



# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

[www.siena.edu/sri](http://www.siena.edu/sri)

For Immediate Release:

Monday, February 6, 2012

Contact:

Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

PDF version; crosstabs; website:

[www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY)

## Siena College Poll:

### **Pay Raises for Legislators or Governor Strongly Opposed Strong Support for Gov's Pension and Teacher Evaluation Plans *Cuomo Still Rides High with Voters; Say He's Providing Leadership* *Obama's Favorability Rating is Highest in 2 Years; Best 'Re-Elect' Ever* Romney & Gingrich Running Neck-and-Neck Among NY Republicans**

**Loudonville, NY.** New Yorkers are overwhelmingly opposed to raises for elected and appointed statewide officials, with more than two-thirds opposing an increase for state legislators, nearly three-quarters opposing a raise for the Governor and more than three-quarters opposing raises for commissioners of state agencies, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of registered voters released today. More than two-thirds of voters support a new pension tier for future government employees and more than 70 percent endorsed the Governor's plan to link school aid increases to the adoption of an enhanced teacher evaluation process.

Governor Andrew Cuomo continues to be viewed favorably by nearly three-quarters of voters. About two-thirds say he's providing the leadership New York has lacked for too long, and that his proposals will help New York's fiscal condition and create new jobs.

While the race for their party's nomination for President is too close to call among New York Republicans, President Obama – with his highest favorability rating in two years – has leads of between 32 and 42 points over the four remaining Republican candidates.

“Although the Governor is riding high with voters, and the Legislature has noticeably improved its standing with voters over the last year, New Yorkers are strongly opposed to seeing a salary increase for legislators, the Governor or state commissioners, despite no increases in any of their salaries since 1999,” said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. “Democrats and New York City voters are somewhat less opposed to pay increases for state officials than voters from other parties and regions, however, overall 67 percent oppose an increase for legislators, 74 percent oppose a raise for the Governor and 78 percent give a thumbs down to raises for commissioners.

“While 13 years is a long time to go without a pay hike, voters across the spectrum are strongly opposed to legislators voting a pay raise to themselves or to any other state officials,” Greenberg said.

**Gov Has Strong Support for New Pension Tier & Plan to Link Education Funding to Teacher Evaluations**

“By an overwhelming margin, voters support the Governor linking any increase in school aid to a school district’s implementation of an enhanced teacher evaluation process. More than two-thirds of voters from every party and region support this plan, as do 61 percent of voters from

<b>Cuomo’s Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
Plan to link school aid increases to the implementation of an enhanced teacher evaluation process	71%	26%	3%
New pension system for future government employees requiring larger employee contributions	69%	28%	4%
Building a new convention center adjacent to Aqueduct completely paid for by private company	61%	33%	6%
Increasing state-funded budget spending by 1.9%, less than the rate of inflation	59%	34%	6%
Jumpstarting economic development in Western NY by investing \$1 billion in Buffalo	52%	39%	8%
Passing a constitutional amendment to allow non-Indian, Las Vegas style casinos to be built in NY	52%	44%	4%

**Source: Siena College Poll, February 6, 2012**

union households,” Greenberg said. “When it comes to the Governor’s proposed school aid increase – \$800 million, after a \$1.3 billion cut last year – 42 percent think it’s about the right amount while nearly as many, 39 percent, say it is not enough. Only 15 percent of all votes and one-quarter of Republicans think it is too much.”

“More than two-thirds of voters – including a majority of voters from union households – support the Governor’s proposal to create a new pension tier for future government employees, requiring them to make larger contributions to their retirement plans and saving employers money. It is overwhelmingly supported by voters from every party and region,” Greenberg said.

“Voters support the Governor’s proposal for a new convention center paid for by the operator of the Aqueduct racino 61-33 percent, with majority support from every region and party,” Greenberg said. “While 59 percent of voters support the state-funded portion of the budget increasing by 1.9 percent, less than the rate of inflation, Republicans and conservatives are nearly evenly divided. Small majorities of voters continue to support a casino gambling constitutional amendment and investing money in Buffalo to help jumpstart that region’s economy.”

**Voters Continue to Give Cuomo High Favorability & Job Approval Ratings; He’s Not Just Another Pol**  
Cuomo is viewed favorably by 74 percent of voters and unfavorably by 18 percent (largely unchanged from last month’s 73-20 percent). Sixty-one percent give him a positive job performance rating compared to 37 percent negative (62-37 percent last month).

“Democrats and Republicans don’t generally see eye-to-eye on most issues or politicians, however, when it comes to Andrew Cuomo, it’s hard to see much difference between those on the right and those on the left,” Greenberg said. “Cuomo is viewed favorably by 75 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents and 71 percent of Republicans. Even two-thirds of self-identified conservatives view him favorably.

“Similarly, he gets a 64 percent job approval rating from Democrats, 58 percent from independents and 57 percent from Republicans, not to mention 52 percent from conservatives,” Greenberg said.

“When asked to agree or disagree with three positive statements and three negative statements about the Governor, voters overwhelmingly agree with all the positive statements and disagree with all the negative statements,” Greenberg said. “No matter how you measure

<b>Statements About Gov. Cuomo</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
Gov. Cuomo’s proposals will help NY’s fiscal condition, allowing new private sector jobs to be created	68%	23%	9%
Gov. Cuomo is providing the leadership for New York that has been lacking for too long	65%	31%	4%
Gov. Cuomo has been successful in getting the State Legislature to act effectively	61%	29%	10%
Gov. Cuomo is out of touch with average New Yorkers	31%	65%	4%
Gov. Cuomo is just another politician, focused on his political needs, not the needs of New Yorkers	31%	65%	4%
Gov. Cuomo is trying to impose his agenda on New Yorkers, acting more like a king than a governor	23%	72%	5%

**Source: Siena College Poll, February 6, 2012**

it, Cuomo is riding high with voters. They say his fiscal proposals are on track, he’s providing needed leadership, he’s getting the Legislature to act effectively, he’s in touch with average voters, he’s not trying to impose his agenda, and he’s not just another typical pol.”

**Obama Stronger with Voters than He has Been in Two Years; Few Voters See Him Losing New York**

President Obama’s favorability rating is 64-34 percent, up from 59-38 percent last month and 52-45 percent in August. His job performance rating is 49 percent positive, 51 percent negative, up from 46-53 percent last month and 36-63 percent in August. Currently, 58 percent of voters say they are prepared to re-elect the President and 36 percent prefer ‘someone else,’ up from 55-40 percent last month and 47-45 percent in August.

“The last time 64 percent of New York voters viewed Obama favorably was January 2010. His re-elect number has never been higher than the current 58 percent. And on every rating Obama’s positive number is up double-digits since August,” Greenberg said. “It’s no surprise, therefore, that more than eight in ten voters believe that Obama will carry New York in November, while only 13 percent, including fewer than a quarter of Republicans, think a GOP presidential candidate can win this traditionally ‘blue’ state for the first time since 1984.”

**Romney & Gingrich: Too Close to Call Among GOP Voters; All Republicans Trail Badly Against Obama**

“Two months before New York Republicans go to the polls, Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich are running neck-and-neck, with Romney supported by 31 percent and Gingrich by 29 percent. Ron Paul has the support of 16 percent of Republicans and Rick Santorum is at 13 percent,” Greenberg said. “Gingrich’s showing is particularly surprising given his low favorability rating, even among Republicans, compared to the other candidates.

<b>Favorability Ratings of Republican Presidential Candidates</b>						
<b>Candidate</b>	<b>All Registered Voters</b>			<b>Registered Republicans</b>		
	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don’t Know/ No Opinion</b>	<b>Favorable</b>	<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>Don’t Know/ No Opinion</b>
Mitt Romney	35%	55%	10%	52%	40%	9%
Ron Paul	32%	49%	19%	46%	36%	18%
Rick Santorum	28%	46%	26%	43%	31%	25%
Newt Gingrich	24%	67%	9%	44%	47%	9%

**Source: Siena College Poll, February 6, 2012**

“Among all registered voters, all four GOP hopefuls are viewed negatively – Gingrich almost three-to-one negatively,” Greenberg said. “Only Romney is viewed favorably by a majority of Republicans, although Paul and Santorum are viewed positively by a plurality of Republicans, while Gingrich is viewed negatively by 47 percent and positively by 44 percent of Republicans.

“Obama now has his largest leads against all of the potential GOP candidates, racking up 63 percent against Romney, 65 percent against either Paul or Santorum and 68 percent against Gingrich for a lead of 42 points,” Greenberg said.

<b>Potential 2012 Presidential Horseraces</b>			
<b>Barack Obama vs.</b>	<b>Obama</b>	<b>Repub.</b>	<b>Don't Know/ No Opinion</b>
Mitt Romney	63%	31%	6%
Ron Paul	65%	29%	6%
Rick Santorum	65%	28%	6%
Newt Gingrich	68%	26%	6%

Source: Siena College Poll, February 6, 2012

### **For Second Straight Month, Majority of New Yorkers Optimistic About Direction of the State**

“A majority of voters, 52 percent, say the state is on the right track, compared to 36 percent who say New York is headed in the wrong direction, up slightly from 51-38 percent last month,” Greenberg said. “It matches the all-time high set in November 2006 and marks two straight months of a majority approving of the direction of the state. New York City voters like the direction of the state by a two-to-one margin and a plurality of suburban and upstate voters say the state is on the right track.

“While a small majority of voters continues to say the country is headed in the wrong direction by a 51-42 percent margin, it’s the best New Yorkers have felt about the direction of the country since May, and a dramatic improvement from November when only 26 percent of voters felt the country was on the right track and 66 percent said the country was headed in the wrong direction,” Greenberg said.

### **Majority Prepared to Re-Elect Gillibrand; Tom & Eric Who?**

“Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has a 52-20 percent favorability rating, and 53 percent of voters are prepared to re-elect her while only half that number, 27 percent, would prefer someone else,” Greenberg said. “Against Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos, she continues to have a better than three-to-one lead, and she has a comparable lead over Marc Cenendella, who announced this week that he would not be a candidate.

“Two of New York’s other statewide officials, continue to serve well below the radar. Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has 21-16 percent favorability rating, with 63 percent having no opinion, while State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli has 24-18 percent favorability rating, unknown to 58 percent of voters,” Greenberg said

###

This Siena College Poll was conducted January 29 – February 1, 2012 by telephone calls to 807 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of  $\pm 3.4$  percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party 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 (518) 469-9858. For survey cross-tabs and frequencies: [www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY](http://www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY).



# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

[www.siena.edu/sri](http://www.siena.edu/sri)

## Siena College Poll Trends – February 2012

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	74	18	8
January 2012	73	20	7
November 2011	72	22	6
October 2011	71	22	7
September 2011	72	18	10
August 2011	69	22	8
July 2011	71	21	8
June 2011	68	21	12
May 2011	71	20	9
April 2011	73	18	8
March 2011	69	20	11
February 2011	77	16	7
January 2011	70	17	13
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>77 (2/11)</b>	<b>42 (10/06)</b>	<b>24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>44 (8/06, 10/06)</b>	<b>14 (8/09)</b>	<b>3 (10/20/10)</b>

**Q. 14** 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
February 2012	14	47	31	6	2
January 2012	17	45	29	8	2
November 2011	12	44	33	9	2
October 2011	11	47	32	9	2
September 2011	12	43	36	7	2
August 2011	12	46	31	9	2
July 2011	15	43	32	8	1
June 2011	11	44	32	9	5
May 2011	9	43	36	9	3
April 2011	11	43	34	7	4
March 2011	8	43	34	7	8
February 2011	10	47	29	4	10
January 2011	10	34	24	4	28
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>17 (1/12)</b>	<b>47 (1/12, etc.)</b>	<b>36 (9/11, 5/11)</b>	<b>9 (11/11, etc.)</b>	<b>28 (1/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>8 (3/11)</b>	<b>34 (1/11)</b>	<b>24 (1/11)</b>	<b>4 (2/11, 1/11)</b>	<b>1 (7/11)</b>

**Q. 12** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	21	16	63
May 2011	17	18	65
January 2011	26	14	60
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>29 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>27 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>86 (11/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>8 (11/09)</b>	<b>6 (5/10, 11/09)</b>	<b>44 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 13** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	24	18	58
May 2011	21	25	54
January 2011	28	21	51
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>30 (11/10, 10/20/10)</b>	<b>36 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>80 (6/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>7 (6/07, 5/07)</b>	<b>10 (12/09, 11/08)</b>	<b>37 (10/31/10)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – February 2012

Page 2

**Q. 26** 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	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	52	44	4
January 2012	53	42	5
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>53 (1/12)</b>	<b>44 (2/12)</b>	<b>5 (1/12)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (2/12)</b>	<b>42 (1/12)</b>	<b>4 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 29** Do you support or oppose jumpstarting economic development in Western New York by investing \$1 billion in Buffalo?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	52	39	8
January 2012	49	41	10
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (2/12)</b>	<b>41 (1/12)</b>	<b>10 (1/12)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>49 (1/12)</b>	<b>39 (2/12)</b>	<b>8 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 34** The salaries associated with many top positions in state government have not been increased since 1999 and they require legislation to enact an increase. For each of the following positions, please let me know if you support or oppose legislation that would provide a salary increase. State legislators who currently earn a base salary of \$79,500.

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	31	67	2
May 2008	45	49	6
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>45 (5/08)</b>	<b>67 (2/12)</b>	<b>6 (5/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>31 (2/12)</b>	<b>49 (5/08)</b>	<b>2 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 35** The salaries associated with many top positions in state government have not been increased since 1999 and they require legislation to enact an increase. For each of the following positions, please let me know if you support or oppose legislation that would provide a salary increase. The Governor who currently earn a base salary of \$179,000.

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	25	74	1
May 2008	31	65	4
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>31 (5/08)</b>	<b>74 (2/12)</b>	<b>4 (5/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (2/12)</b>	<b>65 (5/08)</b>	<b>1 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	52	20	29
January 2012	49	25	26
November 2011	49	25	26
October 2011	46	24	30
September 2011	46	25	29
August 2011	46	24	30
July 2011	49	21	30
May 2011	51	20	29
February 2011	57	18	25
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (2/11)</b>	<b>34 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>56 (1/09)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>26 (3/09)</b>	<b>14 (1/09)</b>	<b>14 (10/31/10)</b>

**Q. 6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about George Maragos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	8	14	78
January 2012	8	12	79
November 2011	5	14	82
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>8 (2/12, 1/12)</b>	<b>14 (2/12, 11/11)</b>	<b>89 (5/10)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>5 (11/11)</b>	<b>6 (5/10)</b>	<b>78 (2/12)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – February 2012

Page 3

**Q. 17** Kirsten Gillibrand is running for re-election as United State Senator this year. As things stand now would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else? ^

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	53	27	20
January 2012	53	32	16
November 2011	53	30	17
October 2011	46	34	21
September 2011	45	34	22
August 2011	49	34	18
July 2011	50	29	21
May 2011	50	30	20
February 2011	52	29	19
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>53 (2/12, 1/12, 11/11)</b>	<b>34 (10/11, 9/11, 8/11)</b>	<b>22 (9/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>45 (9/11)</b>	<b>27 (2/12)</b>	<b>16 (1/12)</b>

**Q. 43** If the 2012 election for United States Senator from New York were held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and George Maragos on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	MARAGOS	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	63	20	17
January 2012	63	22	15
November 2011	65	17	18
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (11/11)</b>	<b>22 (1/12)</b>	<b>18 (11/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>63 (2/12, 1/12)</b>	<b>17 (11/11)</b>	<b>15 (1/12)</b>

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	64	34	2
January 2012	59	38	3
November 2011	57	40	3
October 2011	55	43	3
September 2011	52	45	2
August 2011	52	45	3
July 2011	57	39	4
June 2011	59	38	4
May 2011	62	36	2
April 2011	63	34	3
March 2011	60	37	3
February 2011	62	35	3
January 2011	61	36	3
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>81 (1/09)</b>	<b>46 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>40 (11/06)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>48 (11/06)</b>	<b>10 (1/09)</b>	<b>2 (9/11, 5/11)</b>

**Q. 15** How would you rate the job that Barack Obama is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	15	34	27	24	0
January 2012	12	34	26	27	0
November 2011	10	33	28	29	0
October 2011	9	29	32	30	0
September 2011	11	29	28	33	0
August 2011	10	26	30	33	0
July 2011	13	32	30	25	1
May 2011	16	37	24	23	0
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>16 (5/11)</b>	<b>37 (5/11)</b>	<b>32 (10/11)</b>	<b>33 (9/11, 8/11)</b>	<b>1 (7/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>9 (10/11)</b>	<b>26 (8/11)</b>	<b>24 (5/11)</b>	<b>23 (5/11)</b>	<b>0 (2/12, etc.)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – February 2012

Page 4

**Q. 16** Barack Obama is running for re-election as President this year. I know it's a ways off, but as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?^

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	58	36	5
January 2012	55	40	5
November 2011	51	42	7
October 2011	48	45	7
September 2011	47	47	6
August 2011	47	45	8
July 2011	50	41	9
June 2011	52	44	4
May 2011	54	39	6
April 2011	52	39	9
March 2011	49	43	8
February 2011	49	43	8
January 2011	50	40	10
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>58 (2/12)</b>	<b>47 (9/11, 12/10)</b>	<b>10 (1/11, 12/10)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>43 (12/10)</b>	<b>36 (2/12)</b>	<b>4 (6/11)</b>

**Q. 8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitt Romney?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	35	55	10
November 2011	36	48	16
October 2011	34	45	21
September 2011	30	46	24
August 2011	32	46	21
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>36 (11/11)</b>	<b>55 (2/12)</b>	<b>35 (12/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>25 (12/07)</b>	<b>40 (12/07)</b>	<b>10 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Newt Gingrich?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	24	67	9
November 2011	26	58	16
August 2011	20	64	16
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>26 (11/11)</b>	<b>67 (2/12)</b>	<b>16 (11/11, 8/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>20 (8/11)</b>	<b>58 (11/11)</b>	<b>9 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 10** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ron Paul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	32	49	19
November 2011	26	46	28
August 2011	26	40	35
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>32 (2/12)</b>	<b>49 (2/12)</b>	<b>38 (3/3/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (3/3/08)</b>	<b>40 (8/11)</b>	<b>19 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 11** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rick Santorum?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	28	46	26
August 2011	14	32	54
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>28 (2/12)</b>	<b>46 (2/12)</b>	<b>54 (8/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (8/11)</b>	<b>32 (8/11)</b>	<b>26 (2/12)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – February 2012

**Q. 37** (REPUBLICANS ONLY) Looking ahead to the upcoming election for President. If the New York Republican primary for President were held today and the candidates were Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)<sup>A</sup>

DATE	NEWT GINGRICH	RON PAUL	MITT ROMNEY	RICK SANTORUM	OTHER*	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
February 2012	29	16	31	13	NA	10
November 2011	12	9	32	NA	33	15
August 2011	3	8	18	1	45	9
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>29 (2/12)</b>	<b>16 (2/12)</b>	<b>32 (11/11)</b>	<b>13 (2/12)</b>	NA	<b>15 (11/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>3 (8/11)</b>	<b>8 (8/11)</b>	<b>18 (8/11)</b>	<b>1 (8/11)</b>	NA	<b>9 (8/11)</b>

\* In August, choices also included Rudy Giuliani, George Pataki, Sarah Palin, John Huntsman, and Tim Pawlenty

\* In November, choices also included Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, and Rick Perry

**Q. 38** If the 2012 election for President were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Newt Gingrich on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	OBAMA	GINGRICH	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	68	26	6
November 2011	63	28	9
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>68 (2/12)</b>	<b>28 (11/11)</b>	<b>9 (11/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>63 (11/11)</b>	<b>26 (2/12)</b>	<b>6 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 39** If the 2012 election for President were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Ron Paul on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	OBAMA	PAUL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	65	29	6
November 2011	60	31	9
August 2011	57	32	11
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>65 (2/12)</b>	<b>32 (8/11)</b>	<b>11 (8/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>57 (8/11)</b>	<b>29 (2/12)</b>	<b>6 (2/12)</b>

**Q. 40** If the 2012 election for President were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Mitt Romney on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	OBAMA	ROMNEY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2012	63	31	6
November 2011	59	34	7
October 2011	55	37	8
September 2011	56	36	8
August 2011	55	37	8
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>63 (2/12)</b>	<b>37 (10/11, 8/11)</b>	<b>8 (10/11, 9/11, 8/11)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>55 (10/11, 8/11)</b>	<b>31 (2/12)</b>	<b>6 (2/12)</b>

**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
February 2012	42	51	7
January 2012	37	56	7
November 2011	26	66	8
October 2011	22	71	7
September 2011	26	66	8
August 2011	20	74	6
July 2011	35	55	10
May 2011	43	49	9
March 2011	34	57	9
February 2011	44	47	9
January 2011	36	54	10
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>62 (5/09)</b>	<b>74 (8/11)</b>	<b>17 (9/08)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>19 (10/08)</b>	<b>24 (12/09)</b>	<b>6 (8/11)</b>

# Siena College Poll Trends – February 2012

Page 6

**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
February 2012	52	36	12
January 2012	51	38	11
November 2011	42	46	12
October 2011	40	48	12
September 2011	45	44	10
August 2011	44	47	10
July 2011	48	40	12
June 2011	38	47	15
May 2011	40	49	11
April 2011	46	41	13
March 2011	43	45	12
February 2011	47	39	14
January 2011	36	50	14
<b>HIGHEST EVER</b>	<b>52 (2/12, 11/06)</b>	<b>76 (10/31/10)</b>	<b>30 (1/07)</b>
<b>LOWEST EVER</b>	<b>14 (10/31 &amp; 20/10)</b>	<b>26 (1/07)</b>	<b>9 (7/10)</b>

**Poll Trend Notes:** \* All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of 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 2011.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.