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Siena College New York State Poll:

Harris Opens 19-Point Lead Over Trump, 58-39%; Up from 55-42% in September; Her Largest Lead to Date

Gillibrand Leads Sapraicone 57-31%, Little Changed from 54-31% Last Month

Better than 3-to-1 Support for Proposed NYS ERA, 69-22%, Up from 64-23%

Hochul Ratings See Small Bounce Back; Remain Significantly Under Water

Loudonville, NY. Vice President Kamala Harris has opened her largest lead, 19 points, against former President Donald Trump, and now leads 58-39% among likely voters, up from 55-42% in September. In a multi-candidate horserace, Harris leads Trump 54-37%, up from 52-40% last month, with four percent for the minor party candidates, according to a Siena College poll of New York State likely voters released today.

Voters continue to say by a wide margin they trust Harris to do a better job than Trump on abortion (64-31%) and democracy (58-38%), and narrowly they say Harris will do a better job on the economy (52-46%) and immigration (50-46%). Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand continues to have a large lead over Republican Mike Sapraicone, 57-31%, up slightly from 54-31% in September. The proposed ERA constitutional amendment is overwhelmingly supported, 69-22%, up from 64-23% last month.

“Harris has widened her lead over Trump in New York, leading by 19 points in a head-to-head matchup, up from 13 points last month, and by 17 points in a multi-candidate race, up from 12 points,” Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. “Harris continues to have 88% support from Democrats and 87% of Republicans continue to support Trump. Independent voters – who have a tendency to fluctuate on how closely they align with the two parties – are closely divided, with 47% for Trump and 46% for Harris, after strongly favoring Trump last month.

“The gender gap is also widening, with men supporting Trump 54-43%, up a little from 52-46% last month, and women overwhelmingly supporting Harris, 71-25%, up from 64-32% in September,” Greenberg said. “The increase in Harris’ lead comes from Black, white and Latino voters, as well as younger and middle-aged voters.”

Voters have a favorable view of Harris, 54-43% (53-44% in September), while they view Trump unfavorably, 38-60% (39-57% last month).

“A modest majority of voters continue to have a favorable view of Harris. And by a larger margin, voters continue to have an unfavorable view of Trump, who they have consistently viewed unfavorably for more than a decade.”

“New Yorkers continue to trust Harris more than Trump to do a better job on four key issues – two, abortion and democracy, by 33 points and 20 points, respectively. On the economy and immigration, voters narrowly think Harris will do a better job,” Greenberg said. “At least 81% of Democrats say Harris will do better on three of the issues, while 76% say she will be better on immigration. Similarly, at least 85% of Republicans say Trump will do a better job on three of the issues, with 72% saying he’d be better on abortion.”

Gillibrand Maintains Sizable Lead, 26 Points, Over Saprison, Little-Known Republican Challenger

“The 15-year Democratic incumbent, Gillibrand, facing a largely unknown Republican challenger, Saprison, has a comfortable 26-point lead, up slightly from 23 points last month,” Greenberg said. “While Saprison has support from 70% of Republicans, Gillibrand enjoys support from 84% of Democrats, and she has a single-digit lead with independents. Gillibrand has a 44-26% favorability rating, up from 40-31% in September. Interestingly, three in ten voters continue to not know or not have an opinion of Gillibrand. Saprison remains essentially unknown to nine in ten voters.

Voters Increase Already Strong Support for Proposed ERA Constitutional Amendment on the Ballot

“Voters support the proposed constitutional amendment by an overwhelming 69-22%. While Republicans oppose the amendment by a 50-36% margin, 89% of Democrats and 62% of independents support the amendment,” Greenberg said. “Regionally, it’s supported by 57% of upstate voters, 69% of downstate suburban voters and 84% of New York City voters. More than three-quarters of women support the amendment, as do 58% of men.”

Hochul Favorability & Job Approval Ratings Gain Back Some Ground but Both Remain Negative

Governor Kathy Hochul’s favorability rating is 36-51%, up a little from 34-54% in September. Her job approval rating stands at 41-51%, up from 39-56% last month.

“Hochul continues to be viewed favorably by a small majority, 53%, of fellow Democrats, while 84% of Republicans – up from 79% – and 56% of independents – down from 68% – view her unfavorably,” Greenberg said. “The good news for Hochul is that both her favorability and job approval ratings are up a little. The bad news is that they’re up from all time lows and have a ways to go before reaching positive territory.”

Half of Voters Say State Headed in Wrong Direction, Six in Ten Say Country Headed in Wrong Direction

By a 51-37% margin, voters say New York State is headed in the wrong direction, rather than on the right track, an improvement from 55-32% in September. Voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction by a 61-28% margin, a little worse than 59-31% last month.

“While Democrats continue to say the state is headed on the right track, 55-33%, little changed from last month, Democrats also say the country is headed in the wrong direction, 47-40%, a flip from September when a plurality, 49-35%, said the country was on the right track,” Greenberg said. “More than 8 in 10 Republicans continue to say that both the state and country are headed in the wrong direction, as do strong majorities of independents.”

Odds & Ends

- Voters favor Democrats for Congress over Republicans, 54-37%, up a little from 52-39% in September. Downstate suburbanites and independents had favored Republican candidates last month but now favor Democrats for Congress.
- President Joe Biden has a breakeven 48-48% favorability rating, up from 45-51% in September. Likewise, his job approval rating is now 50-49%, up from 47-53%. Democrats remain staunchly positive in their view of Biden and Republicans remain even more staunchly negative. Independents have mellowed a little, although a strong majority of them remain negative toward the President.
- By a 75-23% margin, down a little from 79-19% last month, voters say this is the most important election of their lifetimes, a view shared by 80% of Democrats, 77% of Republicans and 63% of independent voters.
- Despite the overwhelmingly pessimistic view voters have regarding the direction of the country, a majority of voters, 52-38%, say they are optimistic about the future of the country given the candidates, campaign and issues being discussed, compared to 53-33% in September. While 58% of Democrats and 50% of Republicans are optimistic, independents, by a small margin, 47-44%, continue to tilt toward the pessimistic side.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted October 13-17, 2024, among 872 likely voters in New York. 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 sample of landline and cell phone was drawn from the L-2 database of registered voters (872 completed via telephone). 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 +/- 4.2 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 Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey crosstabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – October 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
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
November 2023	36	53	11
October 2023	34	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 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
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
November 2023	25	66	9
October 2023	25	65	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
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
November 2023	44	51	4
October 2023	45	52	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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
November 2023	34	60	6
October 2023	36	59	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. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kamala Harris?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	54	43	3
September 2024*	53	44	3
August 2024*	53	43	3
October 2023	42	47	11
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/21)	47 (10/23)	12 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	42 (10/23)	33 (11/20)	3 (10/24, 9/24, 8/24)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
November 2023	40	43	17
October 2023	40	44	16
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 Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	44	26	30
September 2024*	40	31	29
August 2024*	40	33	27
June 2024	40	31	28
May 2024	39	32	29
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
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 Mike Sapraine?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	6	7	88
September 2024*	6	10	84
August 2024*	5	10	85
HIGHEST EVER	6 (10/24, 9/24)	10 (9/24, 8/24)	88 (10/24)

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Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
November 2023	46	40	14
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. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hakeem Jeffries?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	34	24	42
June 2024	34	27	39
April 2024	32	25	43
November 2023	31	26	43
October 2023	33	23	44
HIGHEST EVER	34 (10/24, 6/24)	27 (6/24)	51 (12/22)
LOWEST EVER	32 (9/23)	17 (12/22)	39 (6/24)

Q. 12 If the 2024 presidential election were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were: Kamala Harris, the Democrat, Donald Trump, the Republican, Jill Stein, the Green Party Candidate, Chase Oliver the Libertarian Party candidate, or Cornell West, a 3rd party candidate? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	HARRIS	TRUMP	OTHER/NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	54	37	4	4
September 2024*	52	40	4	3
August 2024*	49	37	11	3
HIGHEST EVER	54 (10/24)	40 (9/24)	11 (8/24)	4 (10/24)
LOWEST EVER	49 (8/24)	37 (10/24, 8/24)	4 (10/24, 9/24)	3 (9/24, 8/24)

Q. 12/13 If the 2024 presidential election were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were: Kamala Harris, the Democrat and Donald Trump, the Republican? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	HARRIS	TRUMP	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NO VOTE
October 2024*	58	39	3
September 2024*	55	42	3
August 2024*	53	39	7
HIGHEST EVER	58 (10/24)	42 (9/24)	7 (8/24)
LOWEST EVER	53 (8/24)	39 (10/24, 8/24)	3 (9/24)

Q. 15 Regardless of how you might vote, tell me whether you trust Kamala Harris or Donald Trump to do a better job on the economy. (Order of candidates was rotated. Order of questions 13-16 were rotated.)

DATE	HARRIS	TRUMP	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NO VOTE
October 2024*	52	46	2
September 2024*	52	45	3
HIGHEST EVER	52 (10/24, 9/24)	46 (10/24)	3 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	52 (10/24, 9/24)	45 (9/24)	2 (10/24)

Q. 16 Regardless of how you might vote, tell me whether you trust Kamala Harris or Donald Trump to do a better job on abortion. (Order of candidates was rotated. Order of questions 13-16 were rotated.)

DATE	HARRIS	TRUMP	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NO VOTE
October 2024*	64	31	5
September 2024*	60	34	6
HIGHEST EVER	64 (10/24)	34 (9/24)	6 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	60 (9/24)	31 (10/24)	5 (10/24)

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- Q. 17** Regardless of how you might vote, tell me whether you trust Kamala Harris or Donald Trump to do a better job on immigration. (Order of candidates was rotated. Order of questions 13-16 were rotated.)

DATE	HARRIS	TRUMP	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NO VOTE
October 2024*	50	46	4
September 2024*	48	47	5
HIGHEST EVER	50 (10/24)	47 (9/24)	5 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	48 (9/24)	46 (10/24)	4 (10/24)

- Q. 18** Regardless of how you might vote, tell me whether you trust Kamala Harris or Donald Trump to do a better job on democracy. (Order of candidates was rotated. Order of questions 13-16 were rotated.)

DATE	HARRIS	TRUMP	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION/NO VOTE
October 2024*	58	38	4
September 2024*	56	40	3
HIGHEST EVER	58 (10/24)	40 (9/24)	4 (10/24)
LOWEST EVER	56 (9/24)	38 (10/24)	3 (9/24)

- Q. 19** If the election for United States Senator was held today and the candidates were: Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democrat, and Mike Sapraicone, the Republican, would you vote for Sapraicone or Gillibrand? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	SAPRAICONE	OTHER/NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	57	31	2	9
September 2024*	54	31	3	13
August 2024*	56	33	1	9
HIGHEST EVER	57 (10/24)	33 (8/24)	3 (9/24)	13 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	54 (9/24)	31 (10/24, 9/24)	1 (8/24)	9 (10/24, 8/24)

- Q. 20** If the 2024 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
October 2024*	54	37	9
September 2024*	52	39	9
August 2024*	52	37	11
June 2024	50	35	14
May 2024	49	33	18
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	54 (10/24)	39 (9/24)	19 (1/24)
LOWEST EVER	49 (5/24, 4/24, 2/24, 1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	32 (1/24)	9 (10/24, 9/24)

- Q. 21** An amendment to the State Constitution that has been called the Equal Rights Amendment is on the ballot in November. The amendment expands protections against discrimination from only race and religion to include others like ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation and gender expression. It also protects abortion rights. Will you vote yes or no on this amendment?

DATE	YES	NO	NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	69	22	1	8
September 2024*	64	23	0	13
August 2024*	68	23	1	9
HIGHEST EVER	69 (10/24)	23 (9/24, 8/24)	1 (10/24, 8/24)	13 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	64 (9/24)	22 (10/24)	0 (9/24)	8 (10/24)

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Q. 22 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
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
November 2023	20	25	16	37	2
October 2023	22	24	12	39	3
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. 23 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
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
November 2023	17	31	15	29	8
October 2023	16	29	14	31	9
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	36 (2/23, 1/23)	20 (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 (2/23)

Q. 24 Which of the following two statements is closer to how you feel: with democracy at stake, the upcoming election is the most important one of your lifetime, OR the upcoming election is no more or no less important than every other election, America will carry on regardless of who wins?

DATE	MOST IMPORTANT	SAME AS OTHERS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	75	23	2
September 2024*	79	19	2
August 2024*	74	23	3
HIGHEST EVER	79 (9/24)	23 (10/24, 8/24)	3 (8/24)
LOWEST EVER	74 (8/24)	19 (9/24)	2 (10/24, 9/24)

Q. 24 As you think about the candidates running for national offices, the campaign and the issues being discussed, would you say that you are optimistic or pessimistic about the future of our country?

DATE	OPTIMISTIC	PESSIMISTIC	IN THE MIDDLE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2024*	52	38	9
September 2024*	53	33	14
August 2024*	53	38	8
HIGHEST EVER	53 (9/24, 8/24)	38 (10/24, 8/24)	14 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	52 (10/24)	33 (9/24)	8 (8/24)

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 October 2023.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.