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Contact:

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

Website/Twitter:

www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY

[@SienaResearch](https://twitter.com/SienaResearch)

Siena College Poll:

Hochul Favorability & Job Approval Ratings Dip a Little; Biden Favorability Best Since October 2021; Best Ever Job Approval

**Crime & Cost of Living Remain Voters' Top Two Priorities for Albany
*Strong Support for Minimum Wage Based on Inflation, Lowering BAC for
DWI to .05%, Increasing Cigarette Tax & Banning Flavored Tobacco***

***Banning All Fossil Fuel-Burning Equipment in New Construction
Opposed 53-39%; Expanding Film Tax Credit Opposed 48-41%***

Two-Thirds of NYers Say Santos Should Resign from Congress

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul's favorability and job approval ratings both ticked down this month, while President Joe Biden's ratings both edged higher. Hochul has a 46-43% favorability rating, from 48-42% last month, and her job approval rating stands at 56-40%, from 56-36%. Biden's favorability rating is up to 54-43%, from 49-47% last month, his best since October 2021, and his job approval rating hit a new high, 55-42%, up from 51-47% in January, according to a Siena College poll of registered New York State voters released today.

Crime should be Albany's top priority, say 36% of voters, followed by cost of living, 27%, and affordable housing, 13%, with public health, environment and racial justice in single digits. When combining voters' top two priorities, cost of living (62%) tops the list, followed by crime (55%), and the other issues far behind. Ninety-two percent of New Yorkers say crime continues to be a serious problem across the state and two-thirds continue to say it's a serious problem in their community.

"Both Hochul's favorability and job approval ratings dipped a little this month, but her favorability remains slightly positive and her overall job approval rating remains strong, particularly with – and only with – Democrats," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "On specific aspects of the job she's doing, voters give Hochul a mixed report card.

"A majority approve of the job she's doing to encourage businesses to locate in New York and a small plurality approve of the job she's doing to increase availability of affordable housing. At the same time, a plurality disapproves of the job she's doing to address crime, and a majority disapproves of her efforts to make New York more affordable," Greenberg said. "Democrats approve of the job she's doing in all four areas while Republicans and independents disapprove in all four areas."

Biden Has Best-Ever Job Approval & Best Favorability Rating in a Year and a Half

“Overall, New Yorkers are giving Biden his best ratings since 2021. Ironically, the upward swing is not because of Democrats – at least three-quarters of Democrats both view him favorably now and last month, and approve of the job he’s doing, both now and last month – but rather Republicans and independents. And to be clear, Republicans and, to a lesser degree, independents continue to view Biden unfavorably and disapprove of the job he’s doing – but he’s doing significantly less poorly with both this month,” Greenberg said.

“On specific aspects of the job Biden’s doing, like Hochul, he also gets mixed grades. Double digit majorities approve of the job he’s doing to protect American democracy and keep America safe. But slightly smaller majorities disapprove of the way he’s addressing both immigration and inflation,” Greenberg said. “Democrats strongly to overwhelmingly approve of his job on all four, while Republicans, and to a lesser extent independents, disapprove of his job on all four, although on protecting democracy, independents are closely divided.”

Crime – Still a Serious Concern for NYers – and Cost of Living Remain Voters’ Priorities for Albany

“Crime and cost of living were voters’ top two priorities for Albany back in December heading into this session, and they remain the two issues voters want Hochul and the Legislature to prioritize,” Greenberg said. “Crime is the top priority for Republicans, independents, downstate suburbanites, and upstaters, while for Democrats and New York City voters, cost of living edges out crime for the single top priority.

“For more than a year, more than nine in 10 voters have said crime is a serious problem – 60% very serious – and more than six in 10 have said that crime in their community is a serious problem –34% now say very serious,” Greenberg said. “At least 55% of voters from every party, region and race, think crime in the state is a very serious problem. When it comes to crime in their community, voters of color and those from New York City are significantly more concerned than are white, downstate suburban and upstate voters, who also remain concerned.”

Voters Strongly Support 4 Hochul Budget Proposals; 2 Get Strong Bipartisan Support; 2 Opposed

Do Voters Support or Oppose Gov. Hochul’s Budget Proposals?					
Proposal		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Basing increases in New York's minimum wage on the rate of inflation	Support	70%	82%	59%	57%
	Oppose	26%	15%	35%	35%
Lowering the blood alcohol content for driving while intoxicated from 0.08% to 0.05%	Support	62%	69%	57%	53%
	Oppose	33%	27%	38%	39%
Increasing the tax on a pack of cigarettes from \$4.35 to \$5.35	Support	62%	73%	44%	58%
	Oppose	33%	23%	50%	39%
Banning flavored tobacco products	Support	57%	65%	49%	55%
	Oppose	35%	29%	46%	36%
Expanding the film tax credit for TV & movie production companies from the current \$420M to \$700M annually	Support	41%	56%	25%	30%
	Oppose	48%	38%	59%	59%
Essentially prohibit all fossil fuel-burning equipment – including stoves – for new single-family homes by the end of 2025 and for all new construction by the end of 2028	Support	39%	61%	17%	20%
	Oppose	53%	34%	76%	69%

“Similar to last month, basing minimum wage increases on the inflation rate has strong bipartisan support, as does lowering the BAC for DWI to .05%,” Greenberg said. “Democrats, overwhelmingly, and independents, strongly, support both increasing the tax on cigarettes by a buck and banning flavored tobacco products. Republicans are more closely divided, opposing the tax by six points, and supporting the flavor ban by three points.

“Expanding the film tax credit is supported by Democrats but more strongly opposed by Republicans and independents. Similarly, Democrats strongly support Hochul’s proposal on prohibiting fossil fuel-burning equipment in most new construction within the next several years, however Republicans and independents are even stronger in their opposition,” Greenberg said.

Santos: More Voters Know Him, View Him Unfavorably & Want Him to Resign from Congress

Rep. George Santos has a negative 17-64% favorability rating, down further, from 16-56% in January. Currently, 66% of voters statewide say he should resign from Congress, up from 59% last month.

“The ‘good’ news for Santos is that even in these hyper partisan times, he’s found a way to get Democrats, Republicans and independents to agree about a political figure. The bad news for Santos is that the political figure they agree on is him, and they overwhelmingly view him unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “It’s not just that 72% of Democrats want him to resign, so do 63% of independents and 58% of Republicans.”

Odds & Ends

- Voters say that the National Republican Party has become too extreme, 57-30%. By a smaller 51-38% margin, they say the National Democratic Party has become too extreme. Not surprisingly, nearly three-quarters of Democrats think Republicans are too extreme and a similar number of Republicans say the same about Democrats. Independents think they’re both too extreme, Democrats (61%) more than Republicans (54%).
- Voters are a little less downbeat about the direction of the state and the country. They say the state is headed in the wrong direction 49-41% (49-39% in January) and the country is headed in the wrong direction 56-35%, down from 63-28% last month.
- Recently declared presidential candidate Nikki Haley debuts in the Siena College Poll with a 30-39% favorability rating, with 31% either never having heard of her or not knowing enough to have an opinion. Republicans view her slightly favorably, 32-29%. Democrats are negative, 26-46%.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted February 19-23, 2023, among 744 New York State registered voters with 520 voters contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 224 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 and cell phone telephone numbers weighted to reflect known population patterns. The landline telephone sample was obtained from ASDE and the cell phone sample was obtained from Dynata. 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 +/- 5.0 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey crosstabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – February 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
February 2023	41	49	10
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
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
February 2023	35	56	9
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
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
February 2023	54	43	3
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
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	48 (8/22, 2/22)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	45 (2/20)	26 (9/08)	3 (2/23, 9/22, 2/21)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	37	60	2
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
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (2/23, 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
February 2023	46	43	11
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
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	43 (2/23, 12/22)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (1/23)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	43	36	22
December 2022	42	27	31
January 2022	44	28	28
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	36 (2/23, 9/19, 8/19, 6/19)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (4/20, 10/31/10)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	48	45	8
December 2022	49	40	11
October 2022*	53	40	7
September 2022*	50	40	9
August 2022*	49	43	8
June 2022	50	40	10
March 2022	50	40	9
February 2022	47	39	14
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 George Santos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	17	64	19
January 2023	16	56	28
HIGHEST EVER	17 (2/23)	64 (2/23)	28 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	16 (1/23)	56 (1/23)	19 (2/23)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	45	37	18
January 2023	44	34	23
June 2022	37	38	25
April 2022	40	38	23
February 2022	40	37	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
February 2023	45	39	16
January 2023	44	38	18
June 2022	41	40	19
April 2022	37	42	21
February 2022	44	39	17
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. 12 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
February 2023	26	29	11	31	3
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)	3 (2/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	24 (10/22)	6 (10/22)	31 (2/23)	1 (9/22)

Q. 17 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
February 2023	20	36	12	28	4
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 (2/23, 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 (2/23)

Q. 26 Do you support or oppose basing increases in New York's minimum wage on the rate of inflation?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	70	26	5
January 2023	76	19	5
HIGHEST EVER	76 (1/23)	26 (2/23)	5 (2/23, 1/23)
LOWEST EVER	70 (2/23)	19 (1/23)	5 (2/23, 1/23)

Q. 28/9 What should be the top priority for Governor Hochul and the State Legislature this year? What should state government's next top priority be this year? (Number in parentheses is 'top' priority; first number is combined top and second priority.)

DATE	COST OF LIVING	CRIME	AFFORDABLE HOUSING	PUBLIC HEALTH	RACIAL JUSTICE	ENVIRONMENT	OTHER	DK/NO
February 2023	62 (27)	55 (36)	26 (13)	20 (8)	16 (6)	15 (7)	3 (2)	2 (1)
December 2022*	63 (31)	58 (36)	29 (12)	16 (5)	13 (5)	13 (6)	4 (2)	5 (3)

Siena College Poll Trends – February 2023 – Page 4

Q. 30 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
February 2023	60	32	6	1	1
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 (2/23, 1/23)	7 (12/22, 2/22)	1 (Several)	2 (12/22, 2/22)
LOWEST EVER	59 (12/22)	29 (6/22)	6 (Several)	1 (Several)	1 (Several)

Q. 31 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
February 2023	34	33	22	10	1
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	34 (2/23)	38 (6/22)	27 (1/23, 6/22)	11 (12/22)	1 (Several)
LOWEST EVER	27 (6/22, 2/22)	33 (2/23)	22 (2/23)	7 (1/23, 6/22)	1 (Several)

Q. 32 Do you think newly elected Long Island Representative George Santos should or should not resign from Congress?

DATE	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2023	66	16	19
January 2023	59	17	23
HIGHEST EVER	66 (2/23)	17 (1/23)	23 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	59 (1/23)	16 (2/23)	19 (2/23)

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 February 2022.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.