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Siena College New York State Poll:

Hochul Job Approval & Favorability Ratings Up a Little, Remain Negative; Only 33% of Voters Would Re-Elect Hochul, 57% Want ‘Someone Else’

More Than 2/3 Say Cost of Living Is 1 of Top 2 Albany Issues; Nearly Half Say Affordable Housing; More Than 1/3 Say Either Crime or Migrants

Voters Oppose New Hochul Congestion Pricing Plan, 51-29%; Evenly Divided on New Nuclear Power Plants; Want NYS to Support the Federal Government’s Efforts to Deport Migrants Living Illegally in NY, 54-35%

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul has a negative 39-49% favorability rating, up a little from 36-51% in October (then among likely voters), and her job approval rating also got a bump to 46-49%, up from 41-51%, according to a Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today. When asked if they would vote to re-elect Hochul or would prefer ‘someone else,’ 33% said re-elect Hochul and 57% wanted someone else.

Voters say Albany’s top 2025 priority should be cost of living, 43%, followed by affordable housing and the recent influx of migrants, each with 19%, and crime, 15%. Cost of living is identified by 71% of voters as one of two top priorities, compared to 48% for affordable housing, 38% for crime, and 35% for the influx of migrants.

A majority of voters oppose Hochul’s reinstated \$9 congestion pricing plan, 51-29%, including opposition from 56% of New York City voters and 60% of downstate suburbanites. New Yorkers are divided on building new nuclear power plants in New York, with 43% opposing and 42% supporting. By 54-35%, voters say New York State should support, not oppose, any Trump administration efforts to deport migrants living illegally in the state.

“There’s some good news for the Governor. Her favorability rating improved for the second consecutive poll, going from net -20 points in September, to now net -10 points, 39-49%. Her job approval rating is also up, now near breakeven, 46-49%, up net seven points since the last poll in October,” Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. “The bad news is that both ratings remain stubbornly underwater. Hochul has not had a positive favorability rating since January of this year and she has never had 50% or more voters view her favorably.

“And as we now enter the 2026 gubernatorial election cycle, Hochul starts with less than an enthusiastic welcome from the voters. Only one third of voters – including only 48% of Democrats – say they’re prepared to re-elect Hochul, while 57% of voters – 40% of Democrats – say they want ‘someone else.’ Not surprisingly, 85% of Republicans want someone else, but so do 65% of independents,” Greenberg said.

“Voters say that all things being equal they’d prefer a Democrat over a Republican to be the next governor, 52-34%, with 85% of Democrats saying Democrat, 85% of Republicans saying Republican, and independents siding with the Republicans 39-29%,” Greenberg said. “When only Democrats are asked if they want Hochul as their nominee in 2026, 49% say yes, while 32% say no, and the rest are undecided.”

Voters Tell Albany that the Cost of Living Should Be at the Top of Their Priority List

“Elected officials might want to listen when more than two-thirds of voters – including 77% of Democrats, 72% of independents and 60% of Republicans – tell them that the cost of living is one of their top two priorities for the coming legislative session. And 43% said it was the top priority,” Greenberg said. “Nearly half of voters said the availability of affordable housing should be one of the top two issues.

“Crime and the influx of migrants were both top two priorities for more than one-third of voters,” Greenberg said. Only 22% of Democrats and 36% of independents said that the influx of migrants should be a top two issue, while 60% of Republicans said it should be a top two priority, tying with cost of living for the lead among Republicans.

“Voters also say that they haven’t seen progress on those issues. In fact, 54% of voters say that crime has gotten worse in New York State over the last year. Fifty-four percent also say the migrant influx has gotten worse, while 68% say the availability of affordable housing has gotten worse in the last year. And a whopping 76% of New Yorkers – three-quarters – say the cost of living has gotten worse,” Greenberg said.

Congestion Pricing Redux Has Voters – Particularly Downstaters – Opposed

“There is essentially no group of New Yorkers that support the Governor’s reinstated \$9 congestion pricing plan for Manhattan. Democrats come close to break even, with opponents edging out supporters 42-40%. It’s opposed by City voters nearly two-to-one and downstate suburbanites better than two-to-one,” Greenberg said. “There is very little racial or gender divide on congestion pricing.

To Build New Nuclear Power Plants in NY or Not – Voters are Closely Divided

“While there is a partisan divide, it’s not as wide as it is on many other issues. Republicans support new nuclear power plants being built in New York, 55-31%, while Democrats oppose 51-35%, and plurality of independents support by a narrow 44-40%,” Greenberg said. “What might be surprising is the even bigger gender divide, as men support new nuclear power plants by 30 points, 59-29%, and women oppose them by 27 points, 56-29%.

“When it comes to New York’s energy policy – issues such as fracking, carbon emissions, offshore wind – a plurality of voters would trust the Hochul administration over the Trump administration, 49-38%,” Greenberg said. “Here, we do see the expected partisan divide, with 83% of Republicans trusting Trump and 73% of Democrats trusting Hochul. Independents split down the middle, 40-40%.”

Majority of Voters Wants NYS to Support Trump Efforts to Deport Migrants Illegally Living in NY

“While a small majority of Democrats, 51-38%, want the State to oppose any efforts the Trump administration takes to deport migrants living illegally in New York, Republicans overwhelming, 87-8%, and independents strongly, 54-30%, want New York State to support such efforts from the Trump administration,” Greenberg said.

“A majority of voters from the City, 51%, upstate, 54%, and the downstate suburbs, 58%, want the State to support the Feds efforts,” Greenberg said. “Supporting the Feds also has majority support from white and Black voters, and a plurality of Latino voters, 47-36%.”

Trump Fav Still Underwater (Not with Reps); Voters (Not Reps) Say 2nd Trump Presidency Bad for NY

President-elect Trump has a negative 37-59% favorability rating, little changed from 38-60% among likely voters in October. By a 50-39% margin, voters say the second Trump presidency will be bad for New York. In December 2016, New Yorkers thought a Trump presidency would be good for New York by a narrow 47-45%.

“When Trump took office in January 2017, his favorability rating, 37-55%, was not very different from today. Currently, he’s viewed favorably by 85% of Republicans, and unfavorably by 83% of Democrats and 53% of independents,” Greenberg said. “Not surprisingly 83% of Republicans think Trump’s second presidency will be good for New York, while 73% of Democrats say bad. Independents ever so barely tilt toward good, 43-42%.”

Odds & Ends

- Voters say, 48-44%, it’s not likely the Trump administration will fund major NY infrastructure projects, with 79% of Republicans thinking they will and 66% of Democrats thinking they won’t.
- Former Rep. Lee Zeldin, Trump’s pick for EPA and most recent Republican gubernatorial candidate, has a 28-31% favorability rating, down from 46-32% in December 2022, immediately after the campaign. Rep. Elise Stefanik, Trump’s appointment to be US Ambassador to the United Nations, has a 22-29% favorability rating, her first time in a statewide Siena College poll, with 49% either not knowing her or having no opinion.
- Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado has a 17-15% favorability rating (68% don’t know him or have no opinion), little changed from 17-18% in January. Rep. Ritchie Torres has a 19-13-68% favorability rating and Rep. Mike Lawler has a 17-20-64% favorability rating, both in their first statewide Siena College poll.
- President Joe Biden has a negative 44-52% favorability rating and a 47-52% job approval rating.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted December 2-5, 2024, among 834 New York State registered voters. Of the 834 respondents, 531 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (186 completed via text to web) and 303 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 MSG. 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 +/- 4.1 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, nonpartisan 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 – December 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
December 2024	36	50	14
October 2024*	37	51	12
September 2024*	32	55	13
August 2024*	39	51	10
June 2024	37	52	11
May 2024	35	52	14
April 2024	35	53	12
February 2024	36	52	11
January 2024	34	55	10
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
December 2024	5	22	34	34	5
May 2024	6	20	33	36	5
January 2024	5	20	36	34	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
December 2024	30	60	9
October 2024*	28	61	11
September 2024*	31	59	11
August 2024*	30	61	9
June 2024	31	61	8
May 2024	29	61	11
April 2024	27	64	10
February 2024	31	62	8
January 2024	31	60	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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	44	52	4
October 2024*	48	48	4
September 2024*	45	51	3
August 2024*	46	51	3
June 2024	42	53	5
May 2024	45	50	5
April 2024	45	52	3
February 2024	46	50	4
January 2024	43	53	3
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	53 (6/24, 1/24)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	42 (6/24)	26 (9/08)	3 (many)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	37	59	4
October 2024*	38	60	2
September 2024*	39	57	4
August 2024*	39	59	2
June 2024	37	59	4
May 2024	39	56	6
April 2024	37	59	4
February 2024	37	58	4
January 2024	37	57	5
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (8/24, 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
December 2024	39	49	12
October 2024*	36	51	14
September 2024*	34	54	12
August 2024*	39	50	11
June 2024	38	49	13
May 2024	38	46	15
April 2024	40	49	12
February 2024	41	46	13
January 2024	45	42	12
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	54 (9/24)	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 Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	47	40	12
October 2024*	49	42	8
August 2024*	49	43	9
June 2024	43	44	13
May 2024	46	40	14
April 2024	44	42	14
February 2024	48	40	12
January 2024	49	38	13
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	46 (2/19)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	43 (6/24)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mike Johnson?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	22	33	45
June 2024	22	39	39
HIGHEST EVER	22 (12/24, 6/24)	39 (6/24)	53 (11/23)
LOWEST EVER	19 (11/23)	28 (11/23)	39 (6/24)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hakeem Jeffries?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	39	27	33
October 2024*	34	24	42
June 2024	34	27	39
April 2024	32	25	43
HIGHEST EVER	39 (12/24)	27 (12/24, 6/24)	51 (12/22)
LOWEST EVER	32 (9/23)	17 (12/22)	33 (12/24)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Antonio Delgado?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	17	15	68
January 2024	17	18	65
HIGHEST EVER	29 (6/22)	18 (1/24)	68 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	17 (12/24, 1/24)	15 (12/24, 12/22)	55 (6/22)

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Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	28	31	41
December 2022	46	32	22
October 2022*	37	41	21
HIGHEST EVER	46 (12/22)	41 (10/22)	67 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	17 (10/21)	15 (9/21)	21 (10/22)

Q. 15 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
December 2024	13	33	20	29	4
October 2024*	14	27	17	34	7
September 2024*	12	27	16	40	5
August 2024*	15	31	13	36	5
June 2024	13	31	15	35	5
May 2024	14	31	16	30	8
April 2024	14	31	16	33	6
February 2024	18	30	20	27	6
January 2024	17	35	13	30	6
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	36 (2/23, 1/23)	20 (12/24, 2/24)	40 (9/24)	11 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	12 (9/24)	27 (10/24, 9/24)	7 (10/22)	25 (9/23, 1/23)	4 (12/24, 2/23)

Q. 16 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
December 2024	21	26	15	37	1
October 2024*	24	26	12	37	2
September 2024*	24	23	9	44	1
August 2024*	30	20	8	42	1
June 2024	21	24	14	39	1
May 2024	20	26	11	40	2
April 2024	21	24	17	38	1
February 2024	21	24	15	37	3
January 2024	20	24	16	40	1
HIGHEST EVER	30 (8/24)	30 (1/23)	17 (4/24, 6/23)	44 (9/24)	4 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	20 (8/24)	6 (10/22)	31 (2/23)	1 (many)

Q. 22 Do you think the problem of the recent influx of migrants in New York State has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same over the last year?

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	8	30	54	7
August 2024*	7	24	64	5
HIGHEST EVER	8 (12/24)	30 (12/24)	64 (8/24)	7 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	7 (8/24)	24 (8/24)	54 (12/24)	5 (8/24)

Q. 23 Do you think the problem of the availability of affordable housing in New York State has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same over the last year?

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	5	21	68	6
August 2024*	5	18	71	6
HIGHEST EVER	5 (12/24, 8/24)	21 (12/24)	71 (8/24)	6 (12/24, 8/24)
LOWEST EVER	5 (12/24, 8/24)	18 (8/24)	68 (12/24)	6 (12/24, 8/24)

Q. 24 Do you think the problem of the cost of living in New York State has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same over the last year?

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2024	6	17	76	1
August 2024*	5	12	82	1
HIGHEST EVER	6 (12/24)	17 (12/24)	82 (8/24)	1 (12/24, 8/24)
LOWEST EVER	5 (8/24)	12 (8/24)	76 (12/24)	1 (12/24, 8/24)

Siena College Poll Trends – December 2024 – Page 4

Q. 25 Do you think the problem of crime in New York State has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same over the last year? [^]

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
December 2024	12	30	54	4
August 2024*	16	27	54	2
June 2024	17	31	49	2
May 2024	14	29	54	2
April 2024	12	31	55	2
February 2024	12	31	56	2
January 2024	16	34	48	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (6/24)	34 (1/24)	59 (10/23)	4 (12/24, 10/23)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/23)	27 (8/24)	48 (1/24)	1 (1/24)

Q. 26 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
December 2024	9	53	35	3
April 2024	12	47	39	1
February 2024	12	48	37	3
January 2024	14	46	39	1
HIGHEST EVER	14 (1/24)	53 (12/24)	42 (10/23)	3 (12/24, 2/24)
LOWEST EVER	9 (12/24)	46 (1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	35 (12/24)	1 (4/24, 1/24, 11/23)

Q. 27 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
December 2024	24	34	28	13	1
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. 34 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
December 2024	33	33	13	7	12
February 2024	34	37	15	4	10
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 (12/24, 12/22)	11 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	29 (1/22)	30 (12/22)	13 (12/24, 9/23)	4 (2/24)	7 (12/22)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August thru October 2024, 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 2024.

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

[^] Inconsequential wording change.