



# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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## Siena College Poll:

### **Hochul Holds Early 14-Point, 53-39%, Lead Over Zeldin; Schumer & DiNapoli Each Up 21 Points, James Up 14 Points**

More than 2/3 of Voters Oppose Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe;  
Nearly 3/4 Think Abortion Should Be Always (44%) or Mostly (30%) Legal

### ***Overwhelming Support for New Law Expanding Background Checks, References & Safety Course Requirements for Concealed/Carry Permit***

Loudonville, NY. Three months until election day, Democratic Governor Kathy Hochul holds a 14-point lead over Republican Rep. Lee Zeldin, 53-39%. Democratic US Senator Chuck Schumer holds a 21-point lead over Republican Joe Pinion, 56-35%, as does Democratic State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, who leads Republican Paul Rodriguez 51-30%. Democratic Attorney General Letitia James leads Republican Michael Henry, 50-36%, according to a new Siena College Poll of likely New York State voters released today.

Voters oppose the recent Supreme Court decision to overrule Roe v. Wade and eliminate the constitutional right to abortion, 68-25%. By a larger 74-21% margin, voters say abortion should be always or mostly legal, as opposed to always or mostly illegal. Voters support a new law expanding eligibility requirements for obtaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon – including background checks with character references and safety training – 82-15%.

“Less than 100 days until election day, Hochul has a solid 14-point lead over Zeldin, a reflection of the Democrats’ large enrollment advantage in New York. Hochul and Zeldin are both holding their parties, as she leads among Democrats 81-12% and he leads among Republicans 84-12%. Independents narrowly tilt toward Zeldin, 44-42%,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Hochul dominates in New York City, leading by nearly 50 points, while Zeldin has slim three-point leads both upstate and in the downstate suburbs,” Greenberg said. “The gender gap is wide, as men are evenly divided, and women favor Hochul 59-33%. While white and Latino voters favor Hochul by six and eight points, respectively, Black voters support Hochul 78-8%.”

Hochul has a 46-41% favorability rating this month among likely voters, compared to 46-37% in June among registered voters. Hochul has a 52-41% job approval rating, the first time Siena has asked Hochul’s ‘job approval,’ replacing the previous ‘job performance’ question. Zeldin now has a 31-28% favorability rating, with 41% either having no opinion or never heard of him, up from 21-22-57% in June.

“Hochul continues to be more well known and liked than Zeldin, although she has not been able to raise her favorability rating over 46%. It has been between 42% and 46% every month since September, her second month as governor,” Greenberg said. “Zeldin’s name recognition certainly got a boost from his primary victory and for now both being the focus of Republican energy and the target of Democrats.

“Fourteen weeks is a long time in politics, and we know most voters don’t really begin to focus on elections till after Labor Day. Still, Hochul has an early – but certainly not insurmountable – lead. In fact, while Democrats have taken the last four gubernatorial elections, Zeldin’s current 14-point deficit matches the closest Republicans have come in those races, when Andrew Cuomo defeated Rob Astorino 54-40% in 2014. In August 2014, Cuomo led Astorino by 32 points, 58-26%,” Greenberg said.

### **Schumer & DiNapoli Each Lead by 21 Points; James Up by 14 Points**

Schumer leads Pinion 56-35%. Schumer has a 49-43% favorability rating among likely voters, down slightly from 50-40% among registered voters in June. Pinion has a 3-7% favorability rating, with 90% having no opinion or having never heard of Pinion.

“Schumer leads by 77 points with Democrats, while Pinion leads among Republicans by 63 points. Independents are virtually evenly divided,” Greenberg said. “Schumer leads by seven points in the downstate suburbs and five points upstate, outperforming fellow Democrat Hochul, who trails in both those regions by three points.”

DiNapoli leads Rodriguez 51-30%. DiNapoli has a 22-11% favorability rating, with 67% who don’t know him or enough to have an opinion, little changed from 21-14-65% in June. Rodriguez has a 7-7-85% favorability rating.

“DiNapoli has been Comptroller for 15 years, winning the office three times, despite being largely unknown to most voters. Just a month before election day in 2018, 52% of voters didn’t know enough about him to have an opinion – yet he still led the field with more than four million votes, winning 67-31%,” Greenberg said.

James leads Henry, 50-36%. James has a 43-29% favorability rating, up slightly from 40-28% in June. Henry has a 5-5-90% favorability rating.

“The race for AG, like the gubernatorial race, is closer than either the Senate or Comptroller races, largely because of independents, downstate suburbanites, and Latinos,” Greenberg said. “While James leads by 65 points with Democrats, Henry leads with Republicans by 58 points and has a 12-point lead with independents.”

“Although downstate suburban voters lean toward Schumer and DiNapoli by several points, they favor Henry by eight points,” Greenberg said. “It’s worth noting that Latino voters are solidly in Schumer’s camp, favor Hochul by eight points and tilt toward DiNapoli by two points, however, they give an edge to Henry, 44-36%.”

**Voters Want Democrats to Maintain Control of the US House – Largely a Party Line Vote**

“No surprise in the generic congressional ballot, as 85% of Democrats want their party to maintain control of the House next year and 85% of Republicans want their party to retake control. Independents are closely divided and tilt Republican by two points. New York City is true blue, by 52 points, while the rest of the state is evenly divided,” Greenberg said. “As in all of the statewide races, there is a gender gap here as well, with men being closely divided and women supporting Democratic control by 28 points.”

**SCOTUS Decision Overturning Roe Panned by Voters; Overwhelming Support for Abortions Being Legal**

“Prior to the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs, New Yorkers said they wanted the Court to uphold Roe 60-24%. Today, 68% say they oppose the decision to overturn Roe, eliminating the constitutional right to abortion,” Greenberg said. “Although a small majority of Republicans support the Dobbs decision, it is opposed by 89% of Democrats, 60% of independents, and at least of 62% of voters from every region, age group, gender, and race.

“Even stronger, is likely voters’ view that abortion should be always or mostly legal. That view is held by 88% of Democrats, 75% of independents and 50% of Republicans, as well as at least two-thirds of voters from every region, age group, gender, race, and religion,” Greenberg said.

**Voters Overwhelming Support New Law Expanding Requirements for Concealed Carry Permit**

“Support for the new law expanding eligibility requirements to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon – background checks with character references and firearms safety training courses – is through the roof with all demographic groups. In fact, the ‘lowest’ support is with conservatives, who favor the new law 71-27%,” Greenberg said. “There is also strong support for prohibiting concealed weapons in sensitive locations, 60-34%, and requiring private businesses to have a sign if they allow concealed weapons on their premises, 63-32%.”

**Odds & Ends**

- Only 19% of voters think the U.S. is headed on the right track – tied for the worst it’s ever been, matching October 2013 and October 2008 – compared to 71% who say the country is headed in the wrong direction, down from 25-68% in June. NYS right track/wrong direction is 36-50%, unchanged from 37-51% in June.
- President Joe Biden has a breakeven 48-48% favorability rating, down slightly from 49-46% in June. His job approval rating is 47-51% (new question), with 72% of Democrats approving of the job he’s doing, while 88% of Republicans and 62% of independents disapprove of the job Biden is doing.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted July 24-28, 2022, among 806 likely New York State voters, with a margin of error of  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Calls were made to a stratified weighted sample of voters from the L-2 Voter list via both land and cell phones. The data was weighted by party, age, race/ethnicity, education, region, gender and voter likelihood, a computed score that combines voter history, stated voter likelihood and modeled turnout by respondent. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey crosstabs: [www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY](http://www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY).

SCRI and the Emerson College Poll simultaneously fielded, and are releasing the pre-election questions in this survey. Each poll used their own methodologies for both fielding and data analysis. For questions about the Siena/Emerson polling project, call either Don Levy (518) 783-2901 or Spencer Kimball (617) 824-3491. Levy and Kimball will provide an analysis of the similarities and differences of their results on Monday, August 8, 2022.



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## Siena College Poll Trends – August 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
August 2022*	36	50	14
June 2022	37	51	12
April 2022	36	52	12
March 2022	40	49	11
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (4/20)</b>	<b>76 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>30 (1/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (10/10)</b>	<b>26 (1/07)</b>	<b>7 (4/20, 2/17, 5/13)</b>

**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
August 2022*	19	71	10
June 2022	25	68	8
April 2022	34	57	10
March 2022	36	57	8
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>62 (5/09)</b>	<b>74 (10/13, 8/11)</b>	<b>17 (9/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (8/22, 10/13, 10/08)</b>	<b>24 (12/09)</b>	<b>5 (1/13)</b>

**Q. 3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2022*	48	48	5
June 2022	49	46	5
April 2022	51	45	4
March 2022	50	46	4
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (2/21)</b>	<b>48 (2/22)</b>	<b>28 (9/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>45 (2/20)</b>	<b>26 (9/08)</b>	<b>3 (2/21)</b>

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2022*	32	63	5
June 2022	33	63	4
April 2022	34	61	6
March 2022	34	61	5
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>41 (12/16)</b>	<b>72 (8/16)</b>	<b>10 (10/13)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>24 (8/16)</b>	<b>53 (12/16)</b>	<b>2 (4/20, 9/15)</b>

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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
August 2022*	46	41	13
June 2022	46	37	17
April 2022	44	34	22
March 2022	45	35	20
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>46 (8/22, 6/22, 2/22)</b>	<b>41 (8/22)</b>	<b>69 (4/21)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>18 (4/21)</b>	<b>13 (4/21)</b>	<b>13 (8/22)</b>

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2022*	31	28	41
June 2022	21	22	57
April 2022	22	19	59
March 2022	20	20	60
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>31 (8/22)</b>	<b>28 (8/22)</b>	<b>67 (9/21)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (10/21)</b>	<b>15 (9/21)</b>	<b>41 (8/22)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2022*	22	11	67
June 2022	21	14	65
January 2022	24	16	60
September 2021	22	14	64
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>35 (10/14)</b>	<b>36 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>80 (6/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (6/07, 5/07)</b>	<b>9 (10/18)</b>	<b>37 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2022*	43	29	28
June 2022	40	28	32
March 2022	42	27	32
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>43 (8/22)</b>	<b>29 (8/22)</b>	<b>70 (6/18)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (6/18)</b>	<b>10 (10/18, 6/18)</b>	<b>28 (8/22)</b>

## Siena College Poll Trends – August 2022 – Page 3

**Q. 11** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

<b>DATE</b>	<b>FAVORABLE</b>	<b>UNFAVORABLE</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION</b>
August 2022*	49	43	8
June 2022	50	40	10
March 2022	50	40	9
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
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>70 (7/05)</b>	<b>46 (2/19)</b>	<b>17 (2/05)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>45 (1/21, 11/20)</b>	<b>20 (2/05, 11/06)</b>	<b>4 (10/31/10)</b>

**Poll Trend Notes:** \* All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August 2022, 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 September 2021.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.