



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

For Immediate Release:

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Contact:

Steven Greenberg 518-469-9858

Website/Twitter:

www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY

@SienaResearch

Siena College New York State Poll:

**Harris Leads Trump by 13 Points, 55-42%, Similar to 53-39% in August;
In Multi-Candidate Race, Harris Leads by 12 Points, Same as August**
Voters Trust Harris More on Abortion, Democracy, Economy; Immigration Tied
Gillibrand Leads Saproicone 54-31%; NYS Proposed ERA Favored 64-23%
Hochul Favorability & Job Approval Hit New Lows; Only 1/3 Say NY on Right Track

Loudonville, NY. Vice President Kamala Harris leads former President Donald Trump 55-42% among likely voters, little changed from 53-39% last month. In a multi-candidate horserace, Harris leads Trump 52-40% (49-37% in August), with three percent for the minor party candidates, according to a Siena College poll of New York State likely voters released today.

Voters say they trust Harris – with a 53-44% favorability rating (53-43% last month) – more than Trump – 39-57% favorability rating (39-59% last month) – on abortion (60-34%), democracy (56-40%) and the economy (52-45%). On immigration, Harris is trusted by 48%, and Trump by 47%. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand maintains a 23-point lead over her Republican opponent, first time candidate Mike Saproicone. Voters continue to overwhelmingly support the proposed ERA constitutional amendment 64-23% (down slightly from 68-23%).

Governor Kathy Hochul has a 34-54% favorability rating, down from 39-50% in August, and her job approval rating falls to 39-56%, down from 46-49% in August. Both are low water marks for Hochul.

“New York remains solidly ‘blue’ but perhaps not as deep blue as it has been in the last several presidential cycles. In the six presidential elections this century, Democrats have carried New York by at least 18 points, and at least 22 points in five of the six. President Biden won here by 23 points in 2020,” Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. “With less than seven weeks till election day, Harris leads Trump head-to-head by 13 points, little changed from 14 points last month, and by 12 points in a multi-candidate race, unchanged from August.

“Despite the Democratic convention, the debate and numerous other events during the six weeks between Siena College polls, there has been little movement in the horse race or in either candidate’s favorability rating. While the race appears largely static, Harris did pick up support among Latino voters, leading Trump 56-39%, up from 48-47% in August,” Greenberg said.

“Independents moved further in Trump’s direction, supporting him over Harris 58-34%, up from 47-40% last month.

Interestingly, New York’s independent voters moved significantly in the Republican direction across several questions that will be on the ballot.”

Siena College Poll – September 19, 2024 – Page 2

“New Yorkers trust Harris more than Trump on abortion, democracy and the economy, and trust them equally on immigration. But there are huge partisan divides. Democrats trust Harris on all four issues by between 76 and 89 percent, and Republicans trust Trump by between 76 and 89 percent,” Greenberg said. “While independents trust Harris more on abortion by 50-42%, they trust Trump more on the other three by between 15 and 34 points.

“A plurality of voters, 43%, said the debate between Trump and Harris did not affect their vote in November, however, by 37-17% voters say the debate moved them to be more likely to support Harris than Trump,”

Greenberg said. “Two thirds of voters want to see a second debate between the two, including 61% of Democrats, 69% of Republicans and 71% of independents.”

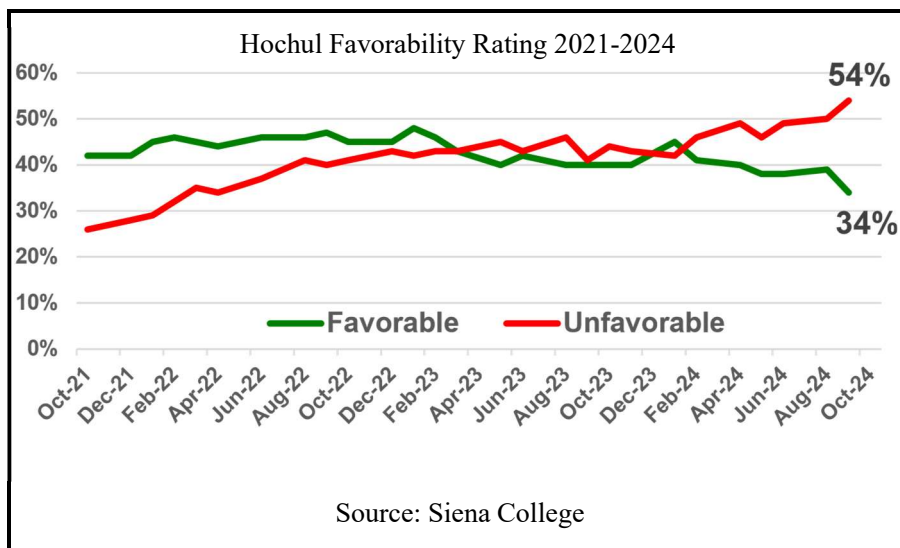
Gillibrand Maintains Comfortable 23-Point Lead over Unknown Republican Opponent “Gillibrand – seeking a third full term and fourth statewide victory – continues to remain in a strong position for reelection, leading by 23 points. Gillibrand beat other largely unknown challengers by 34 points in 2018 and 46 points in 2012,” Greenberg said. “While Gillibrand is still getting crushed by Republicans, Saprison’s margin dropped from 65 to 56 points. At the same time, independents have flipped, and now support Saprison by nine points, 45-36%, after supporting Gillibrand by 13 points, 48-35%, in August. And voters under 35 support Gillibrand by 21 points, down 41 points since last month.”

Voters Continue to Strongly Support Proposed ERA Constitutional Amendment on November’s Ballot “Democrats continue to overwhelmingly support the proposed amendment, 89-6%. Republican opposition has narrowed from 23-point opposition last month to 18-point opposition now, 48-30%. Independents had supported the amendment last month 64-23%, and while they still support, it has narrowed to 49-31%,” Greenberg said.

“The amendment has nearly 60% support outside of New York City, and 78% support in the City.

Hochul Favorability & Job Approval Ratings Both Worst Ever

“While Hochul’s favorability rating has never been outstanding – she’s never been viewed favorably by 50% of voters in a state where 49% of the voters are Democrats – it has now hit an all-time low, 34-54%,” Greenberg said. “Her job approval rating, 39-56%, is also a record low.”



Siena College Poll – September 19, 2024 – Page 3

“It should be noted that while the net favorability ratings of Biden, Trump, Gillibrand, Harris, and VP candidate JD Vance did not move more than a point or two in the last month, Hochul’s favorability rating fell by net nine points and her job approval rating fell by net 14 points,” Greenberg said. “It is also worth noting that Hochul’s favorability rating, 20 points under water, is worse than Trump’s, 18 points under water. To repeat, Kathy Hochul has a lower net favorability rating in New York than Donald Trump.”

Odds & Ends

- ☐ Voters favor Democrats for Congress over Republicans, 52-39%, little changed from 52-37% in August. So, while the Democratic presidential candidate leads by 13 points and Gillibrand leads by 23 points, the congressional generic ballot favors Democrats by 13 points. Last month, independents were evenly divided, 40-40%. Today they favor Republican congressional candidates two-to-one, 56-27%. Republican candidates are also narrowly supported by downstate suburban and upstate voters.
- ☐ Just as New York voters have soured on Governor Hochul, so, too, they have soured on the direction of the state. Only 32% of voters think New York is on the right track, compared to a majority of 55% who say the state is headed in the wrong direction. Last month it was 39-51%, net movement of 11 points in the direction of the state being on the wrong track. This is the most pessimistic New Yorkers have been about the direction of the state in at least a decade. It was close to this level, 34-55%, in January of this year. New Yorkers also remain pessimistic about the direction of the country, 31-59%, little changed from 30-61% last month.
- ☐ By a 79-19% margin, up a little from 74-23% last month, voters say this is the most important election of their lifetimes, a view shared by 82% of Democrats, 77% of Republicans and 75% of independent voters.
- ☐ Despite having a pessimistic view of the direction of the country, a majority of voters, by a margin of 53-33% (53-38% in August) say they are optimistic about the future of the country given the candidates, campaign and issues being discussed. Two-thirds of Democrats are optimistic. Republicans are evenly divided. And independents are pessimistic, 43-35%.

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted September 11 - 16, 2024, among 1,003 likely voters in New York. Telephone sampling was conducted via a weighted stratified dual frame sample of landline and cell phone drawn from the L-2 database of registered voters (467 completed via telephone, 536 completed via text to web). 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. 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 +/- 4.3 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.



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

www.siena.edu/scri

Siena College Poll Trends – September 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
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
September 2023	35	52	13
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
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
September 2023	33	59	8
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
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
September 2023	50	45	5
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	53 (6/24, 1/24)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	42 (6/24)	26 (9/08)	3 (many)

Siena College Poll Trends – September 2024 – Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
September 2023	33	61	5
August 2023	37	56	7
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 Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
September 2023	40	41	19
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	54 (9/24)	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
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
September 2023	41	27	32
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 Mike Sapraine?

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

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kamala Harris?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2024*	53	44	3
August 2024*	53	43	3
October 2023	42	47	11
September 2023	46	44	10
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/21)	47 (10/23)	12 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	42 (10/23)	33 (11/20)	3 (9/24, 8/24)

Siena College Poll Trends – September 2024 – Page 3

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about J. D. Vance?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2024*	33	53	13
August 2024*	31	52	17
HIGHEST EVER	33 (9/24)	53 (9/24)	17 (8/24)
LOWEST EVER	31 (8/24)	52 (8/24)	13 (9/24)

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
September 2024*	52	40	4	3
August 2024*	49	37	11	3
HIGHEST EVER	52 (9/24)	40 (9/24)	11 (8/24)	3 (9/24, 8/24)
LOWEST EVER	49 (8/24)	37 (8/24)	4 (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
September 2024*	55	42	3
August 2024*	53	39	7
HIGHEST EVER	55 (9/24)	42 (9/24)	7 (8/24)
LOWEST EVER	53 (8/24)	39 (8/24)	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 Sapaicone, the Republican, would you vote for Sapaicone or Gillibrand? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	SAPRAICONE	OTHER/NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2024*	54	31	3	13
August 2024*	56	33	1	9
HIGHEST EVER	56 (8/24)	33 (8/24)	3 (9/24)	13 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	54 (9/24)	31 (9/24)	1 (8/24)	9 (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
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	52 (9/24, 8/24)	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 (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
September 2024*	64	23	0	13
August 2024*	68	23	1	9
HIGHEST EVER	68(8/24)	23 (9/24, 8/24)	1 (8/24)	13 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	64 (9/24)	23 (9/24, 8/24)	0 (9/24)	9 (8/24)

Siena College Poll Trends – September 2024 – Page 4

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
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
September 2023	22	25	13	35	4
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
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
September 2023	16	32	16	25	11
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 (9/24)	7 (10/22)	25 (9/23, 1/23)	4 (2/23)

Q. 26 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
September 2024*	79	19	2
August 2024*	74	23	3
HIGHEST EVER	79 (9/24)	23 (8/24)	3 (8/24)
LOWEST EVER	74 (8/24)	19 (9/24)	2 (9/24)

Q. 27 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
September 2024*	53	33	14
August 2024*	53	38	8
HIGHEST EVER	53 (9/24, 8/24)	38 (8/24)	14 (9/24)
LOWEST EVER	53 (9/24, 8/25)	33 (9/24)	8 (8/24)

Poll Trend Notes:

* All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August thru September 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 September 2023.

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

□ Inconsequential wording change.