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Siena College Poll:
Cuomo Has Commanding Lead over Paladino Among Likely Voters
About 60% Say Paladino is 'Loose Cannon' & Have Unfavorable View of Him
Voters: Paladino Equal to Cuomo on Taxes; Cuomo Better on All Other Issues
By Better than 3:1, Cuomo Campaign More Positive; Paladino Campaign More Negative

Loudonville, NY. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Cuomo has a commanding 56-32 percent lead over Republican Carl Paladino among likely voters. Fifty-nine percent of voters have an unfavorable view of Paladino and 61 percent agree with the statement that he 'is a loose cannon, who doesn't have the temperament to be governor.' Voters see Cuomo as better on all issues, other than property taxes and state taxes, on which voters see them as virtually equal, according to a Siena College poll of likely New York voters released today.

"With four weeks until voters go to the polls, Cuomo remains in a very strong position to be elected New York's next governor. Cuomo leads Paladino by 24 points among likely voters in a head-to-head matchup with both candidates on three ballot lines. Cuomo has a huge 70-17 percent lead in New York City, a strong 54-35 lead in the downstate suburbs and upstate voters are nearly evenly divided with Cuomo having 45 percent support and Paladino 43 percent," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Cuomo leads Paladino by 67 points among Democrats, 11 points among independent voters, and trails Paladino by 34 points among Republicans. Cuomo has the support of twice as many Republicans, 25 percent, as Paladino gets from Democrats, 12 percent. Those voters favorable to the Tea Party movement support Paladino 69-15 percent, while those unfavorable to the Tea Party back Cuomo 89-4 percent," Greenberg said. "Republicans and upstaters in this survey make up a higher percentage of likely voters than both groups account for among registered New York voters."

Among Paladino voters, 57 percent say they are absolutely certain to vote for him with no chance that they will change their minds and another 38 percent say they are fairly certain. Sixty-four percent of Cuomo voters say they are absolutely certain to support him, with 30 percent saying they are fairly certain.

Cuomo is viewed favorably by 56 percent of voters and unfavorably by 37 percent. Paladino is viewed favorably by 30 percent and unfavorably by 59 percent.

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"Cuomo continues to enjoy a very strong favorability rating among New York voters," Greenberg said. "On the other hand, while Paladino has quickly become very well known among New York voters, it is not in a good way. By a nearly two-to-one margin – including a majority of upstaters and nearly two-thirds of self-described moderates – likely voters have an unfavorable view of Paladino.

"While a majority of likely voters doesn't think Cuomo's too much of an Albany insider and a majority do believe that Cuomo's experience is what's needed now, more voters disagree than agree with the view that Paladino's business, not political, experience will help New York," Greenberg said.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?			
Statement	**Agree**	**Disagree**	**DK/NO**
Andrew Cuomo is too much of an Albany insider to effectively reform state government	42%	**52%**	6%
Carl Paladino is a loose cannon, who doesn't have the temperament to be governor	**61%**	34%	6%
Andrew Cuomo's years of experience in state and federal government is what we need in order to move New York towards fiscal health	**55%**	41%	4%
Carl Paladino's business experience – not political experience – is what New York needs to get its fiscal house in order	45%	**49%**	6%
Siena College Poll – October 5, 2010			

"Stunningly, however, by a 61-34 percent margin, likely voters say that Paladino is a 'loose cannon,' lacking the temperament to be governor. That is up significantly from two weeks ago when 41 percent of registered voters agreed that he was a loose cannon and 42 percent disagreed. A majority of voters from every region agree with this statement."

Jobs (30 percent) is the most important issue for the next governor to focus on, followed by state budget deficits (17 percent), state taxes (12 percent), property taxes (11 percent), state government ethics (11 percent), education (10 percent), and health care (6 percent).

"When it comes to job creation, education, reforming state government ethics, addressing the state's budget, and health care, voters strongly believe

Who will be more effective in addressing the issue of...			
Issue	**Cuomo**	**Paladino**	**DK/NO**
Creating new jobs for New Yorkers	**53%**	36%	10%
Improving elementary, secondary & higher education	**64%**	21%	14%
Holding the line on state taxes	45%	**46%**	8%
Reforming state government ethics laws	**56%**	33%	11%
Fighting for fair, balanced, on-time state budgets	**51%**	37%	12%
Ensuring the affordability of quality health care	**60%**	25%	15%
Addressing the rate of local property taxes	**43%**	**43%**	14%
Making me say, 'I'm proud to be a New Yorker'	**53%**	27%	20%
Siena College Poll – October 5, 2010			

that Cuomo will be more effective," Greenberg said. "On the tax issues, however, both property taxes and state taxes, voters are nearly evenly divided between Paladino and Cuomo."

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Voters, by a 59-18 percent margin, say Cuomo, not Paladino, is running the more positive campaign for governor. Similarly, by a 61-20 percent margin, voters say Paladino is running the more negative campaign. Even a plurality of Republicans says Cuomo is running the more positive campaign and Paladino the more negative campaign.

"At this point, likely voters don't look at Paladino favorably. With the exception of taxes, they don't think he will be as effective as Cuomo in addressing the issues, and they overwhelmingly say he's running the more negative campaign. Furthermore, by a two-to-one margin, voters say Cuomo as governor, more than Paladino, would make them say they are 'proud to be a New Yorker. Paladino has a lot of work to do but he successfully came from behind in the Republican primary to overwhelmingly win that race," Greenberg said.

"But the time to Election Day is slowly slipping away. We know that four weeks is a long time in a political campaign – after all, just look at how interesting the last week has been – but Paladino has to convince voters that he'd be a better governor than Cuomo. As of early October, that certainly appears to be a daunting task," Greenberg said.

Half of likely voters, 50 percent, have an unfavorable view of the Tea Party movement, compared to 40 percent who have a favorable view. Republicans view the Tea Party overwhelmingly favorably, 65-24 percent, Democrats overwhelmingly unfavorably, 19-71 percent, and independents favorably 50-40 percent.

"Tea Party supporters are certainly with Paladino by a strong 69-15 percent margin. Conversely, among those who have an unfavorable view of the Tea Party, Cuomo has an even larger 89-4 percent lead," Greenberg said.

"It's also worth noting that likely voters in seven of eight hotly contested state senate districts polled by Siena favor Cuomo over Paladino – one by five points, two by 16 points, and four by more than 20 points. Only in one district in Erie County does Paladino lead Cuomo, albeit by a large 35-point margin," Greenberg said.

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Siena College Poll Trends – October 2010

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Carl Paladino on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	56	32	NA	11
September 2010	57	24	8	10
August 2010	56	14	16	14
August 2010	60	27	NA	13
July 2010	64	23	NA	13
June 2010	60	23	NA	17
May 2010	65	22	NA	13
April 2010	64	19	NA	16
HIGHEST EVER	**65 (5/10)**	**32 (10/5/10)**	**16 (8/10)**	**17 (6/10)**
LOWEST EVER	**56 (10/5/10, 8/10)**	**14 (8/10)**	**8 (9/10)**	**10 (9/10)**

* Likely voters

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	56	37	7
September 2010	60	31	9
August 2010	61	27	13
July 2010	62	25	13
June 2010	59	26	15
May 2010	67	21	12
April 2010	66	18	15
March 22, 2010	63	22	15
March 8, 2010	63	25	12
February 2010	66	21	13
January 2010	67	21	12
HIGHEST EVER	**71 (6/09)**	**42 (10/06)**	**24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**44 (8/06, 10/06)**	**14 (8/09)**	**7 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Paladino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	30	59	11
September 2010	32	36	32
August 2010	22	19	59
July 2010	16	16	69
June 2010	16	17	67
May 2010	15	10	76
April 2010	11	13	76
HIGHEST EVER	**32 (9/10)**	**59 (10/5/10)**	**76 (5/10, 4/10)**
LOWEST EVER	**11 (4/10)**	**10 (5/10)**	**11 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the Tea Party Movement?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	40	50	10
September 2010	34	49	18
HIGHEST EVER	**40 (10/5/10)**	**50 (10/5/10)**	**18 (9/10)**
LOWEST EVER	**34 (9/10)**	**49 (9/10)**	**10 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Creating new jobs for New Yorkers?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	53	36	NA	10
September 2010	49	24	10	16
August 2010	46	16	15	23
HIGHEST EVER	**53 (10/5/10)**	**36 (10/5/10)**	15 (8/10)	23 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	**46 (8/10)**	**16 (8/10)**	10 (9/10)	**10 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Improving elementary, secondary and higher education?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	64	21	NA	14
September 2010	56	15	11	18
August 2010	51	9	16	24
HIGHEST EVER	**64 (10/5/10)**	**21 (10/5/10)**	16 (8/10)	24 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	**51 (8/10)**	**9 (8/10)**	11 (9/10)	**14 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Holding the line on state taxes?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	45	46	NA	8
September 2010	41	30	12	17
August 2010	41	18	19	21
HIGHEST EVER	**45 (10/5/10)**	**46 (10/5/10)**	19 (8/10)	21 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	**41 (9/10, 8/10)**	**18 (8/10)**	12 (9/10)	**8 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Reforming state government ethics laws?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	56	33	NA	11
September 2010	50	25	9	16
August 2010	48	12	14	26
HIGHEST EVER	**56 (10/5/10)**	**33 (10/5/10)**	14 (8/10)	26 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	**48 (8/10)**	**12 (8/10)**	9 (9/10)	**11 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Fighting for fair, balanced, on-time state budgets?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	51	37	NA	12
September 2010	47	25	11	17
August 2010	47	14	17	22
HIGHEST EVER	**51 (10/5/10)**	**37 (10/5/10)**	17 (8/10)	22 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	**47 (9/10, 8/10)**	**14 (8/10)**	11 (9/10)	**12 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Ensuring the affordability of quality health care?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	60	25	NA	15
September 2010	56	17	9	18
August 2010	52	9	15	24
HIGHEST EVER	**60 (10/5/10)**	**25 (10/5/10)**	15 (8/10)	24 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	**52 (8/10)**	**9 (8/10)**	9 (9/10)	**15 (10/5/10)**

* Likely voters

Which of the three candidates do you think will be more effecting in addressing: Addressing the rate of local property tax increases?

DATE	CUOMO	PALADINO	LAZIO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	43	43	NA	14
September 2010	38	29	12	21
August 2010	42	15	20	23
HIGHEST EVER	43 (10/5/10)	43 (10/5/10)	20 (8/10)	23 (8/10)
LOWEST EVER	38 (9/10)	15 (8/10)	12 (9/10)	14 (10/5/10)

* Likely voters

I'm going to read you a few statements that have been made by political observers and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with the statement: Andrew Cuomo is too much of an Albany insider to effectively reform state government.

DATE	AGREE	DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	42	52	6
September 2010	41	54	5
HIGHEST EVER	42 (10/5/10)	54 (9/10)	6 (10/5/10)
LOWEST EVER	41 (9/10)	52 (10/5/10)	5 (9/10)

* Likely voters

I'm going to read you a few statements that have been made by political observers and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with the statement: Carl Paladino is a loose cannon, who doesn't have the temperament to be Governor.

DATE	AGREE	DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	61	34	6
September 2010	41	42	18
HIGHEST EVER	61 (10/5/10)	42 (9/10)	18 (9/10)
LOWEST EVER	41 (9/10)	34 (10/5/10)	6 (10/5/10)

* Likely voters

I'm going to read you a few statements that have been made by political observers and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with the statement: Andrew Cuomo's years of experience in state and federal government is what we need in order to move New York towards fiscal health.

DATE	AGREE	DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	55	41	4
September 2010	59	36	4
HIGHEST EVER	59 (9/10)	41 (10/5/10)	4 (10/5/10, 9/10)
LOWEST EVER	55 (10/5/10)	36 (9/10)	4 (10/5/10, 9/10)

* Likely voters

I'm going to read you a few statements that have been made by political observers and I'd like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with the statement: Carl Paladino's business experience – not political experience – is what New York needs in order to get its fiscal house in order.

DATE	AGREE	DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	45	49	6
September 2010	45	45	10
HIGHEST EVER	45 (10/5/10, 9/10)	49 (10/5/10)	10 (9/10)
LOWEST EVER	45 (10/5/10, 9/10)	45 (9/10)	6 (10/5/10)

* Likely voters

Of the following list of issues, which would you say is the most important issue for the next Governor to focus on? (ORDER OF ISSUES WAS ROTATED)

DATE	JOBS	HEALTH CARE	EDUCATION	PROPERTY TAXES	STATE TAXES	STATE GOVT. ETHICS	STATE BUDGET DEFICITS	OTHER	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
October 5, 2010*	30	6	10	11	12	11	17	0	3
September 2010	35	8	15	9	5	8	17	1	1
HIGHEST EVER	35 (9/10)	8 (9/10)	15 (9/10)	11 (10/10)	12 (10/10)	11 (10/10)	17 (10/10)	1 (9/10)	3 (10/10)
LOWEST EVER	30 (10/10)	6 (10/10)	10 (10/10)	9 (9/10)	5 (9/10)	8 (9/10)	17 (10/10)	0 (10/10)	1 (9/10)

* Likely voters

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 5, 2010	16	72	11
September 2010	21	68	11
August 2010	21	67	12
July 2010	20	71	9
June 2010	18	65	17
May 2010	16	72	12
April 2010	20	68	11
March 22, 2010	18	70	12
March 8, 2010	16	70	14
February 2010	25	63	12
January 2010	27	61	12
HIGHEST EVER	**52 (11/06)**	**72 (10/5/10, 5/10)**	**30 (1/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**16 (10/5/10, 5/10)**	**26 (1/07)**	**9 (7/10)**

* Likely voters

Poll Trend Notes: 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 January 2010.

"Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" is provided at the bottom of each question.

All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of October 2010, and September and October 2008 and September and October 2006, which are polls of likely voters.