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Siena College Poll:

Overwhelming Support for Millionaires Tax & Giving Judges More Bail Discretion for Serious Offenses; Strong Support for Banning Flavored Tobacco; Strong Opposition to SUNY Tuition Hikes

Voters: Affordable Housing – Like Crime – is Serious Problem in NY & Community

NYS Reps: Trump 52%, DeSantis 27%, Someone Else 18%

NYS Dems: Renominate Biden 43%, Different Candidate 51%

Hochul Favorability & Job Approval Drop a Little; Biden's Drop a Little More

Loudonville, NY. Two budget proposals being debated have overwhelming bipartisan support – raising income taxes for those making at least \$5 million, 76-19%, and giving judges more discretion setting bail for those accused of serious crimes, 72-20%. There is majority support for banning flavored tobacco, and providing fiscal incentives to municipalities that meet increased housing goals. Allowing SUNY to increase tuition garners strong bipartisan opposition, according to a Siena College poll of registered New York State voters released today.

Voters see both affordable housing and crime as serious problems across New York and in their communities. Statewide, 92% say crime is a serious problem (62% very serious), and 90% say affordable housing is a serious problem (58% very serious). In their community, 83% (50% very) say affordable housing is a serious problem, and 65% (33% very) say crime is a serious problem. Sixty percent are concerned they could be a victim of crime.

A majority of Republicans, 52%, say they would vote for Donald Trump in a 2024 presidential primary, compared to 27% supporting Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and 18% who want someone else. A majority of Democrats, 51%, say they think their party should nominate someone other than Joe Biden for President in 2024.

“As Governor Kathy Hochul and state legislators work to pass a new state budget, two proposals being discussed enjoy strong bipartisan support and one has strong bipartisan opposition,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “More than three-quarters of voters support increasing the personal income tax for those making at least \$5 million, including 64% of conservatives, and at least 60% of every other demographic group.

“And 72% of voters, up from 65% in January, support giving judges more discretion to set bail for those accused of serious crimes, including 76% of Democrats, 71% of independents and 69% of Republicans. Banning flavored tobacco continues to have strong support, 58-34%, including more than two-thirds of Democrats,” Greenberg said. “There is also strong bipartisan opposition to a SUNY tuition increase of 3-6%.”

Support/Opposition for Current Budget Proposals					
Proposal		Total	Dem	Rep	I / O
Increasing state income taxes for those earning more than \$5M from 10.3% to 10.8%, and those earning more than \$25M from 10.9% to 11.4%	Support	76%	83%	64%	74%
	Oppose	19%	13%	30%	20%
Giving judges more discretion to set bail for offenders accused of serious crimes	Support	72%	76%	69%	71%
	Oppose	20%	17%	22%	23%
Banning flavored tobacco products	Support	58%	68%	45%	50%
	Oppose	34%	24%	49%	43%
Providing \$500M of incentives to cities, towns, villages that meet goal of increasing housing supply – 3% for downstate municipalities & 1% for upstate – over 3 years	Support	54%	67%	28%	54%
	Oppose	32%	19%	59%	33%
Mandating all new buildings under 7 stories built after 2026, & all new buildings 7 stories and taller built after 2028, use electricity – rather than gas – for heating & cooking	Support	49%	61%	20%	50%
	Oppose	40%	27%	67%	42%
Requiring all downstate municipalities to grow their housing supply by at least 3% every three years and all upstate towns and cities by at least 1% every three years	Support	45%	57%	24%	41%
	Oppose	37%	27%	63%	35%
Increasing the tax on employers in the downstate region from 0.34% of payroll to 0.5% of payroll to generate \$800M in additional revenue for the MTA	Support	43%	57%	23%	38%
	Oppose	43%	31%	60%	50%
Providing health insurance for undocumented immigrants in New York	Support	44%	64%	13%	34%
	Oppose	49%	27%	82%	63%
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	30%	34%	26%	23%
	Oppose	64%	60%	67%	71%
Siena College Poll: March 27, 2023					

“Voters are more closely divided on several other issues. Mandates for electrification of new buildings is supported 49-40%. Increasing the MTA payroll tax divides voters evenly, 43-43%,” Greenberg said. “Providing health insurance for undocumented immigrants is opposed 49-44%, despite support from 64% of Democrats.”

Voters Say Affordable Housing & Crime are Serious Problems Across NY & In Their Communities

“For more than a year, at least 90% of voters have said crime is a serious problem in the state, at least 60% say very serious. For more than a year, at least 63% of voters have said crime is a serious problem in their community, at least 27% very serious. And today, 60% say they are concerned they could be a victim of crime, largely unchanged over the last year,” Greenberg said.

“New Yorkers say the issue of affordable housing statewide is equally as serious a problem as is crime. In their community, however, voters – particularly Democrats, independents, downstate suburbanites, and upstaters – say affordable housing is both a more serious, and even a more very serious, problem than crime,” Greenberg said.

“By a narrow 45-37% plurality, voters support mandates on municipalities to increase their housing supplies, including majority support from Democrats and plurality support from independents. By a larger 54-32% margin, voters support providing incentives to municipalities for increasing their housing supply,” Greenberg said.

“When asked which option they support – mandates or incentives – 48% of voters say incentives, compared to only 15% who say mandates, and 15% who say both,” Greenberg said. “Interestingly, providing incentives is the choice of 49% of independents, 47% of Republicans and 46% of Democrats.”

2024: Trump Bests DeSantis with NY Republicans; NY Democrats Want ‘Different Candidate’ than Biden

“Among all New York Republicans – as well as in every region – Trump leads DeSantis handily, 52-27%, with fewer than one in five Republicans preferring another candidate. Trump leads 54-30% with conservative Republicans and 40-24% with moderates, a third of whom want a candidate other than Trump or DeSantis,” Greenberg said. “For those 18% of Republicans who want another candidate, 20% chose Nikki Haley, 6% Liz Cheney, and the majority of that group don’t know.

“Trump has a 38-57% favorability rating (37-60% last month) among all voters, 74-22% with Republicans. DeSantis has a 39-41% favorability rating with all voters, 62-24% with Republicans,” Greenberg said. “Among Republicans who view both Trump and DeSantis favorably, Trump leads DeSantis in the matchup 59-35%.

“Only 43% of Democrats think their party should renominate Biden, while 51% prefer a ‘different candidate.’ A small majority of New York City Democrats think Biden should be renominated, but bigger majorities of upstate and downstate suburban Democrats want another candidate. Men say Biden; women say a different candidate,” Greenberg said. “As to who that other candidate should be, nearly two-thirds don’t have an opinion, with a scattering of support for Pete Buttigieg (5%), Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, all at 3%.”

“Biden’s favorability rating is 48-45% down from 54-43% last month. His job approval rating is 50-48%, down from 55-42% in February,” Greenberg said. “Only Democrats view him favorably, 74-22%, and approve of the job he’s doing, 74-23%. A strong majority of independents and an overwhelming majority of Republicans view him unfavorably and disapprove of the job he’s doing.”

Hochul Ratings Slip a Little in Last Month

Hochul has a 43-43% favorability rating, down slightly from 46-43% in February and 48-42% in January. Her job approval rating stands at 52-41%, down a little from 56-40% in February and 56-36% in January.

“Hochul hit her highest favorability and job approval ratings in January – although she has never had a majority of New Yorkers viewing her favorably – and has slipped a little in each of the last two months. It will be interesting, after the dust settles from the budget battles in the coming days – and weeks? – to see how voters grade Hochul – and the Legislature,” Greenberg said.

“Nearly half of voters are following news about the budget very or somewhat closely. Thirty-four percent of voters, including 47% Democrats, think Hochul will do the best job representing them in budget negotiations, compared to 7% for Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and 6% for Speaker Carl Heastie,” Greenberg said. “One quarter of voters, including 47% Republicans, don’t trust Hochul or the legislators to best represent them.”

Odds & Ends

- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has 46-25% favorability rating, up from 43-36% last month. A plurality, 43%, of voters say they would vote to re-elect Gillibrand if she seeks another term next year, compared to 38% who would prefer ‘someone else.’ While 62% of Democrats are prepared to re-elect her, 65% of Republicans and 43% of independents, a plurality, would prefer someone else.
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer also saw a bump in his favorability rating at 54-36%, up from 48-45% in February. Three-quarters of Democrats view Schumer favorably, while three-quarters of Republicans view him unfavorably, and independents are evenly divided, 44-44%
- Voters continue to say the state and, to an even greater degree, the country are headed in the wrong direction. They say the state is headed in the wrong direction 48-39% (it was 49-41% in February) and the country is headed in the wrong direction 57-33% (from 56-35% last month).

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This Siena College Poll was conducted March 19 - 22, 2023, among 802 New York State registered voters. Of the 802 respondents, 503 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 299 respondents were drawn from a proprietary online panel (Lucid). 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 collection modes was statistically adjusted by age, party by region, race/ethnicity, education, gender, and 2020 vote by region to ensure representativeness. It has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.6 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 – March 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
March 2023	39	48	14
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
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
March 2023	9	18	36	34	3
December 2022	7	21	31	35	6
June 2022	5	19	34	37	5
March 2022	5	21	32	36	5
HIGHEST EVER	9 (3/23)	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
March 2023	33	57	10
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
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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	48	45	6
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
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)

Siena College Poll Trends – March 2023 – Page 2

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	38	57	5
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
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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	43	43	13
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
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	43 (3/23, 2/23, 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 Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	46	25	29
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. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	54	36	11
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
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. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	44	34	22
February 2023	45	37	18
January 2023	44	34	23
June 2022	37	38	25
April 2022	40	38	23
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	28 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

Siena College Poll Trends – March 2023 – Page 3

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	50	34	16
February 2023	45	39	16
January 2023	44	38	18
June 2022	41	40	19
April 2022	37	42	21
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. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	17	15	68
December 2022	18	13	69
HIGHEST EVER	18 (12/22)	20 (10/15)	78 (1/17, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	11 (1/18)	68 (3/23, 2/20)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrea Stewart-Cousins?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	19	15	66
December 2022	18	13	69
HIGHEST EVER	20 (1/19)	16 (7/21, 2/20)	79 (4/18)
LOWEST EVER	12 (4/18)	9 (4/18)	66 (3/23)

Q. 19 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
March 2023	24	26	15	33	2
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)	15 (3/23)	41 (8/22)	3 (2/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	24 (10/22)	6 (10/22)	31 (2/23)	1 (9/22)

Q. 20 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
March 2023	20	32	15	26	7
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)	15 (3/23)	38 (10/22)	8 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	19 (12/22)	29 (9/22)	7 (10/22)	25 (1/23)	4 (2/23)

Q. 22 Do you support or oppose giving judges more discretion to set bail for offenders accuse of serious crimes?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	72	20	8
January 2023	65	24	11
HIGHEST EVER	72 (3/23)	24 (1/23)	11 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	65 (1/23)	20 (3/23)	8 (3/23)

Siena College Poll Trends – March 2023 – Page 4

Q. 23 Do you support or oppose banning flavored tobacco products?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	58	34	8
February 2023	57	35	7
HIGHEST EVER	58 (3/23)	35 (2/23)	8 (3/23)
LOWEST EVER	57 (2/23)	34 (3/23)	7 (2/23)

Q. 25 Do you support or oppose 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?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	30	64	6
January 2023	28	62	10
HIGHEST EVER	30 (3/23)	64 (3/23)	10 (1/23)
LOWEST EVER	28 (1/23)	62 (1/23)	6 (3/23)

Q. 32 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
March 2023	62	30	6	2	0
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)	2 (3/23)	2 (12/22, 2/22)
LOWEST EVER	59 (12/22)	29 (6/22)	6 (Several)	1 (Several)	0 (3/23)

Q. 33 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
March 2023	33	32	27	7	1
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 (3/23, 1/23, 6/22)	11 (12/22)	1 (Several)
LOWEST EVER	27 (6/22, 2/22)	32 (3/23)	22 (2/23)	7 (3,23, 1/23, 6/22)	1 (Several)

Q. 34 And what about in your everyday life, how concerned are you that you might be a victim of a crime?

DATE	VERY CONCERNED	SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	NOT VERY CONCERNED	NOT CONCERNED AT ALL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2023	28	32	29	10	0
December 2022	26	35	23	14	2
June 2022	26	34	27	12	1
February 2022	22	35	28	14	1
HIGHEST EVER	28 (3/23)	35 (12/22, 2/22)	29 (3/23)	14 (12/22, 2/22)	2 (12/22)
LOWEST EVER	22 (2/22)	32 (3/23)	23 (12/22)	10 (3/23)	0 (3/23)

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 March 2022.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.