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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo Enters 3rd Year Still Riding High with Voters

Many Cuomo State of State Proposals Have Very Strong Support
Two-Thirds Say New York Minorities Experience Discrimination
Assault Weapons Ban Strongly Supported; School Armed Guards Divides Voters
Majority Say Shared Leadership Will Help State Senate Be More Effective

Loudonville, NY. As he starts his third year as Governor, Andrew Cuomo continues to enjoy strong support from voters, with a 71-24 percent favorability rating (down slightly from 72-21 percent last month) and 60-38 percent job performance rating (unchanged), according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of New York voters released today. All nine of the Governor's State of the State proposals polled by Siena received strong support from the voters.

As we approach the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, New Yorkers' views on the state of race relations in the state remain largely unchanged from last year, with 54 percent saying they are good or excellent (up slightly from 51 percent) and 46 percent saying they are fair or poor (virtually unchanged from 47 percent). However, when asked whether minorities in New York experience discrimination, more than two-thirds of voters say yes.

While two of the Governor's gun proposals – banning assault weapons and increasing penalties for illegally purchasing guns or using guns on school grounds – are strongly supported by voters, another measure – not proposed by the Governor nor in the new law – to have armed security guards in all schools closely divides voters with 52 percent opposed and 46 percent in support. By better than two-to-one, voters strongly oppose training and arming teachers. And by a 54-37 percent margin, voters think the new shared leadership in the State Senate will help the Senate conduct its business effectively and not result in a return to dysfunction.

"A new year and the same old, same old when it comes to how voters feel about the Governor. He continues to be viewed favorably by more than 70 percent of voters, including 58 percent of Republicans, and he continues to have a 60 percent excellent/good job performance rating," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "With nearly two years until the next time Cuomo will face the voters, 60 percent of voters are prepared to re-elect him, compared to 32 percent who would prefer 'someone else.'"

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õWhile voters like Cuomo and the job that heøs doing, they are evenly divided on whether he has made Albany less dysfunctional,ö Greenberg said. õAlbany is considerably less dysfunctional according to 48 percent, while 47 percent say it is still way too dysfunctional and despite good intentions, Cuomo has failed to get Democrats and Republicans to cooperate. Voters are also closely divided on whether the Governor has improved the stateøs business climate, with 48 percent saying he has had little effect and 42 percent saying he has succeeded.ö

Cuomo State of the State Proposals Widely Supported

Among the Governorøs State of the State proposals tested by Siena:
- Voters support increasing the minimum wage 83-15 percent (up from 80-17 percent in August);
- Voters support public campaign financing 59-36 percent (from 55-31 percent in August);
- Voters support 48-hour reporting of campaign contributions of $500 or greater 79-18 percent;
- Voters support early voting 67-30 percent;
- Voters support the state funding school districts which increase learning time 62-35 percent;
- Voters support a õbar examö for teachers 76-23 percent; and,
- Voters support decriminalizing up to 15 grams of marijuana in public 62-35 percent.

õThereøs no question that Cuomo had many proposals supported by large majorities,ö Greenberg said. õOn increasing the minimum wage, there is overwhelming bipartisan support. While Republicans are closely divided on public campaign financing, it is supported by a majority of independents and two-thirds of Democrats, and more than three-quarters of voters from every party support quick disclosure of contributions greater than $500. Early voting has the strong support of Democrats and independents, while Republicans are nearly evenly divided.

õA majority of voters from every region and party ó more than 70 percent of Democrats and voters in New York City ó support the state funding school districts that increase student learning time by 25 percent by extending either the school day or the school year. And more than two-thirds of voters from every region and party support a ÷bar examøfor new teachers to get certified. A majority of Republicans and independents and more than two-thirds of Democrats support decriminalizing possession of small amounts of pot in public,ö Greenberg said.

Cuomo Gun Proposals Strongly Supported; Armed Guards in Schools Closely Divides Voters

Two Cuomo gun proposals are strongly supported by voters, while two other proposals are opposed:
- Voters support banning assault weapons and magazine clips of more than seven bullets 73-26 percent;
- Voters support increasing penalties purchasing illegal guns or using guns on school grounds 91-8 percent;
- Voters narrowly oppose placing armed guards in New York schools 52-46 percent; and,
- Voters oppose training and arming teachers in New York schools 69-30 percent.

õWhile this poll was conducted prior, during and after Cuomoøs gun proposal was made public and enacted, New Yorkers ó who view the NRA unfavorably by a 57-36 percent margin ó overwhelmingly support the ban on assault weapons and nearly unanimously support increasing penalties for purchasing illegal guns and using guns on school grounds,ö Greenberg said. õHaving armed guards in schools is opposed by a narrow majority, although it is supported by a majority of Republicans, upstaters and voters under 35 years old. Strong majorities of voters from every region and party ó less strongly by Republicans and upstaters ó oppose training and arming teachers,ö

More than Two-thirds of Voters Say Minorities in New York Experience Discrimination

õJust days before the celebration of the King Day holiday, 69 percent of voters ó including 91 percent of blacks, 81 percent of Latinos and 65 percent of whites ó say that minorities in New York experience discrimination,ö Greenberg said. õWe may get there someday, but voters agree that the dream has not yet been realized.ö

õWhen it comes to the state of race relations in the state, a majority, 54 percent, say race relations are excellent or good, while 35 percent say they are fair and 11 percent say they are poor. White voters are more likely to offer a better grade than are black or Latino voters,ö Greenberg said. õWhile a majority of black and Latino voters support a New York Dream Act, to help undocumented immigrants receive higher education financial aid, a majority of white voters oppose it, and among all voters it is opposed 53-44 percent.ö

Voters Say Shared Leadership in State Senate Will Be Effective and Not Return to Dysfunction

õA majority of voters from every party and region say that the new shared leadership in the Senate ó including rotating the Majority Leader position ó will help the Senate conduct its business more effectively and not move the Senate back towards dysfunction,ö Greenberg said. õEach house of the Legislature continues to be viewed favorably by as many voters as view them unfavorably ó a marked change from two years ago when both had very negative favorability ratings. With the exception of Speaker Sheldon Silver ó who has a negative 24-38 percent favorability rating ó the other four legislative leaders are all unknown to more than two-thirds of voters.ö

Casino Gambling Amendment Has Narrow Majority Support; Gov's Upstate Proposal Supported

õBy a 52-43 percent margin ó tighter than the 52-38 percent support in August ó voters support a constitutional amendment to allow non-Indian casinos in New York. Interestingly, in New York City ó which is likely to play a larger role in November than it usually does in a statewide election given the mayoral election there ó voters are evenly divided. Support is largest in the downstate suburbs and among independent voters,ö Greenberg said. õThe Governorøs proposal to initially limit the building of only three casinos, all upstate, has the support of 57 percent of voters, including a majority from every region and party, and is opposed by 40 percent.ö

By a Narrow Margin, More Voters Now Oppose Fracking than Support It

õWhile 40 percent of voters would like to see the Department of Environmental Conservation move forward and allow fracking in parts of upstate, 44 percent say they oppose it moving forward. Last month, voters narrowly supported fracking 42-36 percent,ö Greenberg said. õThis continues to be an issue where neither supporters nor opponents has succeeded in getting a majority of voters to their position. And it continues to be an issue that is a political landmine for the Governor as he has to make a decision that will anger as many voters as it pleases.ö

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Siena College Poll Trends – January 2013

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
June 2012	70	24	5
May 2012	68	24	8
April 2012	73	22	6
March 2012	69	25	6
February 2012	74	18	8
January 2012	73	20	7
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. 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
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
June 2012	16	44	31	9	1
May 2012	14	42	33	10	1
April 2012	16	47	29	7	1
March 2012	14	43	33	9	1
February 2012	14	47	31	6	2
January 2012	17	45	29	8	2
HIGHEST EVER	**17 (1/12)**	**47 (4/12, etc.)**	**36 (9/11, 5/11)**	**10 (1/13, 5/12)**	**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 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
January 2013	60	32	8
December 2012	62	29	9
HIGHEST EVER	**62 (12/12)**	**32 (1/13)**	**9 (12/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**60 (1/13)**	**29 (12/12)**	**8 (1/13)**

Q. 18   **Considering Andrew Cuomo's first two years as Governor, which of the following two statements about New York State government best describes how you feel? Albany is considerably less dysfunctional; Governor Cuomo has succeeded in getting Republicans and Democrats to work together for the benefit of New Yorkers, OR Albany is still way too dysfunctional; while his intentions were good, Governor Cuomo failed in getting Democrats and Republicans to cooperate? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED. IN JANUARY 2012, THE WORDING WAS "FIRST YEAR.")**

DATE	LESS DYSFUNCTIONAL	STILL TOO DYSFUNCTIONAL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	48	47	5
January 2012	51	45	4
HIGHEST EVER	**51 (1/12)**	**47 (1/13)**	**5 (1/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**48 (1/13)**	**45 (1/12)**	**4 (1/12)**

Q. 13   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Robert Duffy?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	18	14	68
HIGHEST EVER	**18 (1/13, 1/11)**	**14 (1/13)**	**72 (1/11)**
LOWEST EVER	**18 (1/13, 1/11)**	**10 (1/11)**	**68 (1/13)**

Q. 10   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (or J-COPE)?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	28	22	50
October 2012	24	23	53
HIGHEST EVER	**28 (1/13)**	**23 (10/12)**	**53 (10/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**24 (10/12)**	**22 (1/13)**	**50 (10/13)**

Q. 5   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	24	38	38
December 2012	24	34	42
October 2012	21	39	41
July 2012	25	37	39
April 2012	26	35	39
January 2012	24	36	40
HIGHEST EVER	**28 (7/05)**	**42 (12/10)**	**50 (4/05)**
LOWEST EVER	**19 (2/11, 4/05)**	**30 (4/05)**	**36 (12/10, 6/09)**

Q. 11   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Brian Kolb?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	11	11	78
HIGHEST EVER	**11 (1/13)**	**11 (1/13)**	**82 (12/10)**
LOWEST EVER	**9 (12/10)**	**9 (12/10)**	**78 (1/13)**

Q. 8   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	45	42	13
December 2012	41	40	19
October 2012	41	41	18
July 2012	42	45	13
May 2012	42	44	14
March 2012	37	49	14
January 2012	39	46	15
HIGHEST EVER	**45 (1/13)**	**61 (7/10)**	**19 (12/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**25 (7/10)**	**40 (12/12)**	**12 (1/10)**

Q. 6   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	16	20	65
December 2012	16	18	67
October 2012	14	20	67
July 2012	13	22	64
April 2012	13	21	67
January 2012	12	21	67
HIGHEST EVER	**16 (1/13, 12/12)**	**23 (6/09)**	**82 (11/08)**
LOWEST EVER	**9 (12/10)**	**8 (7/08)**	**62 (6/09)**

Q. 7   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeff Klein?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	12	14	73
HIGHEST EVER	**12 (1/13)**	**14 (1/13)**	**84 (11/09)**
LOWEST EVER	**9 (11/09)**	**7 (11/09)**	**73 (1/13)**

Q. 9   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	45	45	10
December 2012	45	41	14
October 2012	45	42	13
July 2012	43	48	9
May 2012	46	43	11
March 2012	42	46	12
January 2012	39	49	13
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. 33   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
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
May 2012	33	33	14	20	0
HIGHEST EVER	**33 (5/12)**	**39 (10/12)**	**22 (8/12)**	**20 (5/12)**	**1 (8/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**27 (12/12, etc)**	**33 (1/13, 5/11)**	**14 (5/12)**	**12 (10/12)**	**0 (many)**

Q. 34   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
January 2013	40	44	16
December 2012	42	36	22
October 2012	42	36	23
August 2012	39	38	23
May 2012	37	36	27
HIGHEST EVER	**42 (12/12, 10/12)**	**44 (1/13)**	**27 (5/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**37 (5/12)**	**36 (12/12, 10/12, 5/12)**	**16 (1/13)**

Q. 22   Do you support or oppose increasing the minimum wage in New York from the current $7.25 per hour to $8.75 per hour? (NOTE: Prior to January 2013, the wording of the question was increasing the minimum wage to $8.50 per hour.)

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	83	15	2
August 2012	80	17	2
June 2012	77	18	5
May 2012	78	17	5
HIGHEST EVER	**83 (1/13)**	**18 (6/12)**	**5 (6/12, 5/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**77 (6/12)**	**15 (1/13)**	**2 (1/13, 8/12)**

Q. 23   Do you support or oppose creating a system of public campaign financing in New York that would limit the size of political contributions to candidates and use state money to match smaller contributions made to candidates for state offices?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	59	36	5
August 2012	55	31	14
HIGHEST EVER	**59 (1/13)**	**36 (1/13)**	**14 (8/12)**
LOWEST EVER	**55 (8/12)**	**31 (8/12)**	**5 (1/13)**

Q. 35 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
January 2013	52	43	5
August 2012	52	38	9
April 2012	50	46	4
March 2012	48	49	3
February 2012	52	44	4
January 2012	53	42	5
HIGHEST EVER	53 (1/12)	49 (3/12)	9 (8/12)
LOWEST EVER	48 (3/12)	38 (8/12)	3 (3/12)

Q. 38 As we look to next week's commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, how would you describe the state of race relations in New York State? Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2013	7	47	35	11	1
January 2012	7	44	36	11	2
January 2011	7	48	33	10	2
HIGHEST EVER	7 (many)	48 (1/11)	38 (1/10)	13 (1/08)	3 (1/08)
LOWEST EVER	3 (1/08)	45 (1/10, 1/08)	33 (1/11)	8 (1/10)	1 (1/13)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
June 2012	59	38	2
May 2012	60	38	2
April 2012	58	39	3
March 2012	61	36	3
February 2012	64	34	2
January 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)

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
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
June 2012	40	53	7
May 2012	42	51	7
April 2012	38	54	8
March 2012	40	52	8
February 2012	42	51	7
January 2012	37	56	7
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

Q. 17 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	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
June 2012	1	18	46	32	2
May 2012	2	16	47	34	1
April 2012	1	17	48	33	1
March 2012	1	15	46	37	1
HIGHEST EVER	2 (12/12, 5/12)	19 (10/12, etc.)	49 (8/12)	67 (3/22/10)	4 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	6 (3/22/10, etc.)	25 (3/22/10)	31 (10/12, 8/12)	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
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
June 2012	53	37	10
May 2012	55	34	10
April 2012	55	34	11
March 2012	50	40	10
February 2012	52	36	12
January 2012	51	38	11
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	9 (7/10)

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 2012.

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