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Siena College Poll:

Strong Majority (58%) Want Early March Data Before Lifting School Mask Mandate; Plurality (45%) Still Want Indoor Public Mask Mandate

Nine in Ten Say Crime is Serious Problem (60% Very) Across NYS; Nearly 2/3 Say Crime is Serious Problem (27% Very) in Their Community; Overwhelming Support (65-27%) to Give Judges More Discretion on Bail

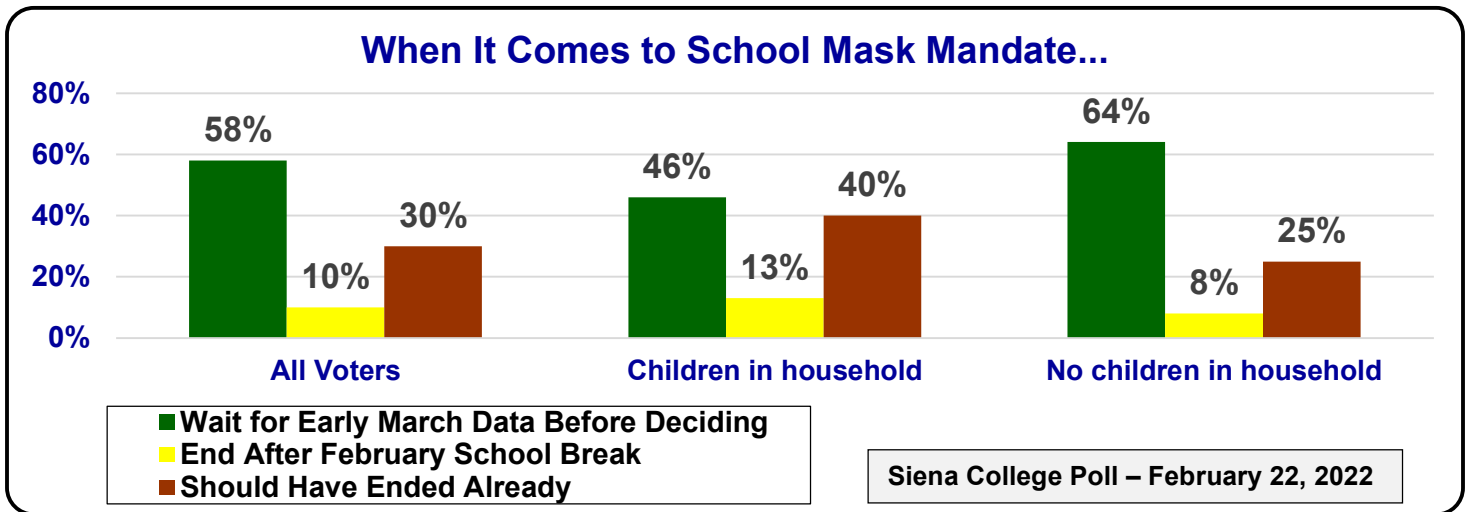
Hochul Continues Huge Lead Among Dems; Williams Distant Second; By 80-13%, Voters Say Cuomo Made Right Decision to Resign in August

Loudonville, NY. A majority of New Yorkers, 58%, says that we should wait for early March data before deciding whether to lift the school mask mandate, compared to 30% who say the school mask mandate should have ended already, and 10% who want to see it end after this week's school break. On New York's indoor public mask mandate, a plurality, 45%, says the mandate should still be in place, compared to 31% who say it should have ended earlier than it did, and 20% who say it ended at the right time, according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters released today.

Sixty percent say crime is a very serious problem across New York, with another 31% saying it's somewhat serious. Closer to home, 27% say crime in their community is a very serious problem and another 36% say somewhat serious. Nearly one-quarter of New Yorkers are very concerned they may be a victim of crime. By a 65-27% margin, voters say 'the so-called bail reform law should be amended to give judges more discretion to keep dangerous criminals off the streets,' rather than the law shouldn't be 'amended to give discretion on bail back to judges because it could once again lead to people of color being disproportionately denied bail.'

"Waiting to see data from early March before deciding to lift the school mask mandate – as opposed to lifting that mandate as schools reconvene next week or wishing it had been lifted previously – is how the majority of New Yorkers would like to proceed," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "The majority of virtually every demographic group agrees, though not Republicans and conservatives, who wish the mandate had ended already.

"While nearly two-thirds of voters without children at home support waiting for March data to decide on the school mask mandate, state and school officials face a 'lose/lose' proposition with their constituents most closely affected by this decision – regardless of the decision – since voters with children under 18 in their household are closely divided between waiting for data to decide and masks should have been off already," Greenberg said.



“There is no clear consensus on mandating masks in indoor public spaces. Half of voters want the mandate finished – 20% said February 10 was the right time to end it and 31% said it should have ended earlier,” Greenberg said. “Still, a plurality of voters, 45%, say the indoor mask mandate should remain in place.”

NYers Overwhelmingly Say Crime Is Serious Problem; Strongly Support Amending Bail Reform Law

“New Yorkers say crime is a serious problem across the state. More than half of every demographic group say it is a very serious problem and at least 84% of every demographic say it is at least a somewhat serious problem,” Greenberg said. “Voters see crime in their community as a serious problem, although more than one-third say it’s not very or not at all serious. However, a majority of every demographic group says crime in their community is a somewhat or very serious problem, with the exception of downstate suburbanites, ‘only 45%’ of whom say it is.

“Overall, 57% say they are very or somewhat concerned about being a victim of crime themselves. While about half of upstaters, downstate suburbanites and whites are concerned that they will be a victim, 71% of all New York City voters and about two-thirds of Black and Latino voters are concerned,” Greenberg said.

“Nearly two-thirds of New Yorkers – including strong majorities of Republicans, independents and Democrats, upstaters and downstaters – support amending the 2019 bail reform law and giving judges more discretion to keep dangerous criminals off the streets,” Greenberg said. “Voters of color and young voters are more closely divided. Young voters favor amending the law by 12 points, Latinos by seven points and Black voters by four points.”

Hochul Still Favorite of Dems by Wide Margin; Williams Far Behind; Suozzi Further Behind

“The official designee of the Democratic Party, Governor Kathy Hochul remains the clear favorite among New York Democrats. Hochul has the support of 46% of Democrats, compared to 17% for New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and nine percent for Rep. Tom Suozzi. More than one-quarter of Democrats remain undecided,” Greenberg said. “While Williams has a narrow 39-32% lead over Hochul with Black voters and he’s within three points of Hochul with younger voters, Hochul has a large to commanding lead with virtually all other demographic groups, with large double-digit leads in every region.”

Voters Continue To View Cuomo 2:1 Unfavorably; Don't Think He's Vindicated; Right to Resign

Former Governor Andrew Cuomo has a negative 33-60% favorability, exactly the same as October. By a 58-21% margin, voters think he did sexually harass multiple women, little changed from 56-20% in September. Voters say he has not been vindicated, 56-25%. By a 47-27% margin, voters say they believe Attorney General Letitia James, who says Cuomo is a 'serial sexual harasser,' more than they believe Cuomo, who says the investigation against him was a 'political hit job.' And by 80-13%, voters say Cuomo made the right decision to resign.

"New Yorkers are not ready to forgive and forget when it comes to Cuomo. By two-to-one, they view him unfavorably. By more than two-to-one, voters say both that he has committed sexual harassment against multiple women, and, despite there being no criminal charges, he has not been vindicated," Greenberg said. "By a 20-point margin, they believe James' description of Cuomo as a 'serial sexual harasser' more than they believe Cuomo's description of a 'political hit job' against him. Bottom line: 80% say he made the right decision to resign."

Voters Very Worried About Inflation – on the Economy and their Personal Finances

"In December, voters said inflation was having a serious negative effect on both the economy and their personal finances. Today, those inflation worries have grown. More than nine in ten voters say inflation is having at least a somewhat serious negative effect on the economy, 63% very serious, up from 49% very serious in December," Greenberg said. "In December, 66% said inflation was having at least a somewhat serious negative effect on their personal finances, 29% very serious. Now, that's up to 78% saying inflation is having a negative effect on their finances, 39% very serious. Like crime, inflation is very much on voters' minds heading into the midterms."

Odds & Ends

- President Joe Biden's ratings fell to their lowest levels since taking office. His favorability rating is 48-48%, down from 52-42% last month, and 65-29% in February 2021. His job performance rating is negative 36-63%, down from 39-60 percent last month, and 55-37% in February 2021.
- Four months from the June primary, the three most prominent Republican gubernatorial candidates have favorability ratings that are little changed since the fall. Andrew Giuliani has a 28-47% favorability rating with all voters, and 47-28% with Republicans. Rep. Lee Zeldin's rating is 18-20% with all voters and 27-16% with Republicans. Rob Astorino's favorability rating is 18-14% with all voters and 21-13% with Republicans.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted February 14-17, 2022 among 803 New York State registered voters with 503 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 ± 3.9 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. There were 396 Democrats, with a margin of error of ± 5.5 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: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – February 2022

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 2022	41	45	14
January 2022	41	43	16
December 2021	41	45	15
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
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 2022	7	19	35	35	5
September 2021	7	23	35	32	4
February 2021	4	16	33	42	5
HIGHEST EVER	7 (2/22, 9/21)	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 2022	34	57	9
January 2022	31	57	12
December 2021	34	56	10
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
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 Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	48	48	4
January 2022	52	42	6
December 2021	52	44	4
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
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	48 (2/22)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	45 (2/20)	26 (9/08)	4 (4/20)

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Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	46	32	22
January 2022	45	29	25
December 2021	42	28	30
October 2021	42	26	32
September 2021	42	17	41
April 2021	18	13	69
March 2021	23	14	64
HIGHEST EVER	46 (2/22)	32 (2/22)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	22 (2/22)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	35	59	6
January 2022	33	61	6
December 2021	36	58	6
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
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
February 2022	47	39	14
January 2022	51	38	12
December 2021	48	38	14
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
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
February 2022	39	23	38
January 2022	40	25	35
December 2021	40	25	35
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
HIGHEST EVER	40 (1/22, 12/21, 3/21)	25 (1/22, 12/21)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	35 (1/22, 12/21)

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Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jumaane Williams?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	25	17	59
January 2022	26	15	59
December 2021	23	17	59
October 2021	25	13	62
HIGHEST EVER	26 (1/22)	17 (2/22, 12/21)	62 (10/21)
LOWEST EVER	23 (12/21)	13 (10/21)	59 (2/22, 1/22, 12/21)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Tom Suozzi?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	17	16	66
January 2022	20	18	62
December 2021	20	15	65
April 2008	21	15	64
HIGHEST EVER	28 (8/06)	18 (1/22)	70 (1/06)
LOWEST EVER	17 (2/22)	12 (1/06)	55 (8/06)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	33	60	7
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
HIGHEST EVER	77 (4/20, 2/11)	60 (10/21)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	33 (10/21)	14 (8/09)	2 (4/20)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Adams?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	36	20	44
January 2022	41	19	40
HIGHEST EVER	41 (1/22)	20 (2/22)	44 (2/22)
LOWEST EVER	36 (2/22)	19 (1/22)	40 (1/22)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	18	14	67
January 2022	19	17	64
December 2021	16	15	69
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. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Giuliani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	28	47	25
January 2022	29	44	27
December 2021	30	46	24
October 2021	27	49	24
September 2021	29	42	29
HIGHEST EVER	30 (12/21)	49 (10/21)	29 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	27 (10/21)	42 (9/21)	24 (12/21, 10/21)

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Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	18	20	62
January 2022	19	18	63
December 2021	20	17	63
October 2021	17	19	64
September 2021	18	15	67
May 2021	20	19	62
April 2021	18	17	66
HIGHEST EVER	20 (12/21, 5/21)	20 (2/22)	67 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	17 (10/21)	15 (9/21)	62 (2/22, 5/21)

Q. 16 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	40	37	23
January 2022	45	32	23
September 2021	45	30	24
June 2021	45	29	25
May 2021	46	32	22
April 2021	42	30	28
March 2021	49	25	26
February 2021	45	31	24
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	28 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

Q. 17 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	44	39	17
January 2022	45	36	19
September 2021	46	33	21
June 2021	48	33	18
May 2021	47	34	18
April 2021	46	32	22
March 2021	50	28	22
February 2021	47	33	20
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	22 (4/21, 3/21)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	28 (3/21)	6 (7/09)

Q. 18 DEMS ONLY: While the Democratic primary for governor in New York isn't until June, if the primary election was held today, would you voter for: Bill de Blasio, Kathy Hochul, Letitia James, Tom Suozzi, Jumaane Williams, or someone else? (Candidate choices were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	DE BLASIO	HOCHUL	JAMES	SUOZZI	WILLIAMS	OTHER	DON'T KNOW
February 2022	NA	NA	46	NA	9	17	2	26
January 2022	NA	12	46	NA	6	11	2	22
December 2021	NA	6	36	18	6	10	1	23
October 2021	17	6	31	14	NA	7	2	23
HIGHEST EVER	17 (10/21)	12 (1/22)	46 (2/22, 1/22)	18 (12/21)	9 (2/22)	17 (2/22)	2 (several)	26 (2/22)
LOWEST EVER	17 (10/21)	6 (12/21, 10/21)	31 (10/21)	14 (10/21)	6 (1/22, 12/21)	7 (10/21)	1 (12/21)	22 (1/22)

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Q.19 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
February 2022	11	25	25	38	1
January 2022	11	28	26	34	0
December 2021	16	23	21	38	2
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)	26 (1/22)	38 (2/22, 12/21)	6 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	11 (2/22, 1/22)	23 (12/21)	17 (5/21, 2/21)	21 (2/21)	0 (1/22)

Q. 20 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 KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	11	33	30	21	5
January 2022	12	33	29	18	9
December 2021	12	30	29	17	12
October 2021	9	34	26	19	12
September 2021	9	35	27	10	18
HIGHEST EVER	12 (1/22, 12/21)	35 (9/21)	30 (2/22)	21 (2/22)	18 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/21, 9/21)	30 (12/21)	26 (10/21)	10 (9/21)	5 (2/22)

Q. 22 If Kathy Hochul wins the primary for governor in June, and is the Democratic candidate for governor in 2022, as things stand now would you vote to elect Hochul as governor would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT HOCHUL	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	47	38	15
January 2022	48	36	16
December 2021	42	39	18
October 2021	45	37	18
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/22)	39 (12/21)	18 (12/21, 10/21)
LOWEST EVER	42 (12/21)	36 (1/22)	15 (2/22)

Q. 27 Based on what you know now, do you think Cuomo did or did not sexually harass multiple women that worked for the state of New York?

DATE	DID	DID NOT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2022	58	21	22
September 2021	56	20	24
HIGHEST EVER	58 (2/22)	21 (2/22)	24 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	56 (9/21)	20 (9/21)	22 (2/22)

Q. 33 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 2022	58	24	18
May 2021	69	19	11
April 2021	60	27	13
March 2021	65	23	13
February 2021	46	36	18
January 2021	31	55	14
HIGHEST EVER	69 (5/21)	55 (1/21)	18 (2/22, 2/21)
LOWEST EVER	31 (1/21)	19 (5/21)	11 (5/21)

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Q. 34 How serious a negative effect do you think inflation is having on our nation’s economy – a very serious negative effect, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not a serious negative effect at all?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT SERIOUS AT ALL	DON’T KNOW/ NO OPINION
February 2022	63	29	6	1	2
December 2021	49	32	11	3	5
HIGHEST EVER	63 (2/22)	32 (12/21)	11 (12/21)	3 (12/21)	5 (12/21)
LOWEST EVER	49 (12/21)	29 (2/22)	6 (2/22)	1 (2/22)	2 (2/22)

Q. 35 How serious a negative effect is inflation having on your personal finances – a very serious negative effect, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not a serious negative effect at all?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT SERIOUS AT ALL	DON’T KNOW/ NO OPINION
February 2022	39	39	14	6	2
December 2021	29	37	18	11	5
HIGHEST EVER	39 (2/22)	39 (2/22)	18 (12/21)	11 (12/21)	5 (12/21)
LOWEST EVER	29 (12/21)	37 (12/21)	14 (2/22)	6 (2/22)	2 (2/22)

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 February 2021.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.