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Siena College Poll:

Governor Hochul Starts 2023 with Best Ever Job Approval (56-36%) Rating and Highest Ever (48%) Favorability Rating

Strong to Overwhelming Support for Several Hochul State of the State Proposals; 4 with Wide Bipartisan Support; Voters Not Optimistic Hochul Will Make Progress on Her Goals: Making NY Safer, More Affordable, Fixing Mental Health System

By 59-17%, Voters Say George Santos Should Resign From Congress; Santos Viewed Unfavorably 56-16%; Dems, Reps & Inds All Agree

Loudonville, NY. Voters approve of the job Kathy Hochul is doing as Governor 56-36%, up from 49-44% last month, and the best it's ever been. Her favorability rating is 48-42%, up a little from 45-43% last month, and the 48% tops her previous high favorability rating by a point. Six of Hochul's State of the State proposals have strong to overwhelming support – four of them bipartisan – while her proposal to allow SUNY to increase tuition is strongly opposed, according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters released today.

While a majority of voters think Hochul will make progress this year on her goal of creating more jobs and opportunities, a larger majority think she will not make progress on making New York more affordable, and pluralities think she will not be successful making the state safer or fixing its mental health system. By better than three-to-one, voters both view George Santos unfavorably, and think he should resign from Congress.

“Kicking off the 2023 legislative session with her first State of the State address, chock full of proposals that have strong voter support, Hochul sees her job approval rating hit its highest level, jumping from a positive five points last month to a 20-point positive approval rating today. The jump – despite continued strong partisan divide – is largely thanks to independent and downstate voters,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“More than three-quarters of Democrats approve of the job she's doing, while more than three-quarters of Republicans disapprove. A small plurality of independents, 47-43%, approve, after a majority disapproved last month,” Greenberg said. “More than two-thirds of New York City voters and a majority of downstate suburban voters approve of the job Hochul's doing, but by five points, upstaters disapprove.

“Hochul's favorability rating edged up to six points positive, from two points positive last month,” Greenberg said. “While she has yet to have a majority of New Yorkers view her favorably, the 48% of voters this month who view her favorably is the highest it has ever been.”

Voters Give Strong Support – Often Bipartisan – for Several Hochul State of the State Proposals

Do Voters Support or Oppose Gov. Hochul’s State of the State Proposals?					
Proposal	Support/ Oppose	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/ Other
Not raising state income taxes this year	Support	85%	86%	84%	85%
	Oppose	10%	11%	12%	8%
Basing increases in New York’s minimum wage on the rate of inflation	Support	76%	88%	57%	69%
	Oppose	19%	9%	35%	22%
Guaranteeing eligible state employees up to 12 weeks of paid family leave	Support	76%	88%	54%	74%
	Oppose	17%	9%	35%	19%
Amending the State Constitution to include an Equal Rights Amendment	Support	68%	85%	38%	59%
	Oppose	20%	10%	43%	21%
Giving judges more discretion to set bail for offenders accused of serious crimes	Support	65%	68%	61%	63%
	Oppose	24%	22%	31%	24%
Launching the CAP & INVEST Program that limits greenhouse gas emissions. Large carbon emitters purchase permits for emissions and those permits fund various clean energy initiatives	Support	61%	84%	21%	52%
	Oppose	29%	11%	62%	37%
Allowing SUNY to increase tuition up to 3% at most schools, and up to 6% at the University Centers in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, and Stony Brook	Support	28%	38%	13%	22%
	Oppose	62%	52%	79%	64%
Siena College Poll: January 23, 2023					

“When it comes to not raising state income taxes this year, voters overwhelmingly agree with Hochul, with no difference among Democrats, Republicans and independents. And strong majorities of voters of every partisan persuasion support three of her other proposals: guaranteeing state employees up to 12 weeks of paid family leave, basing the minimum wage on the inflation rate, and giving judges more discretion to set bail for offenders accused of serious crimes,” Greenberg said.

“Partisans also agree – though Democrats not as much – in their opposition to Hochul’s proposal to allow SUNY schools to increase tuition,” Greenberg said. “Two other Hochul proposals enjoy strong overall support, despite Republican opposition – a majority on CAP and INVEST, and a plurality on a state ERA.”

Voters Think Hochul Will Make Progress this Year on Creating Jobs; Not on Making NY More Affordable

“On five Hochul State of the State goals, voters think she’ll make progress this year on one: creating jobs and opportunities for New Yorkers, 54-32%. However, a majority think she will not make progress in 2023 on making the state more affordable, 59-25%, and pluralities think she will not make progress on making the state safer, 45-36%, or fixing its mental health system, 46-38%. Voters are closely divided on whether they think she will make progress on creating 800,000 new homes,” Greenberg said.

“With the exception of making New York more affordable – even Democrats don’t think she’ll make progress on that – Democrats are optimistic that Hochul will make progress on all five goals,” Greenberg said. “On the other hand, by margins of between 46 and 70 percentage points, Republicans say she will not make progress toward achieving any of her goals. Independents think Hochul will make progress this year creating jobs but not on any other goal, though they’re not nearly as negative as Republicans.”

Voters Say Santos – Well Known and Strongly Viewed Unfavorably – Should Resign from Congress

“Nearly two-thirds of Democrats, 59% of independents and a strong plurality of Republicans, 49%, say George Santos should resign from Congress, compared to only 17% of all voters who say he shouldn’t resign,” Greenberg said. “Upstate voters say he should resign by a 36-point margin. In New York City it’s 39%. But downstate suburbanites want him out by a 56-point margin, 71-15%, even more than Democrats.

“Voters overwhelmingly view Santos unfavorably, including 55% of Democrats, 56% of Republicans and 59% of independents. Again, downstate suburbanites lead the state, 76%, in their unfavorable view of Santos,” Greenberg said. “It is fascinating that Santos has gone from largely unknown freshman representative-elect to being more well known to New Yorkers than Brooklyn’s Hakeem Jeffries, just elected to his sixth term and the new US House Minority Leader. Although it must be pointed out that Jeffries is viewed favorably, 33-20%.”

Maybe Yes, Maybe No: Voters’ Reaction to a Casino in Manhattan

“Voters are evenly divided 38-38% on whether there should or should not be a casino in Manhattan. Another 16% said they need more information, or their view is mixed,” Greenberg said. “Interestingly, there is little geographic difference with New York City voters saying ‘yes’ by a narrow three points, downstate suburbanites saying ‘no,’ also by three points, and upstaters tilting ‘no’ by a point. Republicans oppose by seven points, while Democrats and independents are closely divided.”

Odds & Ends

- New Yorkers continue to say crime is a serious problem in the state – 93%, 61% a very serious problem – and in their community – 65%, 30% very serious – both little changed from last month, or this time last year. Voters regardless of region, party or race want to see judges have more discretion to set bail for serious crimes, and a plurality, 45-36%, don’t think Hochul will make progress this year making New York safer.
- New US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is viewed unfavorably 41-30%, with 28% having never heard of him or not knowing enough to have an opinion. Republicans view him favorably, 47-22%, while Democrats, 25-52%, and independents, 25-39%, view him unfavorably.
- Former President Donald Trump’s favorability rating fell from 37-58% last month to 31-64% today, the worst his favorability rating has been since April 2021. Republicans view him favorably, 64-29%, but that’s down from 74-22% in December.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted January 15-19, 2023, among 821 New York State registered voters with 494 voters contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 327 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, region, race/ethnicity, education, gender, and 2020 vote by region 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 – January 2023

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
January 2023	39	49	12
December 2022	38	50	11
October 2022*	39	52	9
September 2022*	41	47	12
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
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
January 2023	28	63	9
December 2022	32	59	9
October 2022*	30	61	9
September 2022*	31	59	10
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
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (8/22, 10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	49	47	4
December 2022	48	46	6
October 2022*	53	45	3
September 2022*	51	46	3
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
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	48 (8/22, 2/22)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	45 (2/20)	26 (9/08)	3 (9/22, 2/21)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2023 – Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	31	64	4
December 2022	37	58	6
October 2022*	36	61	3
September 2022*	32	63	5
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
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. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	48	42	10
December 2022	45	43	12
October 2022*	45	41	14
September 2022*	47	40	13
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
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	43 (12/22)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (1/23)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hakeem Jeffries?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	33	20	47
December 2022	33	17	51
HIGHEST EVER	33 (1/23, 12/22)	20 (1/23)	51 (12/22)
LOWEST EVER	33 (1/23, 12/22)	17 (12/22)	47 (1/23)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	44	34	23
June 2022	37	38	25
April 2022	40	38	23
February 2022	40	37	23
January 2022	45	32	23
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	28 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	44	38	18
June 2022	41	40	19
April 2022	37	42	21
February 2022	44	39	17
January 2022	45	36	19
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	22 (4/21, 3/21)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	28 (3/21)	6 (7/09)

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Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Republicans in Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	36	57	7
September 2011	26	68	6
HIGHEST EVER	36 (1/23)	68 (9/11)	7 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	26 (9/11)	57 (1/23)	6 (9/11)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Democrats in Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	50	43	8
September 2011	40	54	6
HIGHEST EVER	50 (1/23)	54 (9/11)	8 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	40 (9/11)	43 (1/23)	6 (9/11)

Q. 13 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	21	30	14	33	2
December 2022	23	28	13	34	2
October 2022*	29	24	6	39	2
September 2022*	25	28	8	38	1
August 2022*	18	29	10	41	2
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/22)	30 (1/23)	14 (1/23)	41 (8/22)	2 (Several)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	24 (10/22)	6 (10/22)	33 (1/23)	1 (9/22)

Q. 14 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Kathy Hochul is doing as governor? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	20	36	11	25	8
December 2022	19	30	14	30	7
October 2022*	21	31	7	38	4
September 2022*	24	29	11	31	5
August 2022*	22	30	10	31	6
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	36 (1/23)	14 (12/22)	38 (10/22)	8 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	19 (12/22)	29 (9/22)	7 (10/22)	25 (1/23)	4 (10/22)

Q. 15 How serious a problem do you think crime is across the State of New York?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT SERIOUS AT ALL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	61	32	6	1	1
December 2022	59	31	7	1	2
June 2022	63	29	6	1	1
February 2022	60	31	7	1	2
HIGHEST EVER	63 (6/22)	32 (1/23)	7 (12/22, 2/22)	1 (Several)	2 (12/22, 2/22)
LOWEST EVER	59 (12/22)	29 (6/22)	6 (1/23, 6/22)	1 (Several)	1 (1/23, 6/22)

Q. 16 And how about closer to home – how serious a problem do you think crime is in your community?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT SERIOUS AT ALL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	30	35	27	7	1
December 2022	28	35	24	11	1
June 2022	27	38	27	7	1
February 2022	27	36	26	9	1
HIGHEST EVER	30 (1/23)	38 (6/22)	27 (1/23, 6/22)	11 (12/22)	1 (Several)
LOWEST EVER	27 (6/22, 2/22)	35 (1/23, 12/22)	24 (12/22)	7 (1/23, 6/22)	1 (Several)

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2023 – Page 4

Q. 24 Do you support or oppose amending the New York State Constitution to include an Equal Rights Amendment?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2023	68	20	12
January 2022	71	16	13
January 2020	76	18	7
June 2019	72	17	11
HIGHEST EVER	76 (1/20)	20 (1/23)	13 (1/22)
LOWEST EVER	68 (1/23)	16 (1/22)	7 (1/20)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August thru October 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 January 2022.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.