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For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

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Siena College New York State Poll:

Early Look at 2026: Hochul Leads 3 Potential Republican Challengers by 20-25 Points; Hochul Does Not Hit 50%; More than ¼ of Voters Undecided

Hochul Maintains Huge Lead Over Delgado and Torres with Dems;

Stefanik Has Large Lead Over Lawler, Huge Lead Over Blakeman with Reps

Majority Continues to Support Medical Aid in Dying, 54-28%, Which Recently Passed the Legislature; Strong Support for Other Recently Passed Bills: Mandating State Agencies Disclose Use of AI; Prison Reform; Creating Utility Consumer Advocate

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul – whose favorability, job approval, and generic re-elect numbers are little changed from last month – leads each of three potential Republican 2026 gubernatorial candidates by at least 20 points, according to a new Siena College Poll of New York State registered voters released today. Hochul leads Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman 44-19%; she leads Representative Elise Stefanik 47-24%; and she leads Representative Mike Lawler 44-24%.

One year out from potential gubernatorial primaries, Democrats overwhelmingly favor Hochul (49%) over Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado (12%) and Representative Ritchie Torres (10%) – little changed from May – and Republicans strongly favor Stefanik (35%) over Lawler (18%) and Blakeman (7%), also similar to last month. New Yorkers support allowing doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to a terminally ill patient that they could take on their own to end their own life, 54-28%, little changed from 58-30% in November 2023, when Siena last asked.

“Recognizing that 16 months in politics is many lifetimes away, a first look at how New York voters feel about potential gubernatorial matchups shows that partisanship wins out. Hochul leads Lawler by 20 points, Stefanik by 23 points and Blakeman by 25 points,” Siena College Research Institute Director Don Levy said.

2026 Governor: Hochul vs. GOP Challengers				
If the 2026 general election for governor was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:				
	Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Kathy Hochul (D)	44%	64%	11%	33%
Mike Lawler (R)	24%	14%	51%	19%
Kathy Hochul (D)	44%	67%	11%	30%
Bruce Blakeman (R)	19%	8%	45%	19%
Kathy Hochul (D)	47%	69%	15%	33%
Elise Stefanik (R)	24%	9%	55%	26%
Siena College Poll: July 1, 2025				

“Unsurprisingly, Hochul leads with Democrats in all three potential gubernatorial matchups by between 50 and 60 points, and she trails in all three with Republicans by between 34 and 40 points. She leads with independents by between 7 and 14 points,” Levy said.

“While the early leads seem large, Hochul is not hitting the ‘magic’ 51% mark against any of these opponents, and in each matchup, between a quarter and a third of voters wasn’t able to choose between the two candidates,” Levy said.

Hochul’s favorability rating is 42-47%, down slightly from 44-46% in May. Her job approval rating is 50-45%, barely changed from 50-46% last month. Currently, 37% are prepared to re-elect Hochul, while 55% want ‘someone else,’ little changed from 36-55% last month. Stefanik has a 25-32% favorability rating (25-35% last month), while Lawler’s is 22-24% (from 22-25%) and Blakeman’s is 16-17% (from 17-16%). Delgado has a 24-18% favorability rating (from 25-18%) and Torres has a 22-18% favorability rating (from 22-20%).

“One year out from a potential primary, two in five Republicans don’t know who they’ll support among Stefanik, Lawler and Blakeman, but Stefanik maintains an early lead, 17 points ahead of Lawler, who is 11 points ahead of Blakeman,” Levy said. “On the Democratic side, Hochul has huge leads of 37 points over Delgado and 39 points over Torres, each of whom remains largely unknown to more than half of Democrats.”

Medical Aid in Dying Supported Nearly 2-to-1; Other End of Session Bills Have Overwhelming Support

Support / Oppose: Bills that Have Been Passed by Legislature					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Mandating that state agencies have to disclose when they use artificial intelligence systems	Support	77%	80%	70%	75%
	Oppose	10%	10%	15%	5%
Reforming NY’s prison system by requiring comprehensive audio & video surveillance in common areas of state correctional facilities	Support	76%	82%	71%	70%
	Oppose	10%	9%	13%	9%
Creating a new state Office of Utility Consumer Advocate to appear on behalf of consumers when utilities seek rate increases	Support	67%	74%	62%	60%
	Oppose	16%	11%	22%	19%
Expanding the power of the state Attorney General to sue businesses, on behalf of consumers, over unfair or abusive practices	Support	65%	80%	46%	53%
	Oppose	17%	9%	33%	18%
Allowing a doctor to prescribe lethal drugs that a terminally ill patient with demonstrated decision-making capacity could take on their own in order to end their own life	Support	54%	59%	48%	51%
	Oppose	28%	26%	39%	23%
Siena College Poll: July 1, 2025					

“While it doesn’t have the same level of support as several other less controversial bills that passed the Legislature at the end of session, voters support what some call medical aid in dying and others call physician assisted suicide, 54-28%. It has better than two-to-one support from Democrats and independents, and Republicans support it 48-39%,” Levy said. “It has support from at least 53% of voters from every region of the state, and at least 54% support from young, middle-aged and older voters. Jewish voters, 53-30%, and Catholic voters, 52-30%, support it at virtually equal levels.

“Mandating state agencies to disclose AI usage, requiring audio and video surveillance in state prisons, establishing a new utility consumer advocate, and allowing the AG to sue companies over unfair or abusive practices all enjoy support from at least two-thirds of New Yorkers, including majority or plurality support from Democrats, Republicans and independents on each,” Levy said.

Odds & Ends

- By 44-37%, voters say Manhattan’s congestion pricing tolling plan should be eliminated, up a little from 41-39% in May. Democrats, 51-30%, say congestion pricing should remain, while three-quarters of Republicans and a plurality of independents want it scrapped. A plurality of New York City voters want it to remain, while downstate suburbanites want it eliminated two-to-one, 58-29%.
- Voters are considerably less optimistic about the direction of the state this month, saying that New York is headed in the wrong direction (50%) rather than on the right track (37%). In May, voters thought the state was headed in the wrong direction by a much narrower 46-43%.
- As the 2025 legislative session ends, both houses of the Legislature enjoy positive favorability ratings. The Assembly’s is 44-35% (from 41-35% in May) and the Senate’s is 45-37% (from 42-37%).

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This Siena College Poll was conducted June 23-26, 2025, among 800 NYS Registered Voters. Of the 800 respondents, 499 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (151 completed via text to web) and 301 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 MSG. Interviews conducted online are excluded from the sample and final analysis if they fail any data quality attention check question. Duplicate responses are identified by their response ID and removed from the sample. Three questions were asked of online respondents including a honey-pot question to catch bots and two questions ask the respondent to follow explicit directions. The proprietary panel also incorporates measures that “safeguard against automated bot attacks, deduplication issues, fraudulent VPN usage, and suspicious IP addresses”. Coding of open-ended responses was done by a single human coder. Data from collection modes was weighted to balance sample demographics to match estimates for New York State’s population using data from the Census Bureau’s 2023 U.S. American Community Survey (ACS), on age, region, race/ethnicity, education, and gender to ensure representativeness. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of party registration using data from the New York State Board of Elections. It has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.4 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other public opinion poll. 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 Dr. Don Levy at (518) 783-2901. For survey crosstabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – June 2025

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
June 2025	37	50	13
May 2025	43	46	11
April 2025	41	45	14
March 2025	38	46	16
February 2025	36	50	14
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
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. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	42	47	11
May 2025	44	46	10
April 2025	44	43	13
March 2025	40	50	10
February 2025	39	47	14
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
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	54 (9/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (5/25, 3/25, 1/23)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Antonio Delgado?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	24	18	58
May 2025	25	18	58
April 2025	25	19	56
March 2025	19	16	65
December 2024	17	15	68
HIGHEST EVER	29 (6/22)	19 (4/25)	68 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	17 (12/24, 1/24)	15 (12/24, 12/22)	55 (6/22)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mike Lawler?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	22	24	55
May 2025	22	25	52
April 2025	23	26	51
March 2025	18	19	63
December 2024	17	20	64
HIGHEST EVER	23 (4/25)	26 (4/25)	64 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	17 (12/24)	19 (3/25)	51 (4/25)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ritchie Torres?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	22	18	60
May 2025	22	20	58
April 2025	24	17	59
March 2025	18	15	67
December 2024	19	13	68
HIGHEST EVER	24 (4/25)	20 (5/25)	68 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	18 (3/25)	13 (12/24)	58 (5/25)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bruce Blakeman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	16	17	67
May 2025	17	16	66
April 2025	18	15	67
March 2025	12	14	74
August 2010	7	10	83
HIGHEST EVER	18 (4/25)	17 (6/25)	90 (12/09)
LOWEST EVER	4 (12/09)	6 (5/10, 4/10, 2/09)	66 (5/25)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Elise Stefanik?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	25	32	43
May 2025	25	35	39
December 2024	22	29	49
HIGHEST EVER	25 (6/25, 5/25)	35 (5/25)	49 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	22 (12/24)	29 (12/24)	39 (5/25)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	44	35	22
May 2025	41	35	23
April 2025	43	35	22
February 2025	37	36	27
June 2024	36	37	26
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	28 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	45	37	17
May 2025	42	37	21
April 2025	45	37	18
February 2025	41	37	22
June 2024	38	39	23
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	23 (6/24)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	28 (3/21)	6 (7/09)

Q. 13 I know it's a long way off, but if Kathy Hochul runs for re-election as Governor in 2026, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect Hochul, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	37	55	8
May 2025	36	55	10
April 2025	39	48	13
March 2025	34	56	10
February 2025	31	57	12
December 2024	33	57	11
HIGHEST EVER	39 (4/25)	57 (2/25, 12/24)	13 (4/25)
LOWEST EVER	31 (2/25)	48 (4/25)	8 (6/25)

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Q. 14 (DEMS ONLY) If the 2026 Democratic primary for Governor was held today, would you vote for Kathy Hochul, Antonio Delgado, Ritchie Torres, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	KATHY HOCHUL	ANTONIO DELGADO	RITCHIE TORRES	OTHER	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
June 2025	49	12	10	4	26
May 2025	46	12	10	4	28
April 2025	44	12	9	5	30
March 2025	46	11	10	4	28
HIGHEST EVER	49 (6/25)	12 (6/25, 5/25, 4/25)	10 (6/25, 5/25, 3/25)	5 (4/25)	30 (4/25)
LOWEST EVER	44 (4/25)	11 (3/25)	9 (4/25)	4 (6/25, 5/25, 3/25)	26 (6/25)

Q. 15 (REPS ONLY) If the 2026 Republican primary for Governor was held today, would you vote for Bruce Blakeman, Mike Lawler, Elise Stefanik or someone else? ^ (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	BRUCE BLAKEMAN	MIKE LAWLER	ELISE STEFANIK	OTHER	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
June 2025	7	18	35	1	39
May 2025	11	22	35	2	30
April 2025	28	22	NA	4	45
March 2025	13	25	NA	3	60
HIGHEST EVER	28 (4/25)	25 (3/25)	35 (6/25, 5/25)	4 (4/25)	60 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/25)	18 (6/25)	35 (6/25, 5/25)	1 (6/25)	30 (5/25)

Q. 19 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
June 2025	17	33	15	30	5
May 2025	15	35	17	29	3
April 2025	16	32	18	27	7
March 2025	15	31	16	32	6
February 2025	14	30	16	32	8
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
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)	3 (5/25)

Q. 20 Do you support or oppose legislation that would allow a doctor to prescribe lethal drugs that a terminally ill patient with demonstrated decision-making capacity could take on their own in order to end their own lives?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2025	54	28	13	5
November 2023	58	30	NA	12
February 2019	58	34	NA	8
HIGHEST EVER	58 (11/23, 2/19)	34 (2/19)	13 (6/25)	12 (2/19)
LOWEST EVER	54 (6/25)	28 (6/25)	13 (6/25)	5 (6/25)

Q. 25 Governor Hochul says that congestion pricing in Manhattan is working, reducing traffic and raising revenue for the MTA, and it should remain. President Trump say that congestion pricing is nothing more than an unfair tax on working commuters, and it should be eliminated. Do you think congestion pricing should remain or be eliminated?

DATE	REMAIN	ELIMINATED	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
June 2025	37	44	13	6
May 2025	39	41	13	7
March 2025	33	40	16	11
HIGHEST EVER	39 (5/25)	44 (6/25)	16 (3/25)	11 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	33 (3/25)	40 (3/25)	13 (6/25, 5/25)	6 (6/25)

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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 June 2024.

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

[^] Inconsequential wording change.