SIENA COLLEGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY
www.siena.edu/scri

Siena College Poll:
While State Budget Gets Mixed Reviews, Strong Support for Big Ticket Items, Including Money for Schools & Water
Trump Continues to Be Unpopular with New Yorkers, Though Ratings Edge Up a Tad; Voters Give Him a 1.6 GPA on 8 Big Issues
Voters Upbeat About Direction of NYS; Less Downbeat About USA

Loudonville, NY. While only 22 percent of New Yorkers think the recently enacted state budget is either excellent or good for the people of the state, at least 71 percent agree that creating a $2.5 billion clean water infrastructure fund, increasing aid to local school districts by $1.1 billion, allowing ride sharing services to operate across the state, and making SUNY/CUNY tuition free for families making less than $125,000 will make New York better, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

President Donald Trump, with a *negative* 34-61 percent favorability rating (from *negative* 33-63 percent last month) and a *negative* 28-69 percent job performance rating (from *negative* 26-71 percent last month) gets mostly ÷Døs and ÷Føs from voters on a series of eight issues. By a 52-33 percent margin, voters say the state is headed on the track (up from 49-39 percent last month), and by a 51-36 percent margin, they say the country is headed in the wrong direction (down from 61-31 percent wrong direction last month).

õMore than half of New Yorkers say they have read or head a great deal or at least some about the recently enacted state budget, and only 22 percent say it is an excellent or good budget for the people of the state, while 23 percent say itøs a poor budget,ö said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. õStill, 42 percent say

Agree/Disagree Whether Each Budget Initiative Will Make New York Better		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Creating a $2.5 billion clean water infrastructure fund	Agree	**82%**	**89%**	**69%**	**80%**
	Disagree	13%	9%	24%	15%
Increasing aid to local school districts by $1.1 billion, or about 4 percent	Agree	**80%**	**85%**	**71%**	**79%**
	Disagree	17%	12%	27%	19%
Allowing ride sharing services like UBER & LYFT to operate across NYS, as they do now in NYC	Agree	**75%**	**72%**	**75%**	**81%**
	Disagree	15%	17%	14%	14%
Making college tuition free at SUNY and CUNY for New York families making less than $125,000	Agree	**71%**	**82%**	48%	**70%**
	Disagree	26%	15%	**50%**	29%
Raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age	Agree	**56%**	**66%**	43%	**55%**
	Disagree	40%	31%	**53%**	45%
Siena College Poll – April 24, 2017					

Governor Andrew Cuomo deserves an ÷Aø or ÷Bø for his budget work, while only 22 percent give him a ÷Dø or ÷F.ø Overall, voters give the Governor a solid ÷C+,ø or 2.2 GPA for effectiveness on this yearøs budget.ö

ó more ó

õWhile New Yorkers might not be keen on the total budget package ó the first in Governor Cuomoøs tenure to be late by more than a week ó they do like many of the headline items included in the budget,ö Greenberg said.

õAt least two-thirds of voters from every party and region think the $2.5 billion clean water infrastructure fund will make New York better. At least 71 percent of voters from every party and region think the increase in school aid will make New York better. At least 72 percent of voters from every party and region think that allowing ride sharing services like Uber and Lyft to operate across the state will make New York better,ö Greenberg said.

õAlthough Republicans are closely divided, 82 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of independents and at least 63 percent of voters from every region think free tuition at SUNY and CUNY for families making less than $125,000 will make New York better,ö Greenberg said. õVoters were told that a requirement for receiving this benefit was that students must live and work in New York for at least the number of years they received the award.

õAbout two-thirds of Democrats and New York City voters think raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 will make New York better, as do a small majority of independents, downstate suburbanites and upstaters. By a 53-43 percent margin, Republicans disagree,ö Greenberg said.

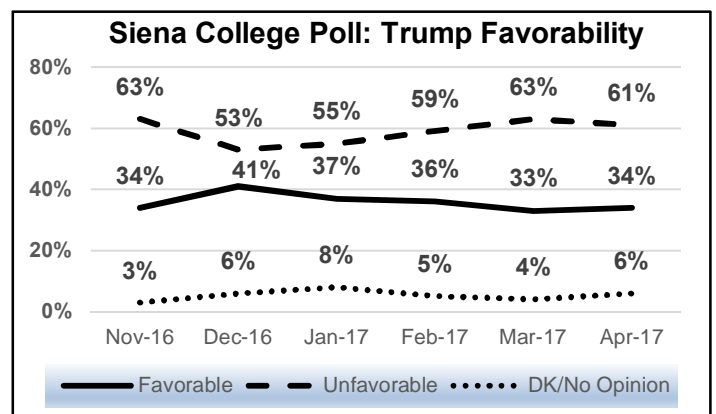### Cuomo Ratings Edge Up a Tick; Voters Continue to Rate Assembly & Senate Favorably

Cuomo has a 54-37 percent favorability rating (from 54-40 percent last month), a *negative* 47-51 percent job performance rating (from *negative* 47-52 percent last month), and 51 percent say they are prepared to re-elect him, compared to 39 percent who prefer ÷someone elseø(up from 48-41 percent last month).

õCuomoøs 71 percent favorability rating from Democrats more than offsets the unfavorable rating he gets from Republicans (58 percent) and independents (52 percent). He is strongly favorable downstate, while a plurality of upstaters view him unfavorably,ö Greenberg said. õItøs still a long way till the 2018 election, however, by a 12-point margin, voters say they are prepared to re-elect Cuomo, up from seven points last month.

õThe Assembly is viewed favorably by a nine-point margin, virtually unchanged from 10 points last month, while the Senate is viewed favorably by an eight-point margin, up slightly from six points last month,ö Greenberg said.

Trump Ratings – Still Strongly Negative – Inch Up; Voters Give Him 'C-' or 'D+' On Most Issues

õAlthough two-thirds of Republicans have a favorable view of Trump, he is viewed unfavorably by 53 percent of independents and a whopping 81 percent of Democrats. His rating actually nudged up this month with Democrats and independents but fell from plus 51 points last month with Republicans to plus 37 points now,ö Greenberg said.

Siena College Poll: Trump Favorability

	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17
Unfavorable	63%	53%	55%	59%	63%	61%
Favorable	34%	41%	37%	36%	33%	34%
DK/No Opinion	3%	6%	8%	5%	4%	6%

— Favorable   – – Unfavorable   ····· DK/No Opinion

ó more ó

õLikewise, Trumpøs job performance rating ó under water by 41 points overall ó remains abysmal with Democrats and independents, although it nudged up a little this month. Among Republicans, however, he fell from a plus 29-point positive rating to a plus 22-point rating today,ö Greenberg said.

õRepublicans consistently give the President good grades on the issues. With the exception of improving health care ó when only 40 percent of Republicans give him an ÷Aøor a ÷B,øon every other issue, at

President Trump's GPA For Performance on Issues				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Appointing a good Supreme Court Justice	2.0	1.2	3.1	2.2
Creating new jobs for Americans	1.8	1.1	2.8	2.0
Addressing the crisis in Syria	1.8	1.1	2.9	2.0
Improving the country´s economy	1.7	1.1	2.7	1.9
Making Americans feel safe	1.6	1.0	2.7	1.8
Addressing U.S. immigration policy	1.5	0.8	2.6	1.6
Making Americans confident about future of the country	1.5	0.9	2.7	1.6
Improving America´s health care system	1.2	0.7	2.1	1.4
Siena College Poll – April 24, 2017				

least 62 percent give him a ÷Bøor better,ö Greenberg said. õOn the other side of the partisan equation, at least 59 percent of Democrats give Trump a ÷Døor worse on every single issue.

õWhile all parties give Trump his best grade on the selection of a good Supreme Court Justice, Neil Gorsuch, Trumpøs Supreme Court nominee, gets a break-even favorability rating from New Yorkers, 30-31 percent, with 39 percent not knowing enough about him to have an opinion,ö Greenberg said.

õViewing eight issues together, all voters give Trump a 1.6 GPA. Republicans give him a solid ÷B-øor 2.7 GPA. Independents grade him a ÷C-øor 1.8 GPA. Democrats give the President a ÷Døor 1.0 GPA,ö Greenberg said.

õA small majority of New Yorkers, 51 percent, give the President a great deal or some credit for the stock market and consumer confidence being up since November, compared to 46 percent who say he deserves not very much or no credit,ö Greenberg said. õRepublicans and independents give him credit but Democrats, not so much.ö

Direction of State Up & Positive; Direction of Nation Up but Still Negative

õMajorities of downstaters and Democrats and pluralities of upstaters and independents say the state is on the right track. A plurality of Republicans say the state is headed in the wrong direction. Overall, right track leads by 19 points, up from 10 points last month,ö Greenberg said. õWith a deeper partisan divide regarding the country ó by 51 points, Democrats say itøs headed in the wrong direction; Republicans say on the right track by 40 points ó all New Yorkers say the direction of the country is under water by 15 points, half of last monthøs 30 points.ö

# # #

Siena College Poll Trends – April 2017

Q. 3   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	54	37	9
March 2017	54	40	6
February 2017	60	34	5
January 2017	56	37	7
December 2016	56	36	8
October 2016*	56	41	3
September 2016*	57	39	4
August 2016	53	40	7
HIGHEST EVER	**77 (2/11)**	**44 (7/15, 5/15)**	**24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**44 (8/06, 10/06)**	**14 (8/09)**	**3 (10/16, 10/20/10)**

Q. 11   How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	10	37	33	18	3
March 2017	9	38	35	17	2
February 2017	9	41	33	15	2
January 2017	9	36	36	17	2
December 2016	7	37	37	17	2
September 2016*	5	36	36	21	2
August 2016	6	37	39	16	3
HIGHEST EVER	**17 (1/12)**	**47 (4/12, etc.)**	**40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)**	**25 (10/14)**	**28 (1/11)**
LOWEST EVER	**5 (9/16)**	**32 (12/15, etc.)**	**24 (1/11)**	**4 (2/11, 1/11)**	**0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)**

Q. 10   If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor next year, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else? ^

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	51	39	11
March 2017	48	41	11
February 2017	50	41	9
January 2017	47	44	9
December 2016	47	44	10
September 2016*	45	49	6
August 2016	46	47	7
HIGHEST EVER	**51 (4/17)**	**49 (9/16, 5/31/16)**	**11 (4/17, 3/17)**
LOWEST EVER	**42 (5/31/16)**	**39 (4/17)**	**6 (9/16, 6/16)**

Q. 4   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	45	36	19
March 2017	46	36	18
February 2017	46	38	16
January 2017	45	35	20
December 2016	43	40	17
September 2016*	44	40	16
August 2016	41	40	19
HIGHEST EVER	**46 (3/17, 2/17)**	**61 (7/10)**	**20 (1/17, 12/14)**
LOWEST EVER	**25 (7/10)**	**35 (1/17)**	**10 (5/15)**

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	13	17	70
January 2017	9	13	78
December 2016	10	15	75
June 2016	13	16	72
HIGHEST EVER	14 (2/15)	20 (10/15)	78 (1/17, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	13 (1/17)	69 (4/15)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	46	38	16
March 2017	45	39	17
February 2017	50	40	10
January 2017	49	36	16
December 2016	48	39	14
September 2016*	48	41	11
August 2016	41	45	14
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	36 (1/17)	6 (7/09)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Flanagan?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	13	15	71
January 2017	14	12	73
December 2016	15	13	73
June 2016	15	15	71
HIGHEST EVER	17 (5/15)	16 (5/3/16, 10/15)	75 (7/15)
LOWEST EVER	12 (12/15, 7/15)	12 (1/17)	69 (10/15, 5/15)

Q. 20 The last New York State Constitutional Convention was held in 1967. Since then, New Yorkers have twice voted against having a constitutional convention ó in both 1977 and 1997. In 2017, New Yorkers will again have an opportunity to vote on whether or not there should be a State Constitutional Convention. How much have you heard about that vote in 2017 on whether or not to have a constitutional convention. Would you say you have heard a great deal, some, not very much, or nothing at all?

DATE	GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	NOTHING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	5	8	24	61	2
February 2017	4	7	18	71	0
June 2016	2	8	22	66	1
May 3, 2016	2	5	20	72	1
HIGHEST EVER	5 (4/17)	8 (4/17, 6/16)	24 (4/17)	75 (7/15)	2 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	2 (several)	4 (7/15)	19 (7/15)	61 (4/17)	0 (2/17, 7/15)

Q. 21 Do you support or oppose having a New York State Constitutional Convention in which delegates propose changes to the State Constitution for voters to approve or reject?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	59	22	18
February 2017	63	24	13
June 2016	68	19	13
May 3, 2016	69	19	12
HIGHEST EVER	69 (5/3/16, 7/15)	26 (6/10)	18 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	58 (6/10)	15 (7/15)	12 (5/3/16, 8/09)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	34	61	6
March 2017	33	63	4
February 2017	36	59	5
January 2017	37	55	8
December 2016	41	53	6
November 2016*	34	63	3
October 2016*	26	69	4
September 2016*	29	68	3
August 2016	24	72	4
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

Q. 22 How would you rate the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2017	11	17	19	50	3
March 2017	10	16	14	57	2
February 2017	12	17	20	48	2
HIGHEST EVER	12 (2/17)	17 (4/17, 2/17)	20 (2/17)	57 (3/17)	3 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	10 (3/17)	16 (3/17)	14 (3/17)	48 (2/17)	2 (3/17, 2/17)

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
April 2017	36	51	13
March 2017	31	61	8
February 2017	34	56	10
January 2017	39	48	13
December 2016	34	56	10
October 2016*	40	54	6
September 2016*	41	51	8
August 2016	36	54	10
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

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 2017	52	33	16
March 2017	49	39	13
February 2017	55	38	7
January 2017	54	34	12
December 2016	48	38	14
October 2016*	51	41	8
September 2016*	53	38	9
August 2016	47	40	13
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (2/17, 5/13)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: 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 August 2016.

"Highest Everö and õLowest Everö are provided at the bottom of each question.

⌃ Inconsequential wording change.