-26 percent, down a little from 57-26 percent last month.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted October 10-14, 2021 among 801 New York State registered voters with 501 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  $\pm$  4.1 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. There were 419 Democrats, with a margin of error of  $\pm$  5.4 percentage points including the design effect 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: <a href="https://www.siena.edu/SCRI/SNY">www.siena.edu/SCRI/SNY</a>.



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# Siena College Poll Trends – October 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 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 44          | 43              | 13                    |
| September 2021 | 48          | 37              | 16                    |
| June 2021      | 48          | 38              | 13                    |
| May 2021       | 48          | 40              | 11                    |
| April 2021     | 49          | 40              | 12                    |
| March 2021     | 48          | 38              | 14                    |
| February 2021  | 48          | 41              | 11                    |
| January 2021   | 50          | 40              | 10                    |
| November 2020  | 50          | 37              | 13                    |
| 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 |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 35                | 54               | 12                    |
| September 2021 | 40                | 48               | 12                    |
| June 2021      | 45                | 44               | 11                    |
| May 2021       | 46                | 43               | 10                    |
| April 2021     | 45                | 45               | 10                    |
| March 2021     | 50                | 41               | 10                    |
| February 2021  | 49                | 42               | 9                     |
| January 2021   | 31                | 59               | 10                    |
| November 2020  | 38                | 48               | 14                    |
| 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 Joe Biden?

| DATE           | <b>FAVORABLE</b> | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 51               | 44          | 5                     |
| September 2021 | 57               | 37          | 6                     |
| June 2021      | 63               | 34          | 3                     |
| May 2021       | 62               | 34          | 4                     |
| April 2021     | 62               | 33          | 5                     |
| March 2021     | 64               | 30          | 5                     |
| February 2021  | 65               | 29          | 5                     |
| January 2021   | 62               | 32          | 6                     |
| November 2020  | 63               | 31          | 6                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 65 (2/21)        | 47 (2/20)   | 28 (9/08)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | 45 (2/20)        | 26 (9/08)   | 4 (4/20)              |

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

| FAVORABLE        | UNFAVORABLE                                     | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 42               | 26  | 32  |
| 42               | 17  | 41  |
| 18               | 13  | 69  |
| 23               | 14  | 64  |
| 42 (10/21, 9/21) | <b>26 (10/21)</b>                               | 69 (4/21)   |
| 18 (4/21)        | 13 (4/21)                                       | <mark>32 (10/21)</mark>   |
|                  | 42<br>42<br>18<br>23<br><b>42</b> (10/21, 9/21) | 42 26<br>42 17<br>18 13<br>23 14<br>42 (10/21, 9/21) 26 (10/21) |

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

| DATE           | FAVORABLE         | UNFAVORABLE       | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 33                | 60                | 7                     |
| September 2021 | 34                | 55                | 11                    |
| June 2021      | 45                | 47                | 8                     |
| May 2021       | 44                | 48                | 8                     |
| April 2021     | 40                | 52                | 9                     |
| March 2021     | 43                | 45                | 12                    |
| February 2021  | 56                | 39                | 5                     |
| January 2021   | 57                | 39                | 4                     |
| November 2020  | 56                | 39                | 5                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 77 (4/20, 2/11)   | <b>60 (10/21)</b> | 24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07) |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>33 (10/21)</b> | 14 (8/09)         | 2 (4/20)              |
|                |                   |                   |                       |

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE  | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 37         | 59          | 3                     |
| September 2021 | 33         | 61          | 6                     |
| April 2021     | 33         | 64          | 4                     |
| March 2021     | 31         | 66          | 3                     |
| February 2021  | 26         | 67          | 6                     |
| January 2021   | 30         | 66          | 5                     |
| November 2020  | 33         | 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.** 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE        | UNFAVORABLE      | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 50               | 40               | 10                    |
| September 2021 | 52               | 33               | 15                    |
| June 2021      | 50               | 38               | 13                    |
| May 2021       | 50               | 39               | 11                    |
| April 2021     | 49               | 38               | 14                    |
| March 2021     | 49               | 35               | 16                    |
| February 2021  | 49               | 39               | 12                    |
| January 2021   | 45               | 39               | 16                    |
| November 2020  | 45               | 39               | 16                    |
| 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. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE     | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 39        | 19              | 42                    |
| September 2021 | 38        | 18              | 45                    |
| June 2021      | 34        | 21              | 45                    |
| May 2021       | 38        | 20              | 42                    |
| April 2021     | 39        | 17              | 44                    |
| March 2021     | 40        | 14              | 46                    |
| February 2021  | 36        | 17              | 47                    |
| January 2021   | 35        | 17              | 48                    |
| November 2020  | 33        | 17              | 49                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 40 (3/21) | 21 (6/21)       | 70 (6/18)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | 20 (6/18) | 10 (10/18, 6/18 | 8) 42 (10/21, 5/21)   |

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

| DATE         | FAVORABLE               | UNFAVORABLE     | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021 | 25                      | 56              | 19                    |
| January 2021 | 28                      | 53              | 19                    |
| HIGHEST EVER | 44 (1/18)               | 57 (9/19, 8/19) | 32 (11/13)            |
| LOWEST EVER  | <b>25</b> (10/21, 9/19) | 27 (11/13)      | 15 (2/16)             |

**Q. 11** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

| DATE           | <b>FAVORABLE</b> | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 17               | 16          | 67                    |
| September 2021 | 17               | 15          | 68                    |
| May 2021       | 20               | 15          | 65                    |
| October 2014*  | 32               | 41          | 27                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 32 (10/14)       | 41 (10/14)  | 76 (1/14)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | 11 (2/14)        | 10 (1/14)   | 27 (10/14)            |

**Q. 12** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Giuliani?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE         | UNFAVORABLE       | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 27                | 49                | 24                    |
| September 2021 | 29                | 42                | 29                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 29 (9/21)         | <b>49 (10/21)</b> | 29 (9/21)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>27 (10/21)</b> | 42 (9/21)         | <b>24 (10/21)</b>     |

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE         | UNFAVORABLE             | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 17                | 19                      | 64                    |
| September 2021 | 18                | 15                      | 67                    |
| May 2021       | 20                | 19                      | 62                    |
| April 2021     | 18                | 17                      | 66                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 20 (5/21)         | <b>19 (10/21, 5/21)</b> | 67 (9/21)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>17 (10/21)</b> | 15 (9/21)               | 62 (5/21)             |

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the United States Supreme Court?

| DATE         | <b>FAVORABLE</b>  | UNFAVORABLE       | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021 | 51                | 32                | 17                    |
| July 2012    | 63                | 30                | 8                     |
| HIGHEST EVER | 63 (7/12)         | <b>32 (10/21)</b> | 17 (10/21)            |
| LOWEST EVER  | <b>51</b> (10/21) | 30 (7/12)         | 8 (7/12)              |

Q.18 How would you rate the job that Joe Biden is doing as President? Would you rate it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

| DATE           | EXCELLENT  | GOOD      | FAIR              | Poor                  | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 13         | 27        | 24                | 34                    | 1                     |
| September 2021 | 16         | 30        | 22                | 30                    | 2                     |
| June 2021      | 22         | 30        | 20                | 26                    | 1                     |
| May 2021       | 26         | 27        | 17                | 28                    | 2                     |
| April 2021     | 24         | 29        | 20                | 25                    | 2                     |
| March 2021     | 28         | 26        | 18                | 23                    | 4                     |
| February 2021  | 24         | 31        | 17                | 21                    | 6                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 28 (3/21)  | 31 (2/21) | <b>24 (10/21)</b> | <mark>34 (10</mark> / | <b>(21)</b> 6 (2/21)  |
| LOWEST EVER    | 13 (10/21) | 26 (3/21) | 17 (5/21, 2/21)   | 21 (2/2               | 1) 1 (10/21, 6/21)    |

Q.19 How would you rate the job that Kathy Hochul is doing as Governor? Would you rate it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

| DATE           | EXCELLENT | GOOD                         | FAIR       | Poor Don't I | KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| October 2021   | 9         | 34                           | 26         | 19           | 12              |
| September 2021 | 9         | 35                           | 27         | 10           | 18              |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 9 (10/21, | <mark>9/21)</mark> 35 (9/21) | 29 (9/21)  | 19 (10/21)   | 18 (9/21)       |
| LOWEST EVER    | 9 (10/21, | 9/21) 34 (10/21)             | 26 (10/21) | 10 (9/21)    | 12 (10/21)      |

Q. 31 Do you think Andrew Cuomo should have resigned or do you think he should have stayed in office?

| DATE           | RESIGNED                | STAYED IN OFFICE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 67                      | 26               | 7                     |
| September 2012 | 67                      | 26               | 7                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 67 (10/21, 9/21)        | 26 (10/21, 9/21) | 7 (10/21, 9/21)       |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>67</b> (10/21, 9/21) | 26 (10/21, 9/21) | 7 (10/21, 9/21)       |

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Q. 32 Based on what you know right now, do you think Andrew Cuomo did or did not sexually harass multiple women that worked for the state of New York?

| DATE         | DID COMMIT              | DID NOT COMMIT    | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021 | 56                      | 18                | 26                    |
| July 2012    | 56                      | 20                | 24                    |
| HIGHEST EVER | <b>56 (10/21, 9/21)</b> | 20 (9/21)         | <b>26 (10/21)</b>     |
| LOWEST EVER  | <b>56 (10/21, 9/21)</b> | <b>18 (10/21)</b> | 24 (9/21)             |

Q. 33 Overall, do you think New York State's best days are behind us or do you think New York State's best days lie ahead?

| DATE           | <b>BEST DAYS BEHIND US</b> | <b>BEST DAYS LIE AHEAD</b> | MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 2021   | 26                         | 50                         | 24                          |
| September 2021 | 26                         | 57                         | 17                          |
| June 2021      | 27                         | 53                         | 18                          |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 27 (6/21)                  | 57 (9/21)                  | <mark>24 (10/21)</mark>     |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>26</b> (10/21, 9/21)    | <b>50 (10/21)</b>          | 17 (9/21)                   |

#### **Poll Trend Notes:**

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 November 2020.

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" are provided at the bottom of each question.

<sup>^</sup> Inconsequential wording change.



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"In all three horseraces, the vote is tight in New York City, the region producing the most Democratic primary votes, but downstate suburban and upstate Democrats give Hochul large leads in all three matchups," Greenberg said. "James leads Hochul with Black Democrats in all three configurations, while Hochul is ahead by even larger margins with both white and Latino Democrats in all three. Hochul leads with both liberals and moderates."

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"Then there's the elephant – or perhaps the donkey – in the room. Will Cuomo run again, trying for electoral redemption? While one out of six Democrats say they would support Cuomo over Hochul, James, et. al., 57 percent of Democrats say Cuomo should have resigned, compared to 35 percent who said he should have stayed, and by two-to-one Democrats say Cuomo has sexually harassed multiple women," Greenberg said.

"Interestingly, Hochul (58-12 percent) and James (54-12 percent) have similar favorability ratings among Democrats. And while both are more known to Democrats than other voters, both are still largely unknown to about one-third of Democrats. A long way to go," Greenberg said. "Williams has a 37-10 favorability rating with Democrats, while Cuomo is 49-43 percent and de Blasio is 36-47 percent."

Voters Divided on Hochul's Overall Job Performance Rating and Some Specifics; Negative on Others

| Governor Hochul Job Performance  |                           |       |     |     |           |
|--|---------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------|
|  | Rating                    | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind/Other |
| How would you rate the job that Kathy                                    | Excellent / Good          | 43%   | 59% | 25% | 30%       |
| Hochul is doing as Governor?   | Fair / Poor               | 45%   | 28% | 67% | 57%       |
| Now I want to ask you about some spe<br>Governor Hochul is doing an exce |                           |       |     |     |           |
| Loading the state through the pandamic                                   | Excellent / Good          | 42%   | 58% | 25% | 32%       |
| Leading the state through the pandemic                                   | Fair / Poor               | 44%   | 30% | 64% | 51%       |
| Handling the state's response to natural                                 | Excellent / Good          | 39%   | 52% | 29% | 26%       |
| disasters  | Fair / Poor               | 38%   | 28% | 51% | 40%       |
| Address in a increase increase to the contract to                        | Excellent / Good          | 33%   | 46% | 19% | 23%       |
| Addressing issues important to you                                       | Fair / Poor               | 50%   | 36% | 69% | 59%       |
| Strongthoning Now York's cooperate                                       | Excellent / Good          | 31%   | 42% | 17% | 21%       |
| Strengthening New York's economy   | Fair / Poor               | 51%   | 39% | 70% | 56%       |
| Classing up corruption in Albany   | Excellent / Good          | 27%   | 38% | 18% | 15%       |
| Cleaning up corruption in Albany   | Fair / Poor               | 48%   | 36% | 65% | 54%       |
| Siena Co   | llege Poll: October 19, 2 | 2021  |     |     |           |

"Voters – particularly Republicans and independents – are not cutting the new governor much slack in judging her early performance. Independents are nearly two-to-one negative and Republicans rate her even more negatively than that," Greenberg said. "On specific issues, Republicans and independents rate her negatively on all. Democrats give her positive grades for the pandemic, handling natural disasters and addressing issues important to them, and virtual breakeven grades on the economy and cleaning up corruption."

Voters Rate Importance of State Issues: Crime, 82%; Racism, 61%; Vaccinations, 58% (Chart next page) "Voters universally call reducing community crime an important state priority – 82 percent say very important – and 85 percent say that addressing systemic racism is too, 61 say percent very important," Greenberg said.

"While it may not be surprising that Republicans, Democrats and independents don't agree on the importance of addressing systemic racism or ensuring more New Yorkers get vaccinated, it should be noted that when it comes to the importance of reducing crime and reimbursing landlords for lost rent, there is virtually no difference of opinion among Democrats, Republicans and independents," Greenberg said.

|  | Importance of Issues   |       |     |     |            |  |  |
|--|--|-------|-----|-----|------------|--|--|
|  | There are many issues facing the state moving forward and for each one I mention, I'd like you to tell me how important each of these issues is to you. Is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important? |       |     |     |            |  |  |
| Policy Issues  | Rating   | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind/ Other |  |  |
| Poducing crime in  | Very Important   | 82%   | 83% | 86% | 78%        |  |  |
| Reducing crime in communities across the state           | Total Important (very / somewhat)  | 96%   | 97% | 97% | 95%        |  |  |
| Communities across the state                             | Not Important (not very / not at all)  | 4%    | 3%  | 3%  | 5%         |  |  |
|  | Very Important   | 61%   | 76% | 39% | 51%        |  |  |
| Addressing systemic racism                               | Total Important (very / somewhat)  | 85%   | 94% | 68% | 85%        |  |  |
|  | Not Important (not very / not at all)  | 13%   | 5%  | 29% | 13%        |  |  |
| Chausing many Many Varleage                              | Very Important   | 58%   | 76% | 39% | 44%        |  |  |
| Ensuring more New Yorkers get the COVID-19 vaccination   | Total Important (very / somewhat)  | 76%   | 91% | 57% | 67%        |  |  |
| get the COVID-19 vaccination                             | Not Important (not very / not at all)  | 23%   | 7%  | 41% | 33%        |  |  |
| Making sure landlords are                                | Very Important   | 48%   | 47% | 51% | 47%        |  |  |
| reimbursed for lost rent due to                          | Total Important (very / somewhat)  | 84%   | 86% | 81% | 81%        |  |  |
| eviction moratorium Not Important (not very / not at ali |  | 14%   | 11% | 14% | 18%        |  |  |
| Putting in place the system to                           | Very Important   | 28%   | 32% | 20% | 28%        |  |  |
| begin retail sale of                                     | Total Important (very / somewhat)  | 55%   | 60% | 50% | 53%        |  |  |
| recreational cannabis in NY                              | Not Important (not very / not at all)  | 43%   | 39% | 47% | 46%        |  |  |
|  | Siena College Poll: October 19, 20   | 021   |     |     |            |  |  |

### **Odds & Ends**

- Former President Donald Trump has long been the pol with the lowest favorability rating among New York voters. No more. Trump has a 37-59 percent favorability rating, net 22 points negative. Cuomo is 33-60 percent, net 27 points negative. And de Blasio is 25-56 percent, net 31 points negative.
- ➤ In July 2012, 63 percent of New Yorkers including 71 percent of Democrats, 58 percent of independent and 52 percent of Republicans had a favorable view of the United States Supreme Court. Today, only 51 percent have a favorable view of the Court. While nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65 percent) view the Court favorably, only pluralities of 47 percent of Democrats and 46 percent of independents do so.
- ➤ President Joe Biden has a 51-44 percent favorability rating, down from 57-37 percent last month and 63-34 percent in June. His job performance rating is 40-58 percent, down from last month's 46-52 percent and June's 52-46 percent.
- New York's best days are ahead of us, not behind us, voters still say. Currently, voters say New York's best days lie ahead 50-26 percent, down a little from 57-26 percent last month.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted October 10-14, 2021 among 801 New York State registered voters with 501 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  $\pm$  4.1 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. There were 419 Democrats, with a margin of error of  $\pm$  5.4 percentage points including the design effect 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: <a href="https://www.siena.edu/SCRI/SNY">www.siena.edu/SCRI/SNY</a>.



# SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

# Siena College Poll Trends – October 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 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 44          | 43              | 13                    |
| September 2021 | 48          | 37              | 16                    |
| June 2021      | 48          | 38              | 13                    |
| May 2021       | 48          | 40              | 11                    |
| April 2021     | 49          | 40              | 12                    |
| March 2021     | 48          | 38              | 14                    |
| February 2021  | 48          | 41              | 11                    |
| January 2021   | 50          | 40              | 10                    |
| November 2020  | 50          | 37              | 13                    |
| 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 |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 35                | 54               | 12                    |
| September 2021 | 40                | 48               | 12                    |
| June 2021      | 45                | 44               | 11                    |
| May 2021       | 46                | 43               | 10                    |
| April 2021     | 45                | 45               | 10                    |
| March 2021     | 50                | 41               | 10                    |
| February 2021  | 49                | 42               | 9                     |
| January 2021   | 31                | 59               | 10                    |
| November 2020  | 38                | 48               | 14                    |
| 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 Joe Biden?

| DATE           | <b>FAVORABLE</b> | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 51               | 44          | 5                     |
| September 2021 | 57               | 37          | 6                     |
| June 2021      | 63               | 34          | 3                     |
| May 2021       | 62               | 34          | 4                     |
| April 2021     | 62               | 33          | 5                     |
| March 2021     | 64               | 30          | 5                     |
| February 2021  | 65               | 29          | 5                     |
| January 2021   | 62               | 32          | 6                     |
| November 2020  | 63               | 31          | 6                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 65 (2/21)        | 47 (2/20)   | 28 (9/08)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | 45 (2/20)        | 26 (9/08)   | 4 (4/20)              |

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

| FAVORABLE        | UNFAVORABLE                                     | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 42               | 26  | 32  |
| 42               | 17  | 41  |
| 18               | 13  | 69  |
| 23               | 14  | 64  |
| 42 (10/21, 9/21) | <b>26 (10/21)</b>                               | 69 (4/21)   |
| 18 (4/21)        | 13 (4/21)                                       | <mark>32 (10/21)</mark>   |
|                  | 42<br>42<br>18<br>23<br><b>42</b> (10/21, 9/21) | 42 26<br>42 17<br>18 13<br>23 14<br>42 (10/21, 9/21) 26 (10/21) |

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

| DATE           | FAVORABLE         | UNFAVORABLE       | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 33                | 60                | 7                     |
| September 2021 | 34                | 55                | 11                    |
| June 2021      | 45                | 47                | 8                     |
| May 2021       | 44                | 48                | 8                     |
| April 2021     | 40                | 52                | 9                     |
| March 2021     | 43                | 45                | 12                    |
| February 2021  | 56                | 39                | 5                     |
| January 2021   | 57                | 39                | 4                     |
| November 2020  | 56                | 39                | 5                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 77 (4/20, 2/11)   | <b>60 (10/21)</b> | 24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07) |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>33 (10/21)</b> | 14 (8/09)         | 2 (4/20)              |
|                |                   |                   |                       |

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE  | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 37         | 59          | 3                     |
| September 2021 | 33         | 61          | 6                     |
| April 2021     | 33         | 64          | 4                     |
| March 2021     | 31         | 66          | 3                     |
| February 2021  | 26         | 67          | 6                     |
| January 2021   | 30         | 66          | 5                     |
| November 2020  | 33         | 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.** 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE        | UNFAVORABLE      | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |  |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| October 2021   | 50               | 50 40            |                       |  |
| September 2021 | 52               | 33               | 15                    |  |
| June 2021      | 50               | 38               | 13                    |  |
| May 2021       | 50               | 39               | 11                    |  |
| April 2021     | 49               | 38               | 14                    |  |
| March 2021     | 49               | 35               | 16                    |  |
| February 2021  | 49               | 39               | 12                    |  |
| January 2021   | 45               | 39               | 16                    |  |
| November 2020  | 45               | 39               | 16                    |  |
| 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. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE     | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 39        | 19              | 42                    |
| September 2021 | 38        | 18              | 45                    |
| June 2021      | 34        | 21              | 45                    |
| May 2021       | 38        | 20              | 42                    |
| April 2021     | 39        | 17              | 44                    |
| March 2021     | 40        | 14              | 46                    |
| February 2021  | 36        | 17              | 47                    |
| January 2021   | 35        | 17              | 48                    |
| November 2020  | 33        | 17              | 49                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 40 (3/21) | 21 (6/21)       | 70 (6/18)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | 20 (6/18) | 10 (10/18, 6/18 | 8) 42 (10/21, 5/21)   |

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

| DATE         | FAVORABLE               | UNFAVORABLE     | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021 | 25                      | 56              | 19                    |
| January 2021 | 28                      | 53              | 19                    |
| HIGHEST EVER | 44 (1/18)               | 57 (9/19, 8/19) | 32 (11/13)            |
| LOWEST EVER  | <b>25</b> (10/21, 9/19) | 27 (11/13)      | 15 (2/16)             |

**Q. 11** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

| DATE           | <b>FAVORABLE</b> | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |  |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| October 2021   | 17               | 16          | 67                    |  |
| September 2021 | 17               | 15          | 68                    |  |
| May 2021       | 20               | 15          | 65                    |  |
| October 2014*  | 32               | 41          | 27                    |  |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 32 (10/14)       | 41 (10/14)  | 76 (1/14)             |  |
| LOWEST EVER    | 11 (2/14)        | 10 (1/14)   | 27 (10/14)            |  |

**Q. 12** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Giuliani?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE         | UNFAVORABLE       | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 27                | 49                | 24                    |
| September 2021 | 29                | 42                | 29                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 29 (9/21)         | <b>49 (10/21)</b> | 29 (9/21)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>27 (10/21)</b> | 42 (9/21)         | <b>24 (10/21)</b>     |

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

| DATE           | FAVORABLE         | UNFAVORABLE             | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 17                | 19                      | 64                    |
| September 2021 | 18                | 15                      | 67                    |
| May 2021       | 20                | 19                      | 62                    |
| April 2021     | 18                | 17                      | 66                    |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 20 (5/21)         | <b>19 (10/21, 5/21)</b> | 67 (9/21)             |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>17 (10/21)</b> | 15 (9/21)               | 62 (5/21)             |

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the United States Supreme Court?

| DATE         | <b>FAVORABLE</b>  | UNFAVORABLE       | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021 | 51                | 32                | 17                    |
| July 2012    | 63                | 30                | 8                     |
| HIGHEST EVER | 63 (7/12)         | <b>32 (10/21)</b> | 17 (10/21)            |
| LOWEST EVER  | <b>51</b> (10/21) | 30 (7/12)         | 8 (7/12)              |

Q.18 How would you rate the job that Joe Biden is doing as President? Would you rate it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

| DATE           | EXCELLENT  | GOOD      | FAIR              | Poor                  | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 13         | 27        | 24                | 34                    | 1                     |
| September 2021 | 16         | 30        | 22                | 30                    | 2                     |
| June 2021      | 22         | 30        | 20                | 26                    | 1                     |
| May 2021       | 26         | 27        | 17                | 28                    | 2                     |
| April 2021     | 24         | 29        | 20                | 25                    | 2                     |
| March 2021     | 28         | 26        | 18                | 23                    | 4                     |
| February 2021  | 24         | 31        | 17                | 21                    | 6                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 28 (3/21)  | 31 (2/21) | <b>24 (10/21)</b> | <mark>34 (10</mark> / | <b>(21)</b> 6 (2/21)  |
| LOWEST EVER    | 13 (10/21) | 26 (3/21) | 17 (5/21, 2/21)   | 21 (2/2               | 1) 1 (10/21, 6/21)    |

Q.19 How would you rate the job that Kathy Hochul is doing as Governor? Would you rate it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

| DATE           | EXCELLENT | GOOD                         | FAIR       | Poor Don't I | KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| October 2021   | 9         | 34                           | 26         | 19           | 12              |
| September 2021 | 9         | 35                           | 27         | 10           | 18              |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 9 (10/21, | <mark>9/21)</mark> 35 (9/21) | 29 (9/21)  | 19 (10/21)   | 18 (9/21)       |
| LOWEST EVER    | 9 (10/21, | 9/21) 34 (10/21)             | 26 (10/21) | 10 (9/21)    | 12 (10/21)      |

Q. 31 Do you think Andrew Cuomo should have resigned or do you think he should have stayed in office?

| DATE           | RESIGNED                | STAYED IN OFFICE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021   | 67                      | 26               | 7                     |
| September 2012 | 67                      | 26               | 7                     |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 67 (10/21, 9/21)        | 26 (10/21, 9/21) | 7 (10/21, 9/21)       |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>67</b> (10/21, 9/21) | 26 (10/21, 9/21) | 7 (10/21, 9/21)       |

## College Poll Trends - October 2021 - Page 4

Q. 32 Based on what you know right now, do you think Andrew Cuomo did or did not sexually harass multiple women that worked for the state of New York?

| DATE         | DID COMMIT              | DID NOT COMMIT    | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| October 2021 | 56                      | 18                | 26                    |
| July 2012    | 56                      | 20                | 24                    |
| HIGHEST EVER | <b>56 (10/21, 9/21)</b> | 20 (9/21)         | <b>26 (10/21)</b>     |
| LOWEST EVER  | <b>56 (10/21, 9/21)</b> | <b>18 (10/21)</b> | 24 (9/21)             |

Q. 33 Overall, do you think New York State's best days are behind us or do you think New York State's best days lie ahead?

| DATE           | <b>BEST DAYS BEHIND US</b> | <b>BEST DAYS LIE AHEAD</b> | MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 2021   | 26                         | 50                         | 24                          |
| September 2021 | 26                         | 57                         | 17                          |
| June 2021      | 27                         | 53                         | 18                          |
| HIGHEST EVER   | 27 (6/21)                  | 57 (9/21)                  | <mark>24 (10/21)</mark>     |
| LOWEST EVER    | <b>26</b> (10/21, 9/21)    | <b>50 (10/21)</b>          | 17 (9/21)                   |

#### **Poll Trend Notes:**

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 November 2020.

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" are provided at the bottom of each question.

<sup>^</sup> Inconsequential wording change.