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Contact:

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Steven Greenberg, 518-469-9858

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Siena College Poll:

Voters Like Paterson Proposals; Still Do Not Support his Election; Loses Bad to Cuomo with Dems & Runs Even with Lazio & Collins

Gillibrand Has Sizeable Lead Over Ford Among Dems; Both Trail Pataki 67% Call Legislature 'Dysfunctional' & Both Houses Viewed 2-to-1 Unfavorably

Loudonville, NY. While New Yorkers overwhelmingly support Governor David Paterson's call for a spending cap and term limits on state officials, and his favorability rating has inched up for the third consecutive month, Paterson continues to remain electorally very weak in a potential Democratic primary and in general election matchups, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters. For the first time since she's been a United States Senator, more voters now have an unfavorable view of Kirsten Gillibrand than have a favorable view. She maintains a large lead in a potential Democratic primary against former Tennessee Representative Harold Ford, however, now faces a double digit deficit against former Governor George Pataki. As negatively as voters feel about any individuals, they have even greater disdain for the State Legislature.

"Since October, Paterson has seen his favorable rating rise from 27 percent to 38 percent, while his unfavorable rating has fallen from 61 percent to 52 percent. That's the good news for the Governor," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "His job performance rating remains three-to-one negative and while 21 percent of voters are prepared to elect him to a full term as Governor, 60 percent would prefer 'someone else.'

"In a potential Democratic primary among Paterson, Cuomo and Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Cuomo garners a commanding 59 percent support, with Paterson at 21 percent and Levy at six percent. Last month Cuomo led Paterson 67-23 percent," Greenberg said. "And while Levy is unknown to 71 percent of Democrats,

in a one-on-one match up against Paterson he trails by only 15 points, 46-31 percent.

"Cuomo maintains 40 plus point leads over former Representative

Rick Lazio and Erie County Executive Chris Collins. Levy runs ahead of both by seven to 16 points, and Paterson runs even with both," Greenberg said.

| 2010 Gubernatorial Horse Race Questions | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Date | Paterson v. Lazio | | Cuomo v. Lazio | | Levy v. Lazio | |
| | Paterson | Lazio | Cuomo | Lazio | Levy | Lazio |
| Jan. 18, 2010 | 42% | 42% | 66% | 24% | 40% | 33% |
| Dec. 14, 2009 | 42% | 40% | 68% | 22% | | |
| Aug. 24, 2009 | 38% | 37% | 66% | 16% | | |
| Date | Paterson v. Collins | | Cuomo v. Collins | | Levy v. Collins | |
| | Paterson | Collins | Cuomo | Collins | Levy | Collins |
| Jan. 18, 2010 | 40% | 40% | 65% | 23% | 42% | 26% |
| Aug. 24, 2009 | 38% | 30% | 64% | 16% | | |

A majority of voters continue to want Cuomo to run for governor rather than re-election as attorney general. By a 49-37 percent margin, voters say Cuomo has time to wait before declaring what office he is running for, rather than announcing now. Closely mirroring the state’s enrollment breakdown, 50 percent of voters (76 percent of Democrats and 37 percent of independents) would prefer the next governor to be a Democrat, and 33 percent of voters (70 percent of Republicans and 39 percent of independents) want to see a Republican elected governor.

State of the State: Plurality Believes Gov Put Aside Politics Rather than Deliver Campaign Sound Bites

“Among voters who heard or read about the Governor’s State of the State address, 47 percent said he ‘put aside politics to take on the special interests’ compared to 38 percent who said he ‘did nothing but deliver campaign sound bites.’ Nearly half of voters believe that if the state followed his proposals it would move New York toward a better fiscal condition,” Greenberg said.

“By overwhelming margins, voters support the Governor in his call for a budget spending cap (74-18 percent) and for term limits for state officials (67-28 percent),” Greenberg said. “However, his proposal for public campaign financing for state elections divides voters with 44 percent supporting – including a majority of Democrats and New York City voters – and 43 percent opposing – including Republicans and upstaters.

“When it comes to budget advice for the Governor, 45 percent say he should close the deficit in the state budget by ‘increasing state taxes,’ while 33 percent said the deficit should be closed by ‘significant cuts in health care and education spending, the two largest parts of the state budget.’ A majority of Democrats urge tax increases and pluralities of Republicans and independents want education and health cuts. Tax increases are supported by a majority of New York City voters and pluralities of suburban and upstate voters,” Greenberg said.

Gillibrand Viewed More Unfavorably than Ever; Leads Ford Big Among Dems; Trails Pataki

“After one year as Senator, for the first time ever, more voters (32 percent) view Gillibrand unfavorably than those (30 percent) who view her favorably. Only 29 percent are now prepared to elect Gillibrand as Senator, compared to 45 percent who prefer ‘someone else.’ Ford is unknown to nearly two-thirds of voters, with a 21-16 percent favorable view. Pataki continues to enjoy a strong 55-34 percent favorability rating,” Greenberg said.

“Gillibrand enters 2010 with a strong lead in a potential Democratic primary against Ford. She has the support of 41 percent of Democrats, compared to 17 percent for Ford, five percent for Jonathan Tasini, and 37 percent still undecided,” Greenberg said. “However, the

last month has seen a significant turnaround by voters looking at the general election. Pataki

| 2010 Senate Horse Race Questions | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Date | Gillibrand v. Pataki | | Ford v. Pataki | |
| | Gillibrand | Pataki | Ford | Pataki |
| January 18, 2010 | 38% | 51% | 32% | 54% |
| December 15, 2009 | 46% | 43% | | |

has a 51-38 percent lead over Gillibrand and a larger 54-32 percent lead over Ford. Last month Gillibrand had a small 46-43 percent lead over Pataki. This is the first time either one has crossed the 50 percent plateau.”

Voters Have Unfavorable View of Both Houses of the ‘Dysfunctional’ Legislature

“Voters were asked which word – effective, adequate or dysfunctional – best describes the State Legislature’s performance in 2009. Only one of every 25 voters called the Legislature ‘effective.’ Approximately one-quarter said the Legislature’s performance was ‘adequate.’ Two-thirds of voters called the Legislature ‘dysfunctional,’ including three-quarters of Republicans, conservatives and voters over 55 years old,” Greenberg said.

“In July, voters had a much more unfavorable view of the State Senate than they did of the Assembly,” Greenberg said. “Today, however, voters see virtually no difference between the two houses.”

The Senate is viewed favorably by 30 percent of voters and unfavorably by 61 percent (26-62 percent in July). The Assembly is viewed favorably by 29 percent and unfavorably by 59 percent (37-47 percent in July).

“Democrats give each house of the Legislature nearly the same favorable/unfavorable rating. Republicans, while viewing the houses more negatively than Democrats, also give both houses virtually the same favorability rating. The same is true for independents and for voters from each of the three regions of the state,” Greenberg said.

“Only 34 percent of voters say they are prepared to re-elect their state senator, while 49 percent prefer ‘someone else.’ Last month voters were split on that question with 42 percent on each side,” Greenberg said. “And based on how voters feel right now, it could very well be a nail-biter of an election night to determine which party controls the Senate in 2011. Currently, 33 percent want to see the Democrats expand their majority, 25 percent want to see Republicans regain control, and 38 percent prefer a continued closely divided Senate.”

Little Change in Perception of Race Relations Among New Yorkers over Last Two Years

“As we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 2010 New Yorkers think race relations in the state are virtually the same as they were at this same time two years ago,” Greenberg said. “Overall 51 percent of voters say race relations in New York are either good or excellent, up slightly from 48 percent two years ago, while 46 percent describe them as fair or poor, down slightly from 2008’s 49 percent.

“There continues to be widely disparate views by race. White voters have a positive view on the state of race relations in New York by a 56-42 percent margin, while African American voters have a negative view by an even larger 64-34 percent margin. Latino voters are virtually the same as African Americans, 66-34 percent negative,” Greenberg said. “Democrats are split, while Republicans and independents have a positive view of race relations. New York City voters are negative, while suburbanites and upstaters are positive.”

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This SRI survey was conducted January 10-14, 2010 by telephone calls to 806 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.5 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing weighted to reflect known population patterns. SRI is an independent, non-partisan research institute. SRI subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about David Paterson?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 38 | 52 | 10 |
| December 2009 | 36 | 53 | 12 |
| November 2009 | 33 | 56 | 12 |
| October 2009 | 27 | 61 | 12 |
| September 2009 | 29 | 59 | 13 |
| August 2009 | 32 | 55 | 12 |
| July 2009 | 36 | 56 | 8 |
| June 2009 | 31 | 57 | 11 |
| May 2009 | 27 | 60 | 13 |
| April 2009 | 27 | 63 | 10 |
| March 2009 | 29 | 58 | 13 |
| February 2009 | 40 | 47 | 13 |
| January 29, 2009 | 54 | 30 | 17 |
| January 26, 2009 | 60 | 23 | 16 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 64 (11/08) | 63 (4/09) | 76 (1/07) |
| LOWEST EVER | 17 (1/07) | 8 (1/07) | 8 (7/09) |

How would you rate the job that David Paterson is doing as Governor – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

| DATE | EXCELLENT | GOOD | FAIR | POOR | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 3 | 21 | 44 | 31 | 1 |
| December 2009 | 3 | 20 | 42 | 34 | 2 |
| November 2009 | 2 | 19 | 40 | 39 | 2 |
| October 2009 | 1 | 18 | 43 | 36 | 1 |
| September 2009 | 2 | 16 | 41 | 39 | 2 |
| August 2009 | 3 | 20 | 38 | 38 | 2 |
| July 2009 | 2 | 20 | 41 | 36 | 1 |
| June 2009 | 2 | 18 | 39 | 39 | 2 |
| May 2009 | 2 | 16 | 43 | 38 | 1 |
| April 2009 | 1 | 17 | 41 | 40 | 2 |
| March 2009 | 1 | 18 | 46 | 32 | 2 |
| February 2009 | 2 | 26 | 46 | 23 | 3 |
| January 26, 2009 | 8 | 43 | 35 | 10 | 4 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 9 (12/08) | 48 (10/08) | 46 (3/09, 2/09) | 40 (4/09) | 32 (4/08) |
| LOWEST EVER | 1 (10/09, etc.) | 16 (9/09, etc.) | 28 (5/08) | 4 (9/08, etc.) | 1 (1/10, etc.) |

If David Paterson runs for Governor in 2010, would you vote to elect him or would you prefer someone else?

| DATE | ELECT | PREFER SOMEONE ELSE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| January 2010 | 21 | 60 | 19 |
| December 2009 | 19 | 65 | 16 |
| November 2009 | 17 | 69 | 15 |
| October 2009 | 15 | 72 | 13 |
| September 2009 | 14 | 71 | 16 |
| August 2009 | 15 | 68 | 16 |
| July 2009 | 17 | 69 | 13 |
| June 2009 | 15 | 70 | 15 |
| May 2009 | 15 | 71 | 15 |
| April 2009 | 12 | 71 | 17 |
| March 2009 | 14 | 67 | 19 |
| February 2009 | 19 | 57 | 24 |
| January 26, 2009 | 32 | 36 | 32 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 42 (11/08) | 72 (10/09) | 47 (5/08) |
| LOWEST EVER | 12 (4/09) | 25 (9/08, 5/08) | 13 (10/09, 7/09) |

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(DEMS ONLY): Looking ahead to the election for Governor. If the Democratic primary for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson or Andrew Cuomo, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | PATERSON | CUOMO | S. LEVY | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 21 | 59 | 6 | 14 |
| December 2009 | 23 | 67 | NA | 10 |
| November 2009 | 16 | 75 | NA | 8 |
| October 2009 | 20 | 70 | NA | 10 |
| September 2009 | 20 | 66 | NA | 14 |
| August 2009 | 23 | 65 | NA | 12 |
| July 2009 | 23 | 65 | NA | 13 |
| June 2009 | 16 | 69 | NA | 15 |
| May 2009 | 19 | 70 | NA | 11 |
| April 2009 | 11 | 64 | NA | 17 |
| March 2009 | 17 | 67 | NA | 17 |
| February 2009 | 27 | 53 | NA | 20 |
| January 26, 2009 | 35 | 33 | NA | 33 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 53 (11/08) | 75 (11/09) | 6 (1/10) | 33 (1/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 11 (4/09) | 21 (7/08) | 6 (1/10) | 8 (11/09) |

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson on the Democratic line and Rick Lazio on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | PATERSON | LAZIO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| January 2010 | 42 | 42 | 16 |
| December 2009 | 42 | 40 | 18 |
| November 2009 | 39 | 42 | 19 |
| October 2009 | 39 | 37 | 23 |
| September 2009 | 39 | 35 | 26 |
| August 2009 | 38 | 37 | 25 |
| July 2009 | 41 | 39 | 20 |
| February 2009 | 46 | 28 | 26 |
| January 26, 2009 | 52 | 22 | 26 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 52 (1/09) | 42 (1/10, 11/09) | 26 (9/09, 2/09, 1/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 38 (8/09) | 22 (1/09) | 16 (1/10) |

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson on the Democratic line and Chris Collins on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | PATERSON | COLLINS | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 40 | 40 | 21 |
| August 2009 | 38 | 30 | 32 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 40 (1/10) | 40 (1/10) | 32 (8/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 38 (8/09) | 30 (8/09) | 21 (1/10) |

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Rick Lazio on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | CUOMO | LAZIO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| January 2010 | 66 | 24 | 10 |
| December 2009 | 68 | 22 | 10 |
| November 2009 | 67 | 22 | 11 |
| October 2009 | 66 | 21 | 14 |
| September 2009 | 64 | 18 | 18 |
| August 2009 | 66 | 16 | 18 |
| July 2009 | 65 | 20 | 15 |
| February 2009 | 66 | 16 | 18 |
| January 26, 2009 | 61 | 17 | 22 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 68 (12/09) | 24 (1/10) | 22 (1/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 61 (1/09) | 16 (8/09, 2/09) | 10 (1/10, 12/09) |

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If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Chris Collins on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | CUOMO | COLLINS | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 65 | 23 | 11 |
| August 2009 | 64 | 14 | 22 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 65 (1/10) | 23 (1/10) | 22 (8/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 64 (8/09) | 14 (8/09) | 11 (1/10) |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| January 2010 | 67 | 21 | 12 |
| December 2009 | 67 | 19 | 14 |
| November 2009 | 70 | 20 | 11 |
| October 2009 | 67 | 20 | 14 |
| September 2009 | 66 | 21 | 13 |
| August 2009 | 70 | 14 | 16 |
| July 2009 | 63 | 21 | 16 |
| June 2009 | 71 | 17 | 12 |
| May 2009 | 66 | 20 | 14 |
| April 2009 | 66 | 18 | 16 |
| March 2009 | 68 | 17 | 15 |
| February 2009 | 69 | 18 | 13 |
| January 26, 2009 | 64 | 17 | 19 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 71 (6/09) | 42 (10/06) | 24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07) |
| LOWEST EVER | 44 (8/06, 10/06) | 14 (8/09) | 11 (11/09) |

Would you prefer to see Attorney General Andrew Cuomo run for re-election as Attorney General this year or would you prefer to see him run for Governor instead?

| DATE | ATTORNEY GENERAL | GOVERNOR | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 30 | 53 | 17 |
| December 2009 | 31 | 50 | 19 |
| November 2009 | 28 | 52 | 19 |
| October 2009 | 36 | 49 | 15 |
| September 2009 | 34 | 47 | 18 |
| August 2009 | 31 | 52 | 17 |
| July 2009 | 31 | 45 | 24 |
| June 2009 | 35 | 46 | 19 |
| May 2009 | 33 | 47 | 20 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 36 (10/09) | 53 (1/10) | 24 (7/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 28 (11/09) | 45 (7/09) | 15 (10/09) |

Should Andrew Cuomo publicly declare now whether he's running for Attorney General or Governor this year, or does he have time to wait several months before publicly announcing?

| DATE | DECLARE NOW | TIME TO WAIT | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 2010 | 37 | 49 | 14 |
| December 2009 | 35 | 51 | 14 |
| November 2009 | 33 | 52 | 14 |
| October 2009 | 34 | 53 | 12 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 37 (1/10) | 53 (10/09) | 14 (1/10, 12/09, 11/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 33 (11/09) | 49 (1/10) | 12 (10/09) |

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rick Lazio?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 27 | 30 | 43 |
| December 2009 | 25 | 25 | 51 |
| November 2009 | 29 | 22 | 50 |
| October 2009 | 23 | 27 | 50 |
| September 2009 | 22 | 25 | 53 |
| August 2009 | 21 | 22 | 57 |
| July 2009 | 25 | 22 | 53 |
| February 2009 | 23 | 23 | 54 |
| January 26, 2009 | 19 | 18 | 64 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 29 (11/09) | 30 (1/10) | 64 (1/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 19 (1/09) | 18 (1/09) | 43 (1/10) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chris Collins?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| January 2010 | 16 | 13 | 71 |
| November 2009 | 12 | 8 | 80 |
| August 2009 | 11 | 9 | 80 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 16 (1/10) | 13 (1/10) | 80 (11/09, 10/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 11 (10/09) | 8 (11/09) | 71 (1/10) |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 30 | 32 | 38 |
| December 2009 | 31 | 22 | 47 |
| November 2009 | 34 | 24 | 43 |
| October 2009 | 28 | 26 | 46 |
| September 2009 | 29 | 24 | 47 |
| August 2009 | 29 | 20 | 52 |
| May 2009 | 33 | 21 | 46 |
| April 2009 | 33 | 23 | 44 |
| March 2009 | 26 | 20 | 54 |
| February 2009 | 34 | 20 | 46 |
| January 29, 2009 | 30 | 14 | 56 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 34 (11/09, 2/09) | 32 (1/10) | 56 (1/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 28 (10/09) | 14 (1/09) | 38 (1/10) |

If Kirsten Gillibrand runs for United States Senator in 2010, would you vote to elect her or would you prefer someone else?

| DATE | ELECT | PREFER SOMEONE ELSE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 29 | 45 | 26 |
| December 2009 | 30 | 34 | 35 |
| November 2009 | 33 | 38 | 29 |
| May 2009 | 27 | 39 | 34 |
| April 2009 | 20 | 47 | 33 |
| March 2009 | 23 | 37 | 39 |
| January 29, 2009 | 21 | 29 | 50 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 33 (11/09) | 47 (4/09) | 50 (1/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 20 (4/09) | 29 (1/09) | 26 (1/10) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Harold Ford?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 21 | 16 | 63 |
| December 2009 | 19 | 7 | 74 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 21 (1/10) | 16 (1/10) | 74 (12/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 19 (12/09) | 7 (12/09) | 63 (1/10) |

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(DEMS ONLY): Looking ahead to the election for United State Senator. If the Democratic primary for United States Senator were held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand, Bill Thompson, Harold Ford, and Jonathan Tasini who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | GILLIBRAND | THOMPSON | FORD | TASINI | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 41 | NA | 17 | 5 | 37 |
| December 2009 | 32 | 23 | 7 | 3 | 35 |
| November 2009 | 43 | NA | NA | 13 | 39 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 43 (11/09) | 23 (12/09) | 17 (1/10) | 13 (11/09) | 39 (11/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 32 (12/09) | 23 (12/09) | 7 (12/09) | 3 (12/09) | 35 (12/09) |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about George Pataki?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| January 2010 | 55 | 34 | 11 |
| December 2009 | 53 | 35 | 12 |
| November 2009 | 55 | 36 | 9 |
| October 2009 | 53 | 34 | 12 |
| August 2009 | 53 | 35 | 13 |
| May 2009 | 53 | 36 | 11 |
| April 2009 | 49 | 43 | 8 |
| March 2009 | 49 | 41 | 10 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 55 (1/10, 11/09) | 57 (2/07) | 16 (2/05) |
| LOWEST EVER | 36 (2/07) | 34 (1/10, 10/09) | 7 (many; most recently 2/07) |

If the 2010 election for United States Senator were held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and George Pataki on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

| DATE | GILLIBRAND | PATAKI | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| January 2010 | 38 | 51 | 11 |
| December 2009 | 46 | 43 | 12 |
| November 2009 | 45 | 44 | 12 |
| October 2009 | 41 | 46 | 13 |
| August 2009 | 39 | 42 | 18 |
| May 2009 | 43 | 43 | 14 |
| March 2009 | 41 | 41 | 18 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 46 (12/09) | 51 (1/10) | 18 (8/09, 3/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 38 (1/10) | 41 (3/09) | 11 (1/10) |

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 |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 34 | 49 | 17 |
| December 2009 | 42 | 42 | 16 |
| October 2009 | 40 | 46 | 15 |
| September 2009 | 38 | 45 | 17 |
| August 2009 | 37 | 43 | 20 |
| July 2009 | 31 | 40 | 28 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 42 (12/09) | 49 (1/10) | 28 (7/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 31 (7/09) | 40 (7/09) | 15 (10/09) |

Democrats currently control the State Senate by a 32 to 30 majority. Looking at this year's election, would you prefer to see the Democrats win a larger majority, would you prefer to see the Republicans win control of the Senate, or would you prefer to see the Senate continue to be closely divided between Republicans and Democrats?

| DATE | BIGGER DEM | REPUBLICAN | CLOSELY DIVIDED | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 33 | 25 | 38 | 4 |
| December 2009 | 36 | 23 | 36 | 5 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 36 (12/09) | 25 (1/10) | 38 (1/10) | 5 (12/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 33 (1/10) | 23 (12/09) | 36 (12/09) | 4 (1/10) |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 30 | 61 | 9 |
| July 2009 | 20 | 74 | 6 |
| June 2009 | 29 | 62 | 9 |
| February 2009 | 43 | 43 | 13 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 43 (2/09) | 74 (7/09) | 13 (2/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 20 (7/09) | 43 (2/09) | 6 (7/09) |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 29 | 59 | 12 |
| July 2009 | 31 | 56 | 14 |
| June 2009 | 37 | 47 | 15 |
| February 2009 | 40 | 42 | 18 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 40 (2/09) | 59 (1/10) | 18 (2/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 29 (1/10) | 42 (2/09) | 12 (1/10) |

In order to close the deficit in the upcoming budget, should Governor Paterson propose significant cuts in education and health care spending, the two largest parts of the state budget, or should he seek to close the deficit by increasing state taxes?

| DATE | CUT ED/HEALTH | RAISE STATE TAXES | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| January 2010 | 33 | 45 | 22 |
| December 2009 | 31 | 42 | 27 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 33 (1/10) | 45 (1/10) | 27 (12/09) |
| LOWEST EVER | 31 (12/09) | 42 (12/09) | 22 (1/10) |

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 2010 | 6 | 45 | 38 | 8 | 2 |
| January 2008 | 3 | 45 | 36 | 13 | 3 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 6 (1/10) | 45 (1/10, 1/08) | 38 (1/10) | 13 (1/08) | 3 (1/08) |
| LOWEST EVER | 3 (1/08) | 45 (1/10, 1/08) | 36 (1/08) | 8 (1/10) | 2 (1/10) |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| January 2010 | 64 | 32 | 4 |
| December 2009 | 63 | 32 | 5 |
| October 2009 | 65 | 31 | 4 |
| September 2009 | 65 | 31 | 4 |
| August 2009 | 70 | 23 | 6 |
| May 2009 | 72 | 23 | 5 |
| April 2009 | 75 | 19 | 6 |
| March 2009 | 70 | 23 | 7 |
| February 2009 | 74 | 18 | 8 |
| January 26, 2009 | 81 | 10 | 9 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 81 (1/09) | 34 (8/08, 5/08, 4/08) | 40 (11/06) |
| LOWEST EVER | 48 (11/06) | 10 (1/09) | 4 (1/10, 10/09, 9/09) |

– more –

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2010

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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 2010 | 41 | 51 | 8 |
| December 2009 | 43 | 49 | 8 |
| October 2009 | 48 | 43 | 10 |
| September 2009 | 49 | 42 | 9 |
| August 2009 | 52 | 37 | 10 |
| July 2009 | 49 | 41 | 10 |
| May 2009 | 62 | 31 | 7 |
| April 2009 | 61 | 29 | 11 |
| March 2009 | 50 | 36 | 14 |
| February 2009 | 48 | 39 | 13 |
| January 26, 2009 | 61 | 24 | 15 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 62 (5/09) | 69 (10/08) | 17 (9/08) |
| LOWEST EVER | 19 (10/08) | 24 (12/09) | 7 (5/09) |

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 2010 | 1 | 9 | 27 | 62 | 1 |
| December 2009 | 0 | 6 | 28 | 65 | 1 |
| August 2009 | 1 | 7 | 39 | 51 | 1 |
| July 2009 | 1 | 7 | 30 | 61 | 1 |
| May 2009 | 1 | 8 | 33 | 59 | 0 |
| April 2009 | 0 | 4 | 29 | 66 | 1 |
| March 2009 | 0 | 6 | 33 | 60 | 1 |
| February 2009 | 0 | 7 | 28 | 65 | 0 |
| January 26, 2009 | 0 | 7 | 26 | 65 | 1 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 1 (many) | 14 (9/08) | 43 (10/08) | 66 (4/09) | 4 (9/08) |
| LOWEST EVER | 0 (many) | 6 (12/09, 3/09) | 26 (1/09) | 41 (9/08) | 0 (5/09, 2/09) |

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 2010 | 27 | 61 | 12 |
| December 2009 | 24 | 61 | 15 |
| November 2009 | 24 | 60 | 16 |
| October 2009 | 24 | 61 | 15 |
| September 2009 | 28 | 57 | 15 |
| August 2009 | 28 | 57 | 15 |
| July 2009 | 23 | 64 | 13 |
| June 2009 | 24 | 63 | 13 |
| May 2009 | 33 | 52 | 14 |
| April 2009 | 27 | 57 | 15 |
| March 2009 | 30 | 52 | 19 |
| February 2009 | 31 | 53 | 16 |
| January 26, 2009 | 39 | 42 | 19 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 52 (11/15/06) | 64 (7/09) | 30 (1/07) |
| LOWEST EVER | 23 (7/09) | 26 (1/07) | 12 (1/10) |

Poll Trend Notes: 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 2009.

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

All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of September and October 2008 and September and October 2006, which are polls of likely voters.