



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Contact:

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

Website/Twitter:

www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY

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

Siena College Poll:

Voters: Cost of Living in New York Is Top Issue for Albany to Address; Other Major Problems: Crime, Migrant Influx & Affordable Housing

57% Say Quality of Life in NYS is Getting Worse; Only 14% Getting Better

Six in Ten Voters Say Biden Not Fit to Serve 4-Year Term as Next President;

Six in Ten Voters Say Trump Not Fit; Plurality of 34% Says Both Are Unfit

*Majority Says Trump Should Not Be Allowed to Run Because of His Indictments;
Plurality Supports House of Representatives Opening Biden Impeachment Inquiry*

Loudonville, NY. More than eight in ten voters say that the cost of living in New York is a major problem – including at least 80% of Democrats, Republicans and independents – and 27%, a plurality, say it is the most important issue that the Governor and Legislature should be working on now. Crime, the recent influx of migrants and the availability of affordable housing are the next three most important issues for New Yorkers. Fifty-seven percent say the quality of life in the state is getting worse, while 27% say it's staying the same and 14% say it's getting better, according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters released today.

A plurality of voters, 34%, say neither President Joe Biden nor former President Donald Trump is fit to serve a four-year term as the nation's next President, while 28% think Trump is fit but not Biden, 26% say Biden is and Trump isn't, and 9% say both are fit. Voters say, 55-39%, Trump should not be allowed to run for President based on his indictments, and by 46-40%, voters support the House opening an impeachment inquiry into Biden.

“In assessing the severity of problems facing New York, there is, surprisingly, considerable agreement among Democrats, Republicans and independents,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “At least 80% of each partisan group thinks the cost of living in the state is a major problem. At least 71% of each say affordable housing is a major problem, as do at least 64% of each about crime, and at least 51% of each about the migrant influx.

“With many voters seeing multiple major problems facing the state, Siena asked voters to pick the single most important issue they want Hochul and legislators to address. With 27% – including more than one-third of independents – the cost of living in the state rose to the top, but not far behind were crime, 19%, the migrant influx, 18%, and affordable housing, 17%,” Greenberg said. “Those top four issues were also the top four for Republicans, Democrats and independents, though in different orders.

“For Republicans, addressing the migrant issue is the most important issue – even bigger than cost of living. For Democrats, availability of affordable housing is virtually tied with cost of living as the top issue,” Greenberg said.

Problems in New York State?						
Major Problem, Minor Problem, Not Really a Problem		Total	Dem	Rep	I / O	Most important Issue for Albany Now
Cost of living in New York	Major	83%	80%	86%	87%	27% D 24% R 25%, I 35%
	Minor	12%	16%	10%	8%	
	Not	4%	4%	3%	5%	
Crime	Major	73%	64%	87%	77%	19% D 19% R 22%, I 16%
	Minor	20%	26%	12%	17%	
	Not	6%	8%	1%	5%	
The recent influx of migrants	Major	62%	51%	87%	63%	18% D 14% R 30%, I 18%
	Minor	22%	29%	11%	18%	
	Not	14%	18%	2%	16%	
The availability of affordable housing	Major	77%	77%	71%	82%	17% D 23% R 8%, I 11%
	Minor	15%	15%	19%	14%	
	Not	6%	6%	9%	3%	
Access to quality, affordable health care	Major	52%	54%	49%	52%	8% D 10% R 1%, I 9%
	Minor	28%	28%	26%	30%	
	Not	16%	16%	19%	15%	
Threats to the state’s environment	Major	44%	52%	25%	45%	4% D 6% R 2%, I 3%
	Minor	34%	32%	45%	31%	
	Not	15%	11%	22%	17%	
New Yorkers choosing to leave the state for other parts of the country	Major	38%	31%	51%	38%	4% D 3% R 6%, I 6%
	Minor	25%	27%	20%	25%	
	Not	33%	38%	25%	31%	

Siena College Poll: September 19, 2023

Majority Says Quality of Life in NYS Getting Worse & Majority Says State Headed in Wrong Direction

“A huge majority of Republicans, a large majority of independents and a plurality of Democrats all say the quality of life in New York is getting worse. In fact, a majority of virtually every demographic group – pluralities of Democrats, liberals and New York City voters – say things are getting worse,” Greenberg said. “Only 4% of independents, 5% of Republicans and 22% of Democrats say things in New York are getting better.

“Similarly, by a 52-35% margin, voters say the state is headed in the wrong direction, not on the right track, including 81% of Republicans and 55% of independents,” Greenberg said. “On the other hand, 49% of Democrats say the state is on the right track. Last month, voters said the state was headed in the wrong direction 48-39%.”

62% Say Biden Unfit for 4-Year Term as President; 60% Say Same for Trump; 1/3 Say Both Unfit

“While 74% of Republicans say Trump is fit for a four-year term as President, and 56% of Democrats say Biden is fit, a plurality of independents, 45%, says both are unfit,” Greenberg said. “Biden is seen as fit by 20% of independents and only 6% of Republicans, while 32% of independents and 23% of Democrats say Trump is fit.

“Among voters 55 and older, only 26% say neither is fit for a four-year term, while 45% of voters under 35 say that both are unfit,” Greenberg said. “Neither Biden nor Trump is fit to serve a four-year term, according to 30% of white voters, 37% of Black voters, and nearly half, 47%, of Latino voters.”

Biden Favorability & Lead Over Trump Up this Month; Plurality Support House Impeachment Inquiry

Biden’s favorability rating is 50-45%, up from 46-50% in August. His job approval rating is 47-48%, compared to 47-50% last month. In a head-to-head matchup, Biden leads Trump 52-31%, up from 47-34% last month. Among Democrats, 54% want him as nominee in 2024, 40% want someone else (up from 47-46% in August).

“New York voters give the President good news and bad news this month. On the good news side, Biden’s favorability rating is up nine points. His lead over Trump is up eight points over the last month, and Democrats have warmed to his being their nominee next year,” Greenberg said. “On the bad news front, a plurality of voters – including 72% of Republicans, 47% of independents (two-to-one in support), and even 35% of Democrats – support the House of Representatives beginning an impeachment inquiry into Biden. Women oppose the inquiry by four points while men support it by 17 points.”

Voters Say Trump Should Not Be Able to Run, Given Indictments; Favorability Rating Slips

Voters say, 55-39%, Trump should not be able to run for president because of his indictments. His favorability rating is negative 33-61%, down from 37-56% in August. Among Republicans, 63% say Trump is their choice for the 2024 presidential nomination, compared to 32% who want another candidate (was 64-27 in August).

“While Democrats, 79%, and independents, 62%, continue to have an unfavorable view of Trump, New York Republicans overwhelmingly view him favorably, 72-23%. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans say they will vote for him as their nominee,” Greenberg said. “Similarly, 71% of Democrats and 57% of independents say Trump should not be allowed to run for President given his indictments, while more than three-quarters of Republicans say he should be able to run, and they support him in a general election matchup over Biden 79-8%.”

Voters: Tax Rich, Ban Assault Weapons & Federally Protect Abortion Rights

Voters would rather vote for a presidential candidate who says: tax those earning more than \$400,000, 68-22%; outlaw assault weapons, 60-31%; and federally protect abortion rights, 57-35%. On Ukraine, voters are closely divided, with 45% supporting a candidate who wants to continue to supply Ukraine with aid for as long as it takes to defeat Russia, and 43% supporting a candidate who says we have to stop providing a blank check and negotiate an end to the war.

“Voters would rather support a presidential candidate who favors taxing those over \$400,000, with a plurality of Republicans joining huge majorities of Democrats and independents. Democrats and independents also agree – while Republicans disagree – that they’d prefer a candidate who supports banning assault weapons, and one who supports ensuring abortion access is a federally protected right,” Greenberg said. “While 55% of Democrats want a candidate who supports continuing to aid Ukraine, 55% of Republicans oppose such a candidate, with independents closely divided but leaning in opposition.”

Voters Give Hochul a Small Bounce in Favorability & Job Approval Ratings

Governor Kathy Hochul has a 40-41% favorability rating, up a little from 40-46% in August. Her job approval rating stands at 48-41%, up from 46-46% last month.

“Hochul’s favorability rating improved a little, although the 40% who view her favorably continues to match her gubernatorial low water mark. And her job approval rating moved back into positive territory after being dead even last month,” Greenberg said. “This is the first time we’ve seen her job approval rating move in the positive direction since January. It remains to be seen whether she has reversed the negative trend line, or this is simply a positive blip. Stay tuned.”

Odds & Ends

- By nearly two-to-one, 60-33%, voters say next year’s presidential election is the most important of their lives. Interestingly, Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly say it’s the most important election, while independents are closely divided, 45-42%, leaning toward 2024 being the most important election.
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s favorability rating is 41-27%, up slightly from 39-28% in August. Voters are divided on whether they would re-elect Gillibrand or they would prefer ‘someone else,’ with 41% prepared to re-elect her and 37% preferring someone else, up from 40-41% in June.
- Vice President Kamala Harris has a 46-44% favorability rating, compared to the 56-34% favorability rating she had as she was assuming the office of Vice President, the last time Siena asked about her.
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer has a 47-37% favorability rating, compared to 48-38% last month. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has an 18-61% favorability rating (24-55% in March 2020, the last time Siena asked). Speaker Kevin McCarthy has a 24-44% favorability rating, down from 30-41% in January. Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries’ favorability rating is 32-22%, little changed from 33-20% in January.
- New Yorkers continue to believe the United States will still be a democratic republic in 2030, 71-18%, up slightly from 70-23% in December 2022.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted September 10 - 13, 2023, among 804 NYS Registered Voters. Of the 804 respondents, 504 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 300 respondents were drawn from a proprietary online panel (Cint). 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, and gender 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.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

Siena College Poll Trends – September 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
September 2023	35	52	13
August 2023	39	48	12
June 2023	38	50	12
May 2023	42	48	11
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
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
September 2023	6	20	32	37	5
June 2023	8	20	33	34	5
March 2023	9	18	36	34	3
December 2022	7	21	31	35	6
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
September 2023	33	59	8
August 2023	30	62	8
June 2023	32	61	8
May 2023	28	63	8
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
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
September 2023	50	45	5
August 2023	46	50	4
June 2023	47	47	6
May 2023	51	45	4
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
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	50 (8/23)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	45 (2/20)	26 (9/08)	3 (2/23, 9/22, 2/21)

Siena College Poll Trends – September 2023 – Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	33	61	5
August 2023	37	56	7
June 2023	33	61	6
May 2023	30	64	5
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
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
September 2023	40	41	19
August 2023	40	46	14
June 2023	42	43	16
May 2023	40	45	15
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
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	46 (8/23)	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
September 2023	41	27	32
August 2023	39	28	33
June 2023	41	31	28
May 2023	41	31	28
March 2023	46	25	29
February 2023	43	36	22
December 2022	42	27	31
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
September 2023	47	37	15
August 2023	48	38	14
June 2023	46	38	16
May 2023	50	38	12
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
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)

Siena College Poll Trends – September 2023 – Page 3

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kevin McCarthy?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	24	44	33
January 2023	30	41	28
HIGHEST EVER	30 (1/23)	44 (9/23)	33 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	24 (9/23)	41 (1/23)	28 (1/23)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hakeem Jeffries?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	32	22	47
January 2023	33	20	47
December 2022	33	17	51
HIGHEST EVER	33 (1/23, 12/22)	22 (9/23)	51 (12/22)
LOWEST EVER	32 (9/23)	17 (12/22)	47 (9/23, 1/23)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitch McConnell?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	18	61	20
March 2020	24	55	21
HIGHEST EVER	25 (6/19)	61 (9/23)	32 (5/17)
LOWEST EVER	18 (9/23)	48 (9/19, 5/17)	20 (9/23)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kamala Harris?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	46	44	10
January 2021	56	34	10
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/21)	44 (9/23)	12 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	46 (9/23)	33 (11/20)	10 (9/23, 1/21)

Q. 13 REPS ONLY: If the 2024 Republican primary for President was held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or someone else?

DATE	TRUMP	DIFFERENT CANDIDATE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	63	32	5
August 2023	64	27	8
June 2023	61	34	5
May 2023	60	32	8
HIGHEST EVER	64 (8/23)	34 (6/23)	8 (5/23)
LOWEST EVER	60 (5/23)	27 (8/23)	5 (9/23, 6/23)

Q. 15 DEMS ONLY: Do you think the Democratic Party should renominate Joe Biden as the party's candidate for President in 2024, or do you think the party should nominate a different candidate for President in 2024?

DATE	RENOMINATE BIDEN	DIFFERENT CANDIDATE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	54	40	6
August 2023	47	46	7
June 2023	54	40	6
May 2023	56	40	4
March 2023	43	51	7
HIGHEST EVER	56 (5/21)	51 (3/23)	7 (8/23, 3/23)
LOWEST EVER	43 (3/21)	40 (9/23, 6/23, 5/23)	4 (5/23)

Q. 17 If Kirsten Gillibrand runs for re-election as US Senator in 2024, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT GILLIBRAND	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	41	37	22
August 2023	40	41	19
June 2023	40	40	20
May 2023	43	38	19
March 2023	43	38	19
HIGHEST EVER	43 (5/23, 3/23)	41 (8/23)	22 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	40 (8/23, 6/23)	37 (9/23)	19 (8/23, 5/23, 3/23)

Siena College Poll Trends – September 2023 – Page 4

Q. 18 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President? FOLLOW UP: Is that strong or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	22	25	13	35	4
August 2023	22	25	13	37	3
June 2023	24	23	17	34	3
May 2023	22	29	15	32	2
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
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/22)	30 (1/23)	17 (6/23)	41 (8/22)	4 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	23 (6/23)	6 (10/22)	31 (2/23)	1 (9/22)

Q. 21 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
September 2023	16	32	16	25	11
August 2023	18	28	17	29	8
June 2023	19	29	16	28	9
May 2023	17	33	17	27	7
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
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	36 (2/23, 1/23)	17 (8/23, 5/23)	38 (10/22)	11 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	16 (9/23)	28 (8/23)	7 (10/22)	25 (9/23, 1/23)	4 (2/23)

Q. 32 If the 2024 election for President was held today and the candidates were Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump, would you vote for Trump or Biden? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	BIDEN	TRUMP	OTHER/NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	52	31	7	10
August 2023	47	34	11	8
June 2023	50	28	17	4
HIGHEST EVER	52 (9/23)	34 (8/23)	17 (6/23)	10 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	47 (8/23)	28 (6/23)	7 (9/23)	4 (2/23)

Q. 38 Despite the current partisan divisions, how likely do you think it is that the United States will continue to be a democratic republic in 2030 – is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

DATE	VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	NOT VERY LIKELY	NOT AT ALL LIKELY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2023	36	35	13	5	11
December 2022	40	30	16	7	7
January 2022	29	38	17	5	10
HIGHEST EVER	40 (12/22)	38 (1/22)	17 (1/22)	7 (12/22)	11 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	29 (1/22)	30 (12/22)	13 (9/23)	5 (9/23, 1/22)	7 (12/22)

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 September 2022.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.