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Siena College Poll:

Obama Poised to Carry New York; Comparable to'08

Gillibrand Appears Headed Toward Overwhelming Victory Small Plurality of Voters Now Support Hydrofracking

Majority Wants Dems to Control State Senate; 63 Elections Determine Outcome

Loudonville, **NY**. Headed toward Election Day, President Obama continues to have a large lead over Mitt Romney, 59-35 percent, closely resembling 2008, when he carried the state by a 63-36 percent margin. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, seeking her first full six-year term, has a commanding 67-24 percent lead over Republican challenger Wendy Long, according to a new Siena College Research Institute poll of likely voters released today.

By a small plurality, 42-36 percent, voters support the Department of Environmental Conservation allowing hydrofracking to move forward in parts of upstate New York. A plurality of voters say they are prepared to reelect their incumbent state senator, and a majority of voters, including independents by a 15-point margin, say they would like to see the State Senate controlled by the Democrats. Governor Andrew Cuomo continues to enjoy strong favorability and job performance ratings from New York voters.

"The last time a Republican presidential candidate carried New York was 1984 and that streak of 28 years appears to be in no jeopardy this year. Despite the tightness of the race nationally, President Obama is poised to win New York big, with a similar margin to his 2008 victory in the Empire State," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "While Romney has shored up his base of Republican voters – now matching the support Obama enjoys among Democrats – independent voters have moved even stronger than previously into the President's camp, by a 25-point margin, up from eight points in August. Obama's lead is largest in New York City but he leads in the downstate suburbs and upstate too. He has a narrow 49-45 percent lead among white voters and an overwhelming lead among minority voters, including a 97-0 percent lead with black voters."

Obama has a 61-37 percent favorability rating (down a little from 64-35 percent in August) and Romney has a negative 41-55 percent favorability rating (up from 34-61 percent in August). Fifty-eight percent of voters are prepared to re-elect Obama and 38 percent would prefer 'someone else' (virtually unchanged from 59-37 percent in August). Obama's job performance rating is unchanged at 53-47 percent.

Gillibrand on Verge of Blowout Win, Larger than Her Big 2010 Victory

Kirsten Gillibrand has a 56-22 percent favorability rating (up from 50-26 percent in August) and by a margin of 58-28 percent, likely voters are prepared to re-elect her rather than support 'someone else' (up slightly from 56-28 percent in August). Wendy Long's favorability rating is 17-16 percent (11-12 percent in August).

"Gillibrand won her election two years ago by a 63-35 percent margin, a decisive win. This year she appears headed to an even larger victory as she currently holds a 67-24 percent lead over Long," Greenberg said. "Gillibrand has the support of 86 percent of Democrats, she has a three-to-one lead among independent voters, and she even gets 33 percent support among Republicans, compared to Long's 56 percent."

By a Narrow Margin, a Plurality of Voters Now Supports Hydrofracking

Sixty-six percent of likely voters say they have heard or read at least some about DEC's expected decision on hydrofracking, up slightly from 63 percent in August. Currently, 42 percent of voters support DEC allowing hydrofracking to move forward in New York and 36 percent oppose it (it was 39-38 percent in August).

"While it's not a groundswell of support, more voters now support DEC moving forward on hydrofracking than in any previous Siena poll. In August, a plurality of upstate voters and women had opposed fracking, and now small pluralities of both are in support," Greenberg said. "Democrats in opposition and independents in support are more closely divided than are Republicans, who overwhelmingly support fracking by a 60-23 percent margin."

Majority Wants Democratic Control of State Senate; Actual Outcome Determined District by District "By a 55-36 percent margin, voters would like to see the Democrats in the majority in the State Senate, however, that's not a vote that voters get to cast on Election Day. The outcome of 63 separate elections will determine the fate of the Senate majority," Greenberg said. "Not surprisingly, New York City voters overwhelmingly want a Democratic Senate, but so too do a majority of downstate suburbanites and a small plurality of upstaters."

Cuomo Honeymoon Approaching Two Years

Cuomo has a 67-24 percent favorability rating (down slightly from 71-24 percent in August) and a 58-40 percent job performance rating (little changed from 60-40 percent in August).

"While Cuomo's 67 percent favorability is the lowest – by a whole point – it's been since he's been Governor, Cuomo continues to receive strong favorability and job performance grades from not only Democrats, but also from independents and even Republicans," Greenberg said.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted October 22-24, 2012 by telephone calls to 750 likely New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of \pm 3.6 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, historic turnout 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: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – October 2012

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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
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. 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 I	Oon't Know/No Opinion
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
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
HIGHEST EVER LOWEST EVER	17 (1/12) 8 (3/11)	` / /	36 (9/11, 5/11) 24 (1/11)	,	2) 28 (1/11) 1, 1/11) 1 (many)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	21	39	41
July 2012	25	37	39
April 2012	26	35	39
January 2012	24	36	40
July 2011	22	36	41
HIGHEST EVER	28 (7/05)	42 (12/10)	50 (4/05)
LOWEST EVER	19 (2/11, 4/05	5) 30 (4/05)	36 (12/10, 6/09)

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Q.9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	14	20	67
July 2012	13	22	64
April 2012	13	21	67
January 2012	12	21	67
July 2011	13	20	67
HIGHEST EVER	15 (6/09)	23 (6/09)	82 (11/08)
LOWEST EVER	9 (12/10)	8 (7/08)	62 (6/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
July 2011	38	47	15
HIGHEST EVER	42 (7/12, 5/	(12) 61 (7/10)	18 (6/11, 2/09)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	41 (10/12)	12 (1/10)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
July 2011	41	49	10
HIGHEST EVER	46 (5/12)	74 (7/09)	14 (6/11)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	42 (10/12)	6 (7/09)

Q. 18 As things stand now, if the election for State Senate were held today would you vote to re-elect your incumbent Senator or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	43	35	21
August 2012	50	30	19
July 2012	42	38	20
June 2012	43	40	17
May 2012	47	34	19
HIGHEST EVER	50 (8/12)	40 (6/12)	21 (10/12)
LOWEST EVER	42 (7/12)	30 (8/12)	17 (6/12)

Q. 19 Republicans currently control the State Senate by a 33-29 majority. Looking at this year's election, would you prefer to see the Republicans continue to control the State Senate, or would you prefer to see the Democrats win control of the Senate? (Choices were rotated)

DATE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	36	55	9
August 2012	37	57	6
July 2012	38	54	8
June 2012	37	54	8
May 2012	38	56	7
HIGHEST EVER	38 (7/12, 5/	12) 57 (8/12)	9 (10/12)
LOWEST EVER	36 (10/12)	54 (7/12, 6/	12) 6 (8/12)

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Q. 21 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 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)	<mark>39 (10/1</mark>	22 (8/12)	20 (5/1	2) 1 (8/12)
LOWEST EVER	27 (10/12)	33 (5/11	14 (5/12)	12 (10/	0 (10/12, 5/12)

Q. 22 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 2012	42	36	23
August 2012	39	38	23
May 2012	37	36	27
HIGHEST EVER	42 (10/12)	38 (8/12)	27 (5/12)
LOWEST EVER	37 (5/12)	36 (10/12, 5/1	23 (10/12, 8/12)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
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
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
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (10/31/10	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	1 (8/12)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitt Romney?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	41	55	5
August 2012	34	61	5
July 2012	35	59	7
June 2012	35	56	9
May 2012	33	57	10
April 2012	35	57	8
March 2012	32	57	10
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
HIGHEST EVER	41 (10/12)	61 (8/12)	35 (12/07)
LOWEST EVER	25 (12/07)	40 (12/07)	5 (10/12, 8/12)

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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
October 2012	18	35	18	29	0
August 2012	17	36	19	28	0
July 2012	16	35	21	28	0
June 2012	14	32	26	27	0
May 2012	15	32	25	27	0
April 2012	13	32	25	29	0
March 2012	16	34	23	26	0
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
HIGHEST EVER	18 (10/12)	37 (5/11)	32 (10/11)	33 (9	/11, 8/11) 1 (7/11)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/11)	26 (8/11)	18 (10/12)	23 (5	/11)

Q. 16 Barack Obama is running for re-election as President. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?^A

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	58	38	4
August 2012	59	37	4
July 2012	57	39	4
June 2012	54	42	5
May 2012	54	42	3
April 2012	54	41	5
March 2012	56	38	6
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
HIGHEST EVER LOWEST EVER	59 (8/12) 43 (12/10	` ,	10 (1/11, 12/10) 3 (5/12)

Q. 23 If the election for President was 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
October 2012	59	35	6
August 2012	62	33	5
July 2012	61	34	5
June 2012	59	35	6
May 2012	57	37	6
April 2012	60	35	5
March 2012	60	34	6
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
HIGHEST EVER	63 (2/12)	37 (5/12, 10/1	11, 8/11) 8 (10/11, 9/11, 8/11)
LOWEST EVER	55 (10/11, 8/11)	31 (2/12)	5 (8/12, 7/12, 4/12)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	56	22	23
August 2012	50	26	25
July 2012	49	24	28
June 2012	50	24	26
May 2012	48	27	25
April 2012	51	25	24
March 2012	54	24	22
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
HIGHEST EVER	57 (2/11)	34 (10/31/10	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Wendy Long?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	17	16	67
August 2012	11	12	77
July 2012	13	11	76
June 2012	9	11	80
May 2012	10	9	81
April 2012	8	10	82
HIGHEST EVER	17 (10/12)	16 (10/12)	82 (4/12)
LOWEST EVER	8 (4/12)	9 (5/12)	67 (10/12)

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

DATE	RE-ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	58	28	14
August 2012	56	28	16
July 2012	55	28	17
June 2012	54	29	17
May 2012	54	32	13
April 2012	54	28	18
March 2012	58	30	12
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
HIGHEST EVER	58 (10/12	34 (10/11, 9/11)	1, 8/11) 22 (9/11)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/11)	27 (2/12)	12 (3/12)

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Q. 24 If the election for U.S. Senator was held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and Wendy Long on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Order of candidates was rotated.)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	LONG	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	67	24	8
August 2012	65	22	13
July 2012	62	25	13
June 2012	65	22	12
May 2012	60	26	14
April 2012	63	23	14
HIGHEST EVER	67 (10/12)	26 (5/12)	14 (5/12, 4/12)
LOWEST EVER	60 (5/12)	22 (8/12, 6/12)	8 (10/12)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the United State Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
October 2012	31	62	7
July 2012	27	67	6
HIGHEST EVER	31 (10/12)	67 (7/12)	7 (10/12)
LOWEST EVER	27 (7/12)	62 (10/12)	6 (7/12)

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
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
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
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/08)	24 (12/09)	6 (8/11)

Q. 20 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
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
October 2011	0	11	38	50	1
September 2011	1	11	36	50	1
August 2011	1	11	39	48	1
July 2011	1	8	40	51	1
HIGHEST EVER	2 (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	2.) 25 (3/22/10)	31 (1	0/12, 8/12) 0 (4/11, etc.)

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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 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
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
HIGHEST EVER	56 (8/12)	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 July 2011.

[&]quot;Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" is provided at the bottom of each question.

^A Inconsequential wording change.