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For Immediate Release: Contact:

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#### Siena College Poll:

# Two-thirds Say Spitzer/Weiner Attention is Embarrassing

Cuomo Reverses Trend with Poll Bounce; Seen As Effective Governor NYers Strongly Favor Assembly Plan on Women's Equality Act, Not Senate's Majority of NYers Think Gov's Moreland Commission Will Be Somewhat Effective

**Loudonville, NY.** More than two-thirds of voters think the national attention being shined on New York by the political comeback attempts of New York City Comptroller candidate and former Governor Eliot Spitzer and New York City mayoral candidate and former Congressman Anthony Weiner is embarrassing, according to a new Siena College Poll of New York voters released today.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has seen his favorability rating increase to its highest level since February, as well as increases in his job performance rating and the percentage of voters prepared to re-elect him. More than two-thirds think hees been an effective governor, even as only 39 percent say hees improved the quality of life for New Yorkers and only one in three think he would make a good President.

By a nearly two-to-one margin, voters side with the Assembly position on the Governor Women Equality Act ó passing all ten proposals ó rather than the Senate position of passing nine proposals, excluding the one on abortion. While most voters have heard little or nothing about the Governor new Moreland Commission, a majority believe it will be at least somewhat effective in rooting out corruption and restoring public trust.

õAlthough 16 percent of New Yorkers think the national attention from the Weiner and Spitzer candidacies is ÷no big dealøand eight percent find it entertaining, 68 percent ó including 62 percent of New York City voters ó say itøs embarrassing,ö said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. õSpitzer is not viewed as unfavorably as he was right after he resigned as Governor, however, heøs still viewed unfavorably by 59 percent of voters ó including a majority of Democrats and New York City voters.

õWhile Spitzerøs unfavorable rating is down from the 79 percent who viewed him unfavorably in the aftermath of his resignation, Weiner has set a new all-time Siena College Poll record with 80 percent of voters viewing him unfavorably ó including three-quarters of Democrats and New York City voters ó compared to only 11 percent who have a favorable view of Americaøs most infamous tweeter,ö Greenberg said.

#### Cuomo Reverses Poll Drop Trend; Ratings Up; Seen By More than Two-thirds As Effective Governor

Cuomo is viewed favorably by 65 percent of voters and unfavorably by 30 percent (up from 58-35 percent in June). He has a 52-46 percent job performance rating (up slightly from 50-49 in June). Fifty-five percent say they are prepared to re-elect him, while 35 percent would prefer someone else (up from 52-41 percent in June).

õWith the Legislature out of town for the summer, Cuomo has reversed his downward polling trend from the first half of this year. His favorability rating is back in the mid-60s and his re-elect number is back in the mid 50s,ö Greenberg said. õMore than two-thirds of voters, including majorities of Republicans and conservatives, say that Cuomo has been an effective governor in his first three years.

õThat said, a plurality of voters, 42 percent, says heæ had little effect on the quality of life for most New Yorkers. Thirty-nine percent of voters ó including a plurality of Democrats, New York City voters and those voters 55 years-old and older ó say his leadership has resulted in life improving for New Yorkers, while 16 percent say heæ made life worse in New York,ö Greenberg said. õOnly 34 percent say Cuomo would make a good President.

õThe Governor and the Legislature saw their grades for the just completed legislative session fall compared to the previous two years,ö Greenberg said. õCuomoøs grade fell to a C+, after two

Legislative Session Grade Point Averages (GPAs)					
Year	Cuomo	Senate	Assembly		
2013	2.35	1.92	1.89		
2012	2.65	2.13	2.14		
2011	2.67	2.05	2.03		
Siena College Poll – August 12, 2013					

years of B-. Each house of the Legislature fell to low Cs. New York students had lower test scores this year due to new standards and exams. What is the excuse for state officials?

By Two-to-one, New Yorkers Side with Assembly Over Senate on Women's Equality Act õA majority, 58 percent, say they need more information about the Womenøs Equality Act before they decide whether to support or oppose it but currently, supporters outnumber opponents 36-6 percent,ö Greenberg said.

When asked whether they preferred to see the Assemblyøs version of the WEA passed ó with all 10 proposals included ó or the Senateøs version ó with nine proposals including pay equity, sexual harassment, human trafficking, gender discrimination, and domestic violence, but not the abortion proposal ó by a 54-28 percent margin, voters said they would prefer to see the Assemblyøs version passed.

õBy a two-to-one margin, New Yorkers would prefer to see the Assemblyøs version of the Womenøs Equality Act become law this year, not the Senateøs,ö Greenberg said. õWith the exception of Republicans and conservatives ó a plurality of both groups support the Senate version ó a majority or plurality of every other demographic group supports the Assembly version.

Favorable/Unfavorable Ratings							
Person/Institution Favorable Unfavorable Don't Know/No Operation							
Hillary Clinton	67%	31%	2%				
Charles Schumer	65%	27%	8%				
Andrew Cuomo	65%	30%	5%				
Kirsten Gillibrand	57%	22%	21%				
Barack Obama	56%	41%	3%				
New York State Senate	40%	48%	12%				
New York State Assembly	37%	48%	15%				
Eliot Spitzer	33%	59%	8%				
Tom DiNapoli	26%	18%	57%				
Eric Schneiderman	25%	15%	60%				
Anthony Weiner	11%	80%	9%				
		Siena Colle	ege Poll – August 12, 2013				

#### Most Don't Know Much About Gov's Moreland Commission; Majority Say It Will Be Somewhat Effective

õWhile less than one-third of voters say theyøve heard or read a great deal or some about the Governorøs new Moreland Commission, a majority, 54 percent, say it will be at least somewhat effective in rooting out corruption in politics and government and restoring public trust,ö Greenberg said. õDemocrats believe this by a nearly two-to-one margin, independents are evenly divided and a majority or Republicans believe it will not be effective.

õCuomo has some work to do to educate the public about his corruption-fighting panel. He, like the commission itself, will be judged by the results. And voters are looking for results as nearly three-quarters say state government is becoming more dysfunctional every day, while and only 20 percent say state government is working effectively for New Yorkers,ö Greenberg said.

#### Plurality See State Headed on Right Track; Majority Say Country is Headed in Wrong Direction

By a 47-40 percent margin (from 48-42 percent in June) voters say New York is headed on the right track, while 54 percent say the country is headed in the wrong direction (down from 56 percent in May) compared to 37 percent who say the country is on the right track (down from 41 percent).

õThanks to a majority of Democrats, New York City, minority and young voters, more New Yorkers think the state is headed on the right track than in the wrong direction, although a majority of Republicans and a plurality of upstaters and independents disagree,ö Greenberg said. õWhile a bare majority of Democrats think the country is headed on the right track, an overwhelming majority of Republicans and independents believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.ö

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This Siena College Poll was conducted August 4-7, 2013 by telephone calls to 814 New York State registered voters. It has an overall margin of error of  $\pm$  3.4 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, region and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing to landline and cell phones weighted to reflect known population patterns. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in New York State. SRI, 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 cross-tabs and frequencies: <a href="https://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY">www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY</a>.



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#### Siena College Poll Trends – August 2013

**Q. 4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
December 2012	72	21	7
October 2012	67	24	9
August 2012	71	24	5
July 2012	69	22	9
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	42 (10/06)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/0	06) 14 (8/09)	3 (10/20/10)

Q. 16 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
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
December 2012	15	45	30	8	2
October 2012	15	43	32	8	3
August 2012	16	44	33	7	1
July 2012	13	45	33	8	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	36 (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. 15 I know ito 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
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
December 2012	62	29	9
HIGHEST EVER	62 (12/12)	41 (6/13)	9 (8/13, 3/13, 12/12)
LOWEST EVER	52 (6/13)	29 (12/12)	7 (6/13, 4/13)

Q. 17 How would you grade Governor Cuomo on his effectiveness in the just completed legislative session in Albany? Overall, would give the Governor a grade of A, B, C, D, or F on his third legislative session?

DATE	$\mathbf{A}$	В	$\mathbf{C}$	D	F DON'T	Know/No Opinion
August 2012	10	39	27	10	8	5
July 2012	15	46	25	6	4	5
July 2011	21	41	20	7	6	4
HIGHEST EVER	21 (7/11)	46 (7/12)	<b>27 (8/13)</b>	10 (8/13)	8 (8/13)	5 (8/13, 7/12)
LOWEST EVER	10 (8/13)	39 (8/13)	20 (7/11)	6 (7/12)	4 (7/12)	4 (7/11)

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**Q. 10** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	<b>FAVORABLE</b>	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
December 2012	41	40	19
October 2012	41	41	18
July 2012	42	45	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. 19 How would you grade the State Assembly on its effectiveness in the just completed legislative session in Albany? Overall, would give the State Assembly a grade of A, B, C, D, or F?

DATE	$\mathbf{A}$	В	C	D	F DON'T I	KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2012	2	26	34	18	11	10
July 2012	2	32	43	9	7	8
July 2011	5	29	33	14	11	8
HIGHEST EVER	5 (7/11)	32 (7/12)	43 (7/12)	<b>18 (8/13)</b>	<b>11 (8/13, 7/11)</b>	<b>10 (8/13)</b>
LOWEST EVER	2 (8/13, 7/12	26 (8/13)	33 (7/11)	9 (7/12)	7 (7/12)	8 (7/11, 7/11)

**Q. 11** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
December 2012	45	41	14
October 2012	45	42	13
July 2012	43	48	9
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 How would you grade the State Senate on its effectiveness in the just completed legislative session in Albany? Overall, would give the State Senate a grade of A, B, C, D, or F?

DATE	$\mathbf{A}$	В	$\mathbf{C}$	D	F DON	'T Know/No Opinion
August 2012	3	25	35	16	11	9
July 2012	3	30	42	12	6	7
July 2011	6	28	34	13	11	8
HIGHEST EVER	6 (7/11)	30 (7/12)	42 (7/12)	<b>16 (8/13)</b>	11 (8/13, 7/	<mark>/11) 9 (8/13)</mark>
LOWEST EVER	3 (8/13, 7/1	2) 25 (8/13)	34 (7/11)	12 (7/12)	6 (7/12)	7 (7/12)

Q. 23 Over the last few months, several state legislators have been arrested in a series of state government corruption scandals. In light of that, which of these two statements best describes how your feel: our state government is working effectively for New Yorkers, or our state government is becoming more dysfunctional every day? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	<b>EFFECTIVELY</b>	DYSFUNCTIONAL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	20	73	7
June 2013	18	77	5
May 2013	26	67	6
HIGHEST EVER	26 (5/13)	77 (6/13)	7 (8/13)
LOWEST EVER	18 (6/13)	67 (5/13)	5 (6/13)

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Q. 26 During the legislative session, Gov. Cuomo introduced a 10-point legislative proposal he named the Womenøs Equality Act, which includes provisions pertaining to pay equity, sexual harassment, human trafficking, gender discrimination, domestic violence, and reproductive rights. How much have you heard or read about it ó 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
August 2013	12	33	30	25	0
June 2013	11	37	32	20	0
HIGHEST EVER	<b>12 (8/13)</b>	37 (6/13	3) 32 (6/13)	<b>25 (8/1</b> )	<b>0</b> (8/13, 6/13)
LOWEST EVER	11 (6/13)	33 (8/13	30 (8/13)	20 (6/1	0 (8/13, 6/13)

Q. 27 Do you support or oppose passage of this legislation, or do you not have enough information in order to say?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH Information	Don't Know/ No Opinion
August 2013	36	6	58	1
June 2013	38	8	53	0
HIGHEST EVER	38 (6/13)	8 (6/13)	<b>58 (8/13)</b>	1 (8/13)
LOWEST EVER	<b>36 (8/13)</b>	6 (8/13)	53 (6/13)	0 (6/13)

Q. 29 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
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
August 2012	52	38	9
HIGHEST EVER	53 (5/13, 1/12)	49 (3/12)	11 (6/13, 3/13)
LOWEST EVER	46 (3/13)	37 (5/13)	3 (3/12)

Q. 30 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 ó all in upstate New York ó be built. Do you support or oppose the Governorøs proposal to initially build only three casinos, all upstate?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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)

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Q. 31 The State Department of Environmental Conservation is expected to soon issue a decision on whether or not to allow hydrofracking ó that is the proposed method to recover natural gas from parts of upstate New York ó to move forward. How much have you heard or read about it ó 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
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
December 2012	27	36	20	17	0
October 2012	27	39	21	12	0
August 2012	28	35	22	15	1
HIGHEST EVER	35 (6/13)	39 (10/1	22 (2/13, 8/1	2) 20 (5/1	2) 1 (8/12)
LOWEST EVER	27 (12/12, etc	e.) <b>29</b> (5/13	3) 13 (6/13)	12 (10/	(12) 0 (many)

Q. 32 Do you support or oppose the Department of Environmental Conservation allowing hydrofracking to move forward in parts of upstate New York?

		No	OT ENOUGH INFORMATION/
DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE D	OON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	41	42	12
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
December 2012	42	36	22
October 2012	42	36	23
August 2012	39	38	23
HIGHEST EVER	42 (12/12, 10/12)	45 (4/13)	27 (5/12)
LOWEST EVER	37 (6/13, 5/12)	36 (12/12, 10/12,	, 5/12) <b>12 (8/13)</b>

**Q.** 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	25	15	60
April 2013	27	18	55
March 2013	19	17	65
December 2012	21	15	63
August 2012	21	14	64
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/31/10	0) 27 (10/31/10)	86 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	8 (11/09)	6 (5/10, 11/0	09) 44 (10/31/10)

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	<b>FAVORABLE</b>	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	26	18	57
March 2013	22	15	63
December 2012	26	18	56
August 2012	24	17	59
HIGHEST EVER	30 (11/10, 1	0/20/10) 36 (10/31/1	0) 80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/	<b>10 (12/09,</b> 1	11/08) 37 (10/31/10)

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

DATE	<b>FAVORABLE</b>	Unfavorable Don'	T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	65	27	8
March 2013	59	28	12
December 2012	65	24	11
August 2012	65	26	10
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	32 (10/31/10, 9/10, 6/	10) 17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	54 (6/10)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	<b>FAVORABLE</b>	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	57	22	21
March 2013	56	22	22
December 2012	61	18	22
October 2012	56	22	23
August 2012	50	26	25
July 2012	49	24	28
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	34 (10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

**Q. 14** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	67	31	2
March 2013	73	25	3
December 2012	75	23	2
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	46 (4/08)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	48 (4/08)	23 (12/12)	<b>2</b> (8/13, 12/12, 10/08)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eliot Spitzer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	33	59	8
April 2010	33	59	8
April 2009	25	72	4
April 2008	13	79	7
HIGHEST EVER	75 (1/07)	79 (3/08)	34 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	13 (3/08)	10 (1/07)	4 (4/09)

**Q. 5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
December 2012	62	36	2
October 2012	61	37	2
August 2012	64	35	1
July 2012	59	38	3
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)

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**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
August 2013	37	54	9
May 2013	41	56	4
March 2013	32	60	8
January 2013	46	49	5
December 2012	50	43	8
October 2012	48	45	7
August 2012	46	48	6
July 2012	44	52	5
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

Q.3 How would you describe the fiscal condition of New York State right now? Would you describe it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	<b>Poor</b>	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2013	3	20	43	30	4
May 2013	1	19	44	33	2
March 2013	1	16	47	35	2
February 2013	0	19	44	35	2
January 2013	1	18	47	32	2
December 2012	2	18	42	35	2
October 2012	0	19	47	31	2
August 2012	1	19	49	31	1
July 2012	0	19	44	36	1
HIGHEST EVER	<b>3 (8/13)</b>	<b>20 (8/13)</b>	49 (8/12)	67 (3	/22/10) 4 (8/13, 9/08)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc	2.) 25 (3/22/10)	30 (8	0 (4/11, etc.)

**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
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
December 2012	55	32	13
October 2012	53	35	11
August 2012	56	33	10
July 2012	53	36	11
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 July 2012.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Highest Everö and õLowest Everö is provided at the bottom of each question.