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Siena College Poll:

Moreland & Its Work Largely Unknown to Voters, Who Strongly Want Commission To Continue Investigations

Serious Problem: Corruption in Legislature–82%; Rest of State Govt.–77%

Cuomo Job Rating Edges Up; Overall Rating Better than Specific Issues

Casino Amendment Language Still Influences Voters' Support of Amendment

Loudonville, NY. While nearly three-quarters of voters have no opinion about the Moreland Commission, appointed by the Governor to investigate public corruption, and less than one-quarter of voters say they are following news about the commission even somewhat closely, by an overwhelming 72-15 percent, voters think the Moreland Commission should continue investigating political corruption, according to a new Siena College Poll of New York voters released today. More than eight in ten voters think corruption in the Legislature is a serious problem, including 40 percent who call it very serious. Similarly, more than three-quarters of voters say that corruption in the rest of state government is serious, with 30 percent saying it's a very serious problem.

Governor Andrew Cuomo's favorability and re-elect numbers remained little changed from last month, while his overall job performance rating edged back into positive territory. Asked to rate Cuomo's performance on five specific issues, voters gave him lower job performance ratings on four of the five than his overall job performance rating. Voters remain closely divided on a 'generic' question regarding the casino gambling amendment, however, there continues to be significant support for approving the amendment based on the ballot wording.

"Well, New Yorkers may not know what the Moreland Commission is, or what it does, or who its members are. They don't even rate the Moreland Commission among the top three corruption-busters. But if the choice is for the Moreland Commission to disband or to continue investigating political corruption, the answer is clear. Keep investigating, New Yorkers say, including at least 70 percent of voters from every party and region of the state," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Why do voters overwhelmingly support the Moreland Commission continuing to investigate corruption? It may be because voters overwhelmingly say corruption is a serious problem in state government," Greenberg said. "Corruption in the State Legislature is a serious problem according to 82 percent of voters, while corruption in the rest of state government is seen as a serious problem to nearly as many, 77 percent."

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"When it comes to who's doing the most to eliminate corruptions in New York, 24 percent of voters say it's Governor Cuomo, followed by federal prosecutors, 19 percent, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, 13 percent, the Moreland Commission, seven percent, and the State Legislature with four percent," Greenberg said. "And a strong plurality of voters, 42 percent, says the Legislature is doing the least to eliminate corruption."

Cuomo Job Performance Rating Up a Little; His Job Ratings on Several Specific Issues are Lower

Cuomo is viewed favorably by 62 percent of voters and unfavorably by 32 percent (from 64-32 percent in September). He has a 52-47 percent job performance rating (up from 49-50 last month). Fifty-two percent are prepared to re-elect him, while 38 percent would prefer someone else (from 52-39 percent in September).

"Cuomo remains personally popular, with a two-to-one favorability rating, and a majority says they are prepared to re-elect him governor next year," Greenberg said. "His overall job performance rating inched back into positive territory. However, in addressing five specific issues, his job performance ratings are not as strong on four, but on equal rights for New Yorkers his rating is higher.

"When it comes to corruption, state government efficiency, jobs and education, only

Cuomo Job Performance Ratings					
Person	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
Overall Job Performance	8%	44%	34%	13%	1%
Equal rights for New Yorkers	12%	41%	29%	13%	6%
Corruption in State government	7%	28%	35%	23%	7%
State government efficiency	3%	30%	40%	20%	6%
Job creation in New York	3%	28%	39%	27%	4%
Public education	4%	25%	41%	25%	6%
					Siena College Poll – October 21, 2013

between 29 and 35 percent of voters say Cuomo is doing an excellent or good job. Between 35 and 41 percent say he's doing a fair job, and between 20 and 27 percent say he's doing a poor job," Greenberg said.

"About one-third of voters are strong Cuomo supporters who give him high grades on virtually every measure. About one-third are strong Cuomo opponents who give him fair to poor grades on virtually every measure. The folks in the middle tend to give Cuomo fair grades on most of the job performance measures but more than two-thirds of them view Cuomo favorably and they are prepared to re-elect him 55-32 percent," Greenberg said.

Voters Divided on 'Generic' Casino Amendment, Support Amendment As it will Appear on Ballot

By a 49-45 percent margin (up from 46-46 percent last month), voters say they would support a constitutional amendment to allow non-Indian, Las Vegas-style casinos in New York. However, when read the wording that will appear on the ballot, support for the amendment increases to 56-40 percent (from 55-42 percent last month).

"It's clear the wording of the casino amendment that voters will see on their ballots is influential in moving voters to support the amendment, particularly Democrats and New York City voters," Greenberg said. "The amendment as worded has the support of 56 percent of Democrats, Republicans and independents, and is supported by 54 percent of upstaters, 56 percent of New York City voters and 57 percent of downstate suburbanites."

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Favorability Rating for Legislature Rises – Assembly More than Senate

The State Senate is viewed favorably by 41 percent of voters and unfavorably by 47 percent (up from 40-51 percent last month). The State Assembly has a positive 43-41 percent favorability rating, up significantly from 38-49 percent unfavorable last month.

"Even though 82 percent of voters say corruption in the Legislature is a serious problem – down from 92 percent in June – voters' opinion of each house has improved over the last month, significantly so for the Assembly, which is now viewed slightly more favorably than unfavorably," Greenberg said. "A majority of Democrats and New York City voters view the Assembly favorably, and a plurality of those groups views the Senate favorably."

Fracking Continues to Divide Voters with Small Plurality Opposed

Fracking is opposed by 43 percent of voters and supported by 38 percent (down slightly from 45-37 percent opposition last month).

"A majority of Republicans supports fracking moving forward, while it is opposed by a plurality of Democrats and independents. It continues to have the support of a plurality of downstate suburbanites and it continues to be opposed by a plurality of upstaters and New York City voters," Greenberg said. "Men support fracking by a seven-point plurality, while women oppose it by a 15-point margin."

Upstaters & Downstaters Have Different Views on Direction of New York State

Voters are evenly divided, 44-44 percent, on whether the state is headed on the right track or headed in the wrong direction (up slightly from 43-46 percent wrong direction last month).

"The tale of two states continues with a solid majority of upstaters, 57 percent, saying the state is headed in the wrong direction, while smaller majorities of New York City and downstate suburban voters say the state is headed on the right track," Greenberg said. "A majority of Democrats say right track but a majority of Republicans and independents say wrong direction."

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Siena College Poll Trends – October 2013

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	62	32	6
September 2013	64	32	4
August 2013	65	30	5
June 2013	58	35	6
May 2013	64	32	5
April 2013	62	33	4
March 2013	64	30	6
February 2013	67	29	4
January 2013	71	24	5
HIGHEST EVER	**77 (2/11)**	**42 (10/06)**	**24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**44 (8/06, 10/06)**	**14 (8/09)**	**3 (10/20/10)**

Q. 12 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
October 2013	8	44	34	13	1
September 2013	11	38	36	14	1
August 2013	9	43	33	13	2
June 2013	9	41	34	15	1
May 2013	10	42	31	16	1
April 2013	11	41	31	16	1
March 2013	12	42	31	13	1
February 2013	16	42	28	13	1
January 2013	16	44	28	10	1
HIGHEST EVER	**17 (1/12)**	**47 (4/12, etc.)**	**36 (9/13, 9/11, 5/11)**	**16 (5/13, 4/13)**	**28 (1/11)**
LOWEST EVER	**8 (3/11)**	**34 (1/11)**	**24 (1/11)**	**4 (2/11, 1/11)**	**1 (many)**

Q. 11 I know it's a long way off, but if Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor in 2014, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT CUOMO	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	52	38	10
September 2013	52	39	10
August 2013	55	35	9
June 2013	52	41	7
May 2013	55	36	9
April 2013	53	39	7
March 2013	54	37	9
February 2013	56	36	8
January 2013	60	32	8
HIGHEST EVER	**62 (12/12)**	**41 (6/13)**	**10 (10/13, 9/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**52 (10/13, 9/13, 6/13)**	**29 (12/12)**	**7 (6/13, 4/13)**

Q. 25 How serious a problem would you say corruption is in the New York State Legislature? Would you say it's very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

DATE	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT VERY SERIOUS	NOT AT ALL SERIOUS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	40	42	10	2	7
June 2013	51	41	5	1	3
May 2013	41	48	8	0	3
April 2013	41	50	6	1	2
HIGHEST EVER	**51 (6/13)**	**50 (4/13)**	**10 (10/13)**	**2 (10/13)**	**7 (10/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**40 (10/13)**	**41 (6/13)**	**5 (6/13)**	**0 (5/13)**	**2 (4/13)**

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	43	41	16
September 2013	38	49	14
August 2013	37	48	15
June 2013	36	51	13
May 2013	39	45	16
April 2013	39	49	12
February 2013	44	42	14
January 2013	45	42	13
HIGHEST EVER	**45 (1/13)**	**61 (7/10)**	**19 (12/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**25 (7/10)**	**40 (12/12)**	**12 (4/13, 1/10)**

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	41	47	12
September 2013	40	51	10
August 2013	40	48	12
June 2013	41	49	11
May 2013	43	48	9
April 2013	40	53	7
February 2013	45	46	9
January 2013	45	45	10
HIGHEST EVER	**46 (5/12)**	**74 (7/09)**	**14 (12/12, 6/11)**
LOWEST EVER	**20 (7/09)**	**41 (12/12)**	**6 (7/09)**

Q. 18 Do you support or oppose passing an amendment to the state constitution to allow non-Indian, Las Vegas style casinos to be built in New York?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	49	45	6
September 2013	46	46	8
August 2013	49	42	9
June 2013	49	40	11
May 2013	53	37	10
April 2013	49	44	7
March 2013	46	43	11
February 2013	48	42	10
January 2013	52	43	5
HIGHEST EVER	**53 (5/13, 1/12)**	**49 (3/12)**	**11 (6/13, 3/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**46 (9/13, 3/13)**	**37 (5/13)**	**3 (3/12)**

Q. 19 A proposed constitutional amendment on casino gambling will be on the ballot on November 5th. Specifically, the wording on the ballot says in part that the amendment would, "allow the Legislature to authorize up to seven casinos in New York State for the legislated purposes of promoting job growth, increasing aid to schools, and permitting local governments to lower property taxes through revenues generated." If you were voting today and were asked whether the amendment should be approved, would you vote yes or no?

DATE	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	56	40	4
September 2013	55	42	3
HIGHEST EVER	**56 (10/13)**	**42 (9/13)**	**4 (10/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**55 (9/13)**	**40 (10/13)**	**3 (9/13)**

Q. 20 Now, having listened to the language on the ballot for this proposed constitutional amendment, which of the following two statements comes closest to how you feel? (Order was rotated:) the ballot language is fair; it describes the amendment, highlighting the benefits for New Yorkers, OR the ballot language is unfair; it only includes arguments in support, ignoring arguments in opposition

DATE	FAIR	UNFAIR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	53	41	6
September 2013	51	43	6
HIGHEST EVER	**53 (10/13)**	43 (9/13)	**6 (10/13, 9/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**51 (9/13)**	**41 (10/13)**	**6 (10/13, 9/13)**

Q. 21a For amendment supporters only: How upset would you be if the amendment was not approved? Would you be very upset, somewhat upset, not very upset, not at all upset?

DATE	VERY UPSET	SOMEWHAT UPSET	NOT VERY UPSET	NOT AT ALL UPSET	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	8	26	37	27	1
September 2013	7	33	30	29	1
HIGHEST EVER	**8 (10/13)**	33 (9/13)	**37 (10/13)**	29 (9/13)	**1 (10/13, 9/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**7 (9/13)**	**26 (10/13)**	30 (9/13)	**22 (10/13)**	**1 (10/13, 9/13)**

Q. 21b For amendment opponents only: How upset would you be if the amendment was approved? Would you be very upset, somewhat upset, not very upset, not at all upset?

DATE	VERY UPSET	SOMEWHAT UPSET	NOT VERY UPSET	NOT AT ALL UPSET	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	20	49	19	10	2
September 2013	22	46	21	10	2
HIGHEST EVER	**22 (9/13)**	**49 (10/13)**	21 (9/13)	**10 (10/13, 9/13)**	**2 (10/13, 9/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**20 (10/13)**	46 (9/13)	**19 (10/13)**	**10 (10/13, 9/13)**	**2 (10/13, 9/13)**

Q. 22 While the proposed constitutional amendment would allow for seven casinos to be built in New York, Governor Cuomo has proposed that initially only three casinos – all in upstate New York – be built. Do you support or oppose the Governor's proposal to initially build only three casinos, all upstate?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	52	43	5
September 2013	52	43	5
August 2013	54	38	8
June 2013	54	40	6
May 2013	53	41	6
April 2013	51	44	5
March 2013	50	43	8
February 2013	51	42	7
January 2013	57	40	3
HIGHEST EVER	**57 (1/13)**	**44 (4/13)**	**8 (8/13, 3/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**50 (3/13)**	**38 (8/13)**	**3 (1/13)**

Q. 23 The State Department of Environmental Conservation is expected to soon issue a decision on whether or not to allow hydrofracking – that is the proposed method to recover natural gas from parts of upstate New York – to move forward. How much have you heard or read about it – a great deal, some, not very much, or nothing at all?

DATE	A GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	NOTHING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	27	33	20	19	1
September 2013	30	32	17	21	0
August 2013	34	31	17	19	0
June 2013	35	34	13	19	0
May 2013	32	29	20	19	0
April 2013	32	32	18	19	0
March 2013	32	32	21	15	0
February 2013	26	34	22	18	0
January 2013	31	33	18	17	0
HIGHEST EVER	35 (6/13)	39 (10/12)	22 (2/13, 8/12)	21 (9/13)	**1 (many)**
LOWEST EVER	**27 (10/13, etc.)**	29 (5/13)	13 (6/13)	12 (10/12)	0 (many)

Q. 24 Do you support or oppose the Department of Environmental Conservation allowing hydrofracking to move forward in parts of upstate New York?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	38	43	19
September 2013	37	45	18
August 2013	41	42	17
June 2013	37	44	18
May 2013	39	41	20
April 2013	40	45	15
March 2013	39	43	18
February 2013	40	40	20
January 2013	40	44	16
HIGHEST EVER	**42 (12/12, 10/12)**	**45 (9/13, 4/13)**	**27 (5/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**37 (9/13, 6/13, 5/12)**	**36 (12/12, 10/12, 5/12)**	**12 (8/13)**

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	67	30	4
September 2013	69	27	3
August 2013	67	31	2
March 2013	73	25	3
HIGHEST EVER	**75 (12/12)**	**46 (4/08)**	**8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**48 (4/08)**	**23 (12/12)**	**2 (8/13, 12/12, 10/08)**

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	55	42	3
September 2013	57	40	3
August 2013	56	41	3
May 2013	58	40	2
March 2013	56	41	3
February 2013	66	32	2
January 2013	66	33	1
HIGHEST EVER	**81 (1/09)**	**46 (10/31/10)**	**40 (11/06)**
LOWEST EVER	**48 (11/06)**	**10 (1/09)**	**1 (1/13, 8/12)**

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the United States Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2013	18	78	4
July 2012	27	67	6
HIGHEST EVER	**27 (7/12)**	**78 (10/13)**	**6 (7/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**18 (10/13)**	**67 (7/12)**	**4 (10/13)**

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 2013	19	74	7
September 2013	34	58	7
August 2013	37	54	9
May 2013	41	56	4
March 2013	32	60	8
January 2013	46	49	5
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
October 2013	44	44	12
September 2013	43	46	11
August 2013	47	40	13
June 2013	48	42	10
May 2013	49	44	7
April 2013	48	42	10
March 2013	50	42	8
February 2013	55	35	9
January 2013	57	33	10
HIGHEST EVER	**57 (1/13)**	**76 (10/31/10)**	**30 (1/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**14 (10/10)**	**26 (1/07)**	**7 (5/13)**

Poll Trend Notes: All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of August and October 2012, October 2010, September and October 2008, and September and 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 January 2013.

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