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Siena College Poll:
NYers Say Trump Manhattan Trial is 'Legitimate,' 54-30%, Including More Than 3/4 of Dems and Plurality of Inds; 2/3 of Reps Call it 'Witch Hunt'
Hochul Worst Ever Favorability & Job Approval Ratings, as Both Drop a Little
Strong Majorities Support Safeguarding IVF Access, Enhancing LGBTQ Protections, Requiring HS Athletes to Compete with Same Sex as Assigned at Birth; Majority Opposes National 15-Week Abortion Ban; Divided on Banning TikTok, Providing Reparations to Descendants of Slaves, Allowing Parents to Override Educators on Books in Schools
Shoplifting a Major Problem: 76%; 63% Oppose Congestion Pricing – Both Bipartisan

Loudonville, NY. Sixty percent of New Yorkers say they are paying a great deal or some attention to the criminal trial in which former President Donald Trump is accused of falsifying business records. By 54-30%, they say the trial is 'legitimate' – the view of 77% of Democrats and 44% of independents – rather than a 'witch hunt,' the view of 66% of Republicans, according to a Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Governor Kathy Hochul has her lowest ever favorability rating, 40-49%, down from 41-46% in February. Her job approval dropped from 48-47% in February to now 45-49%, her worst approval rating in a Siena College poll. Strong bipartisan majorities support safeguarding access to IVF (75-11%), enhancing protections for the LGBTQ community (69-24%), and requiring high school athletes to only compete with others of the same sex they were assigned at birth (66-27%). Voters oppose a national 15-week abortion ban, 52-41%, with a wide partisan divide.

"A majority of New Yorkers, 60% – including 68% of Democrats, 57% of Republicans and 50% of independents – are paying a great deal or some attention to Trump's ongoing trial," Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. "And a majority of New Yorkers, 54%, say the Manhattan proceedings are 'a legitimate trial to determine' whether Trump is or is not guilty of criminal behavior, rather than a 'witch hunt' to 'interfere in this year's presidential election,' a view held by 30%. More than three-quarters of Democrats and a plurality of independents say the trial is legitimate, while two-thirds of Republicans call it a witch hunt."

President Joe Biden has 45-52% favorability rating, down slightly from 46-50% in February, while his job approval rating also fell slightly and stands at 45-55%, from 45-52%. Trump has a 37-59% favorability rating, little changed from 37-58% in February.

"The good news for Biden is that he continues to hold a double-digit lead over Trump in solidly blue New York. The bad news for Biden is he only leads by 10 points, 47-37%, after leading 48-36% in February, in a state where enrolled Democrats outnumber Republicans better than two-to-one," Greenberg said. "While Biden has support from 72% of Democrats, Trump has the support of 81% of Republicans and leads with independents, 46-32%."

Hochul Sees Worst Favorability and Job Approval Ratings Since Becoming Governor

"Hochul's favorability and job approval ratings improved from last fall to January of this year, but her ratings since then fell, both in February and this month," Greenberg said. "It is the first time that her job approval rating has been underwater, now 45-49%, and her favorability rating is now nine points underwater, 40-49%.

"While Democrats continue to view Hochul favorably and approve of the job she's doing by about two-to-one, 79% of Republicans view her unfavorably and 81% disapprove of the job she's doing. And by two-to-one margins, independents view her unfavorably and disapprove of the job she's doing as governor," Greenberg said.

Big Bipartisan Support for Several Issues; Mixed for TikTok, Reparations & Parental Book Involvement

Voter Support for Proposals Being Discussed in Congress / State Legislatures					
Proposal		**Total**	**Dem**	**Rep**	**I / O**
Safeguarding access to invitro fertilization - or IVF - for all Americans	Support	**75%**	**80%**	**70%**	**72%**
	Oppose	11%	10%	11%	15%
Enhancing protections to safeguard members of the LGBTQ community	Support	**69%**	**80%**	**46%**	**67%**
	Oppose	24%	14%	40%	27%
Requiring high school athletes to only compete with others of the same sex that they were assigned at birth	Support	**66%**	**52%**	**83%**	**77%**
	Oppose	27%	38%	15%	16%
Allowing parent groups to override educators´ decisions on what books should be available to students	Support	**48%**	33%	**69%**	**56%**
	Oppose	45%	**62%**	23%	35%
Providing some type of reparations to the descendants of enslaved African Americans	Support	**47%**	**64%**	18%	36%
	Oppose	46%	29%	**72%**	**55%**
Banning the social media app, TikTok	Support	43%	40%	**47%**	**49%**
	Oppose	**45%**	**48%**	42%	39%
Instituting a national abortion ban after the 15th week of pregnancy, except when life of the mother is threatened	Support	41%	31%	**61%**	42%
	Oppose	**52%**	**64%**	29%	**47%**
Siena College Poll: April 22, 2024					

"Some hot button social issues unite New Yorkers, even across partisan lines. Safeguarding IVF access has the support of at least 70% of Democrats, Republicans and independents. A majority of Democrats and more than three-quarters of Republicans and independents support requiring high school athletes to compete in sports with those of the same sex athletes were assigned at birth. And more than two-thirds of Democrats and independents, and a plurality of Republicans support enhancing protections for the LGBTQ community," Greenberg said.

"Abortion divides the parties, as 61% of Republicans support a 15-week national abortion ban, and 64% of Democrats and a plurality of 47% of independents oppose it," said Greenberg. "Allowing parent groups to override educators on books in schools has support from Republicans and independents, while opposed by Democrats. Providing some reparations to descendants of slaves is supported by Democrats and opposed by Republicans and independents. Banning TikTok closely divides New Yorkers, but more by age than by party."

Bipartisan Opposition to Congestion Pricing; Bipartisan Agreement Shoplifting is a Major Problem

New Yorkers oppose the MTA's congestion pricing toll plan 63-25%, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents. If implemented, 14% say it will have no effect; they will continue to go to drive in and pay the toll, 14% will travel into Manhattan less, 17% will find other ways to travel to Manhattan, and 44% say they don't go to Manhattan. By 76-16%, voters say shoplifting is a major problem for New York stores.

"A majority of Democrats, two-thirds of independents and three-quarters of Republicans oppose the soon-expected congestion pricing toll plan, as do approximately two-thirds of downstaters and a majority of upstaters," Greenberg said. "Nearly one-third of New Yorkers say they will either travel less to Manhattan or find ways other than driving to get there. It will be interesting to see if those positions hold steady once the toll is implemented.

"More than two-thirds of Democrats, 80% of independents and 87% of Republicans say shoplifting is a major problem for New York Stores," Greenberg said. "At least three-quarters of voters from every region say shoplifting is a major problem."

Odds & Ends

➢ Voters are closely divided on the illegal sale of cannabis in New York, with 48% saying it's serious and 46% saying it's not. However, by a 56-29% margin, voters say government should do more to crack down on illegal pot shops, rather than look the other way.

➢ Currently, New Yorkers support increased aid to Ukraine, 54-35%, up from 51-36% in February, and the largest support it has had. Increased aid for Israel remains closely divided, 44-41%, from 44-43% in February. Democrats overwhelmingly support Ukraine aid but are divided on Israel. A plurality of Republicans opposes Ukraine aid, while a majority supports Israeli aid. Independents are closely divided on both.

➢ The vast majority of New Yorkers, 82%, continue to say the influx of migrants is a serious problem. And majorities continue to disapprove of the job that Mayor Adams, Governor Hochul and the Biden Administration are doing to address the migrant issue.

➢ A majority still say over the last year, crime in the state has gotten worse, and a plurality say crime in their community has stayed about the same. Only 12% say it's gotten better in the state, and only 12% say it's gotten better in their community. About 60% of voters still say they're concerned about being a crime victim.

# # #

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2024

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
April 2024	35	53	12
February 2024	36	52	11
January 2024	34	55	10
November 2023	36	53	11
October 2023	34	52	14
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
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
April 2024	27	64	10
February 2024	31	62	8
January 2024	31	60	9
November 2023	25	66	9
October 2023	25	65	10
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
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
April 2024	45	52	3
February 2024	46	50	4
January 2024	43	53	3
November 2023	44	51	4
October 2023	45	52	3
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
HIGHEST EVER	**65 (2/21)**	**53 (1/24)**	**28 (9/08)**
LOWEST EVER	**43 (1/24)**	**26 (9/08)**	**3 (1/24, 2/23, 9/22, 2/21)**

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	37	59	4
February 2024	37	58	4
January 2024	37	57	5
November 2023	34	60	6
October 2023	36	59	5
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
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
April 2024	40	49	12
February 2024	41	46	13
January 2024	45	42	12
November 2023	40	43	17
October 2023	40	44	16
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
HIGHEST EVER	**48 (1/23)**	**49 (4/24)**	**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
April 2024	39	31	30
February 2024	40	32	28
January 2024	42	28	31
November 2023	42	26	33
October 2023	39	30	31
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
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
April 2024	44	42	14
February 2024	48	40	12
January 2024	49	38	13
November 2023	46	40	14
October 2023	44	41	15
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
HIGHEST EVER	**70 (7/05)**	**46 (2/19)**	**17 (2/05)**
LOWEST EVER	**44 (4/24, 10/23)**	**20 (2/05, 11/06)**	**4 (10/31/10)**

Q. 8   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	35	38	27
June 2023	38	36	26
May 2023	40	36	24
March 2023	44	34	22
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	28 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	37	42	21
June 2023	41	38	20
May 2023	41	41	18
March 2023	50	34	16
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. 10   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hakeem Jeffries?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	32	25	43
November 2023	31	26	43
October 2023	33	23	44
September 2023	32	22	47
HIGHEST EVER	33 (10,23, 1/23, 12/22)	26 (11/23)	51 (12/22)
LOWEST EVER	32 (9/23)	17 (12/22)	43 (4/24, 11/23)

Q. 11   Kirsten Gillibrand is running for re-election as US Senator this year. 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
April 2024	42	39	19
February 2024	39	37	23
January 2024	43	38	19
November 2023	40	35	25
October 2023	39	38	23
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 (1/24, 5/23, 3/23)	41 (8/23)	25 (11/23)
LOWEST EVER	39 (2/24, 10/23)	35 (11/23)	19 (4/24, 1/24, 8/23, 5/23, 3/23)

Q. 12   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
April 2024	21	24	17	38	1
February 2024	21	24	15	37	3
January 2024	20	24	16	40	1
November 2023	20	25	16	37	2
October 2023	22	24	12	39	3
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
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/22)	30 (1/23)	17 (4/24, 6/23)	41 (8/22)	4 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	23 (6/23)	6 (10/22)	31 (2/23)	1 (4/24, 1/24, 9/22)

Q. 13 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
April 2024	14	31	16	33	6
February 2024	18	30	20	27	6
January 2024	17	35	13	30	6
November 2023	17	31	15	29	8
October 2023	16	29	14	31	9
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
HIGHEST EVER	**24 (9/22)**	**36 (2/23, 1/23)**	**20 (2/24)**	**38 (10/22)**	**11 (9/23)**
LOWEST EVER	**14 (4/24)**	**28 (8/23)**	**7 (10/22)**	**25 (9/23, 1/23)**	**4 (2/23)**

Q. 14 Currently, how serious a problem do you think the recent influx of migrants coming to New York is for the state?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT AT ALL SERIOUS	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2024	56	26	11	4	2
January 2024	61	24	8	5	1
November 2023	55	27	11	4	3
October 2023	57	27	8	4	3
August 2023	54	28	10	6	3
HIGHEST EVER	**61 (1/24)**	**28 (8/23)**	**11 (4/24, 11/23)**	**6 (8/23)**	**3 (11/23, 10/23, 8/23)**
LOWEST EVER	**54 (8/23)**	**24 (1/24)**	**8 (1/24, 10/23)**	**4 (4/24, 11/23, 10/23)**	**1 (1/24)**

Q. 15 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Eric Adams is doing to address the recent influx of migrants to New York? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2024	6	18	23	32	21
January 2024	8	20	18	36	19
October 2023	9	21	16	30	25
August 2023	10	21	17	30	23
HIGHEST EVER	**10 (8/23)**	**21 (10/23, 8/23)**	**23 (4/24)**	**36 (1/24)**	**25 (10/23)**
LOWEST EVER	**6 (4/24)**	**18 (4/24)**	**16 (10/23)**	**30 (10/23, 8/23)**	**19 (1/24)**

Q. 16 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Kathy Hochul is doing to address the recent influx of migrants to New York? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2024	9	24	20	38	9
January 2024	8	25	23	36	7
October 2023	11	26	16	36	12
August 2023	11	24	16	35	13
HIGHEST EVER	**11 (10/23, 8/23)**	**26 (10/23)**	**23 (1/24)**	**38 (4/24)**	**13 (8/23)**
LOWEST EVER	**8 (1/24)**	**24 (4/24, 8/23)**	**16 (10/23, 8/23)**	**35 (8/23)**	**7 (1/24)**

Q. 17 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that the Biden Administration is doing to address the recent influx of migrants to New York? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2024	12	22	18	44	4
January 2024	7	21	22	45	5
October 2023	10	19	18	46	7
August 2023	12	22	18	41	7
HIGHEST EVER	**12 (4/24, 8/23)**	**22 (4/24, 8/23)**	**22 (1/24)**	**46 (10/23)**	**7 (10/23, 8/23)**
LOWEST EVER	**7 (1/24)**	**19 (10/23)**	**18 (4/24, 10/23, 8/23)**	**41 (8/23)**	**4 (4/24)**

Q. 18 Do you think over the last year or so that the problem of crime in New York State has gotten better, stayed about the same, or has gotten worse?

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2024	12	31	55	2
February 2024	12	31	56	2
January 2024	16	34	48	1
November 2023	13	30	53	3
October 2023	9	28	59	4
HIGHEST EVER	16 (1/24)	34 (1/24)	59 (10/23)	4 (10/23)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/23)	28 (10/23)	48 (1/24)	1 (1/24)

Q. 19 Closer to home, do you think over the last year or so that the problem of crime in your community has gotten better, stayed about the same, or has gotten worse?

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2024	12	47	39	1
February 2024	12	48	37	3
January 2024	14	46	39	1
November 2023	12	46	40	1
October 2023	10	46	42	2
HIGHEST EVER	14 (1/24)	48 (2/24)	42 (10/23)	3 (2/24)
LOWEST EVER	10 (10/23)	46 (1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	37 (2/24)	1 (4/24, 1/24, 11/23)

Q. 20 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
April 2024	22	39	25	13	1
February 2024	22	36	29	11	2
May 2023	24	35	26	13	1
March 2023	28	32	29	10	0
HIGHEST EVER	28 (3/23)	39 (4/24)	29 (2/24, 3/23)	14 (12/22, 2/22)	2 (2/24, 12/22)
LOWEST EVER	22 (4/24, 2/24, 2/22)	32 (3/23)	23 (12/22)	10 (3/23)	0 (3/23)

Q. 27 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
April 2024	47	37	11	5
February 2024	48	36	10	6
January 2024	46	37	9	7
November 2023	46	36	11	8
October 2023	46	37	9	8
September 2023	52	31	7	10
August 2023	47	34	11	8
June 2023	50	28	17	4
HIGHEST EVER	52 (9/23)	37 (4/24, 1/24, 10/23)	17 (6/23)	10 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	46 (1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	28 (6/23)	7 (9/23)	4 (2/23)

Q. 28 If the election for your representative in Congress was held today, would you vote for the Democrat or the Republican? (Order was rotated.)

DATE	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	NOT VOTE/OTHER/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	49	36	15
February 2024	49	34	17
January 2024	49	32	19
November 2023	49	34	16
October 2023	49	37	14
HIGHEST EVER	49 (4/24, 2/24, 1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	37 (10/23)	19 (1/24)
LOWEST EVER	49 (4/24, 2/24, 1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	32 (1/24)	14 (10/23)

Q. 38 Do you support or oppose providing more military and economic aid to Ukraine?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	54	35	12
February 2024	51	36	13
January 2024	50	40	10
November 2023	52	36	12
October 2023	51	38	11
HIGHEST EVER	**54 (4/24)**	**40 (1/24)**	**13 (2/24)**
LOWEST EVER	**50 (1/24)**	**35 (4/24)**	**10 (1/24)**

Q. 39 Do you support or oppose providing more military and economic aid to Israel?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2024	44	41	15
February 2024	44	43	12
January 2024	43	45	12
November 2023	51	37	12
October 2023	57	32	12
HIGHEST EVER	**57 (10/23)**	**45 (1/24)**	**15 (4/24)**
LOWEST EVER	**43 (1/24)**	**32 (10/23)**	**12 (2/24, 1/24 11/23, 10/23)**

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 2023.

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

⅄ Inconsequential wording change.