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Siena College New York State Poll:

Hochul Sees Jump in Favorability/Approval/Re-elect Ratings; Favorability Rating (44-43%) Barely Positive; First Time Since January 2024

Strong Support for Hochul Budget Issues – School Cell Phone Ban, Mask Ban,
Discovery, Involuntary Commitment – But Not for Holding Up the Budget

***Strong to Overwhelming Opposition to Several Trump Proposals:
Cutting Funding to States, Laying off Tens of Thousands of Federal Employees,
100%+ Tariff on China, Ordering DOJ to Investigate 2 Former Trump Officials***

***Schumer: His Worst Favorability Rating (39-49%) in 2 Decades of Siena College Polls;
Ocasio-Cortez: Best Favorability Rating (47-33%) Among Those in This Month's Poll***

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul's favorability, job approval and re-elect ratings all saw positive movement in this month's Siena College Poll of New York State registered voters, released today. Hochul's favorability rating stands at 44-43%, up from 40-50% in March. Voters now approve of the job Hochul is doing as Governor, 48-45%, up from 46-48% last month. Currently, 39% of voters are prepared to re-elect Hochul, compared to 48% who want 'someone else,' improved from 34-56% in March.

Voters support four issues Hochul is advocating for in the budget – restricting student smartphone use during the school day, 61-19%, making it a crime to wear a mask to conceal identity while threatening someone, 64-24%, amending the discovery law, 43-24%, and making it easier to involuntarily commit someone with mental illness, 45-31%.

“For the first time since January 2024, Hochul has a positive – barely – favorability rating, and for the first time since February 2024, a plurality of voters approves of the job she is doing as governor,” Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. “On her favorability rating, Hochul improved a little with Democrats and Republicans and the most with independents. On her job approval rating, she lost a few points among Democrats, improved with independents and picked up the most ground with Republicans, with whom she remains strongly under water. On both ratings, Hochul improved most among upstate and women voters.

“Also improving is Hochul's ‘generic re-elect’ rating. Currently, 39% of voters are prepared to re-elect Hochul, compared to 48% who prefer ‘someone else,’ improved from last month's 34-56%. While she moved in a positive direction among voters from all parties, only a small majority of Democrats are prepared to re-elect her while two-thirds of Republicans want ‘someone else,’ as do 55% of independents, down from 64%,” Greenberg said.

Support / Oppose: Hochul Budget Policy Proposals					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Requiring all school districts to restrict smartphone use by students in K-12 schools throughout the entire school day	Support	61%	61%	62%	61%
	Oppose	19%	19%	18%	22%
Making it a crime if a person wears a mask to conceal their identity while threatening or harassing someone	Support	64%	60%	70%	65%
	Oppose	24%	26%	20%	20%
Amending the criminal justice laws to clarify what evidence – known as discovery – prosecutors must provide to defense attorneys. The Governor says this will prevent cases from being wrongly dismissed. Opponents say it will give prosecutors too much discretion.	Support	43%	47%	41%	41%
	Oppose	24%	21%	31%	22%
Making it easier for local governments to involuntarily commit someone with mental illness to a hospital	Support	45%	42%	51%	44%
	Oppose	31%	34%	25%	31%
Siena College Poll: April 22, 2025					

“Now, here’s something you don’t see every day in the modern political world. On four policy proposals that Hochul has said must be part of the final budget, there is strong bipartisan agreement, with widespread support among Democrats, Republicans and independents for each,” Greenberg said. “At the same time, half of voters say that they are aware that the state budget has not yet passed and is late. And more than two-thirds of voters say they are very (31%) or somewhat (41%) concerned that the budget has not yet passed.

“When supporters of each of Hochul’s budget policy proposals were asked whether the Governor was right or wrong to hold up the budget for that issue, a majority of supporters said yes on discovery, pluralities said yes on school smartphone ban and involuntary commitment, and a plurality said no on face masks,” Greenberg said.

“When looked at among all voters, only between 20% and 29% stand firmly with the Governor in both supporting these policy proposals and holding up the budget for them.”

Five Trump Proposals – from Tariffs to Cutting \$ to States – Are Opposed by New Yorkers

Support / Oppose: Trump & Trump Administration Proposals					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Putting a 10% tariff on imports from virtually every country in the world	Support	34%	19%	64%	38%
	Oppose	51%	69%	18%	47%
Ordering the Dept. of Justice to investigate 2 officials from Trump’s first term because of their criticism of actions taken by Trump	Support	30%	26%	46%	23%
	Oppose	53%	63%	30%	57%
Putting a tariff of more than 100% on imports from China	Support	30%	20%	52%	28%
	Oppose	58%	69%	35%	57%
Laying off tens of thousands of federal workers	Support	25%	15%	44%	28%
	Oppose	62%	77%	38%	56%
Cutting federal funding for all states, including New York	Support	22%	14%	34%	28%
	Oppose	63%	76%	44%	56%
Siena College Poll: April 22, 2025					

“A strong majority of Democrats opposes each proposal, as do a majority or plurality of independents. A majority of Republicans supports both tariff proposals, and a plurality supports DOJ investigations of Trump critics and laying off tens of thousands of workers. However, a plurality of Republicans joins 76% of Democrats and 56% of independents in opposing cuts to states, including New York, in federal funding,” Greenberg said.

Little Movement in Trump Favorability and Job Approval Ratings

President Donald Trump’s favorability rating is 40-55%, up slightly from 39-57% in March. His overall job approval rating is 42-56%, little changed from 42-55% last month. Voters are closely divided on Trump’s job approval for making the federal government more efficient, 48-49%, and between 52% and 55% of voters disapprove of the job Trump is doing on reducing cost of living, improving the nation’s economy, and enhancing America’s reputation abroad.

“Although Trump’s favorability and overall job approval ratings barely moved, there was one noticeable demographic that shifted – independents,” Greenberg said. “While more than three-quarters of Democrats give Trump negative grades on both this month and last, and more than three-quarters of Republicans give him positive grades on both this month and last, a majority of independents gave Trump positive grades on both last month and give him negative grades on both this month.”

Schumer: Lowest Favorability in 20 Years of Siena Polls; AOC: Siena’s Best Favorability Rating this Month

Senator Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has a 39-49% favorability rating, down from 45-41% in February. It is the first time his favorability rating has been negative since June 2024, and the worst it has ever been in a Siena College poll dating back to February 2005. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has a 47-33% favorability rating, up from 38-39% the last time Siena asked about her statewide, January 2021.

“A first in a Siena College poll: Schumer is 10 points underwater, with a plurality of voters viewing him unfavorably. While he continues to be viewed unfavorably by more than two-thirds of Republicans and a majority of independents, Schumer saw his standing with Democrats, particularly liberals, fall dramatically,” Greenberg said. “Democrats view Schumer favorably 52-38%, down from 68-23%, and he’s still viewed favorably by a plurality of liberals, 47-41%, but that’s down from 68-21%. New York City voters are barely favorable, 47-44%.

“Among eight elected officials and each house of the State Legislature, AOC has the best favorability rating. She is viewed favorably by 64% of Democrats – more than Hochul or Schumer – and she is viewed unfavorably by 60% of Republicans. Independents are evenly divided 39-39%,” Greenberg said. “While Schumer’s fifth term runs through 2028, Ocasio-Cortez has established herself as a New York Democrat to watch.”

Odds & Ends

- Hochul, with 44% support among registered Democrats, continues to have a large lead over possible Democratic primary challengers, Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado, 12% support, and Rep. Ritchie Torres, 9% support. Delgado has a 25-19% favorability rating with all voters and 34-11% with Democrats. Torres has an overall 24-17% favorability rating, 32-14% with Democrats.

- In a potential Republican gubernatorial primary – fielded prior to Rep. Elise Stefanik’s trial balloon – Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman leads Rep. Mike Lawler, among registered Republicans, 28-22%, after trailing 13-25% last month. Blakeman has an 18-15% favorability rating among all voters, 26-19% with Republicans, while Lawler has a 23-26% favorability rating, 29-21% with Republicans.
- A plurality of voters opposes building new nuclear power plants in New York, 47-35%. In December, voters were closely divided, with 43% opposing and 42% supporting. While there is a partisan divide, it is not huge. New nuclear power plants are opposed by 52% of Democrats and 45% of independents, while they are supported by 44% of Republicans. Men support 48-39%, while women oppose 54-24%
- A plurality of voters also opposes a state law mandating that all school bus fleets be entirely electric by 2035, 43-37%. A large plurality of Democrats supports the law, but it’s opposed by 62% of Republicans and 51% of independents. Interestingly, men are divided 43-44%, while women oppose 42-33%.
- Currently, 41% of New Yorkers think the state is on the right track, while 45% say the state is headed in the wrong direction, an improvement from 38-46% last month, and 32-55% last September, a recent low point. Currently, 65% say the fiscal condition of New York State is only fair or poor, compared to 30% who say it is excellent or good, a small improvement from 68-27% in December. New Yorkers continue to be more pessimistic about the direction of the country, with 37% saying the nation is on the right track and 56% saying it’s headed in the wrong direction, little changed from 36-54% in March.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted April 14-16, 2025, among 802 NYS Registered Voters. Of the 802 respondents, 500 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (170 completed via text to web) and 302 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



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Siena College Poll Trends – April 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
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
May 2024	35	52	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 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
April 2025	10	20	33	32	4
December 2024	5	22	34	34	5
May 2024	6	20	33	36	5
HIGHEST EVER	10 (4/25)	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
April 2025	37	56	8
March 2025	36	54	10
February 2025	37	55	8
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
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 Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
May 2024	38	46	15
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	54 (9/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (1/23)

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2025 – Page 2

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Antonio Delgado?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mike Lawler?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ritchie Torres?

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

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bruce Blakeman?

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

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	40	55	5
March 2025	39	57	4
February 2025	41	56	4
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
HIGHEST EVER	41 (2/25, 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. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	39	49	12
February 2025	45	41	14
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
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	49 (4/25)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	39 (4/25)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2025 – Page 3

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	47	33	20
January 2021	38	39	23
August 2019	41	41	17
HIGHEST EVER	47 (4/25)	44 (3/19)	26 (3/19)
LOWEST EVER	31 (3/19)	33 (4/25)	17 (8/19)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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. 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
April 2025	44	12	9	5	30
March 2025	46	11	10	4	28
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/25)	12 (4/25)	10 (3/25)	5 (4/25)	30 (4/25)
LOWEST EVER	44 (4/25)	11 (3/25)	9 (4/25)	4 (3/25)	28 (3/25)

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

DATE	BRUCE BLAKEMAN	MIKE LAWLER	OTHER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	28	22	4	45
March 2025	13	25	3	60
HIGHEST EVER	28 (4/25)	25 (3/25)	4 (4/25)	60 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	13 (3/25)	22 (4/25)	3 (3/25)	45 (4/25)

Q. 16 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 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 204*	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
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)

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2025 – Page 4

Q. 17 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
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)	10 (3/25)

Q. 26 Do you support or oppose requiring school districts to restrict smartphone use by students in K-12 schools throughout the entire school day? ^

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	61	19	18	2
February 2025	62	21	14	3
HIGHEST EVER	62 (2/25)	21 (2/25)	18 (4/25)	3 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	61 (4/25)	19 (4/25)	14 (2/25)	2 (4/25)

Q. 28 Do you support or oppose building new nuclear power plants in New York State

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	35	47	11	7
December 2024	42	43	1	13
HIGHEST EVER	42 (12/24)	47 (4/25)	11 (4/25)	13 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	35 (4/25)	43 (12/24)	1 (12/24)	7 (4/25)

Q. 30 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump 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
April 2025	25	17	8	48	2
March 2025	27	15	7	48	3
February 2025	31	15	7	44	3
HIGHEST EVER	31 (2/25)	17 (4/25)	8 (4/25)	48 (4/25, 3/25)	3 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	25 (4/25)	15 (2/25)	7 (2/25)	44 (2/25)	2 (4/25)

Q. 31 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing making the federal government run more efficiently? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	30	18	8	41	3
March 2025	31	15	9	41	4
HIGHEST EVER	31 (3/25)	18 (4/25)	9 (3/25)	41 (4/25, 3/25)	4 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	30 (4/25)	15 (3/25)	8 (4/25)	41 (4/25, 3/25)	3 (4/25)

Q. 32 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing reducing the cost of living for everyday Americans? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2025	29	16	8	44	3
March 2025	27	16	9	44	5
HIGHEST EVER	29 (4/25)	16 (4/25, 3/25)	9 (3/25)	44 (4/25, 3/25)	5 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	27 (3/25)	16 (4/25, 3/25)	8 (4/25)	44 (4/25, 3/25)	3 (4/25)

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2025 – Page 5

Q. 33 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing enhancing America’s reputation in the world? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON’T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2025	27	15	7	48	2
March 2025	29	11	8	46	5
HIGHEST EVER	29 (3/25)	15 (4/25)	8 (3/25)	48 (4/25)	5 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	27 (4/25)	11 (3/25)	7 (4/25)	46 (3/25)	2 (4/25)

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 May 2024.

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

[^] Inconsequential wording change.