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SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:
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Siena New York Poll:

Spitzer and Clinton Remain in Solid Positions

Golisano Is Strongest Republican; Suozzi Stronger Than Weld
Cuomo Has Early Lead Over Pirro in Race for Attorney General

Loudonville, NY – Sen. Hillary Clinton has a nearly two-to-one lead over her all-but-certain Republican opponent, former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer, while Attorney General Eliot Spitzer continues to dominate all potential Republican challengers, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of New York voters released today. In the race for Attorney General, Andrew Cuomo has a double digit lead over Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro.

“If Election Day were tomorrow, Hillary Clinton would coast to re-election and Eliot Spitzer would beat any Republican opponent – even if his Republican opponent were a Democrat,” said Joe Caruso, Director of Polling for the Siena Research Institute (SRI). “Spitzer easily bests Tom Golisano, he crushes Bill Weld and even crushes Democrat Tom Suozzi, were Suozzi to be his Republican opponent.

“While Golisano would lose by 26 points (55-29 percent) and only 7 points upstate, he carries Republicans by a margin of 55-34 percent,” Caruso said. “On the other hand, Weld loses to Spitzer more than three-to-one (60-17 percent), loses by more than 30 points in the suburbs and upstate, and even trails Spitzer among Republicans 41-36 percent.

“Ironically, Democrat Suozzi does better among Republicans than Weld does – principally because he does far better in the suburbs, where Republicans still hold an enrollment advantage,” Caruso said. “As a result, while Weld trails Spitzer by 43 points, Suozzi trails him by 38 points (58-20 percent).”

Spitzer's favorable-unfavorable rating is 59-19 percent, down from 65-15 percent in November. Golisano has a 33-17 percent favorable rating (up from 28-19 percent in November), with half of voters not knowing enough or having no opinion. Weld's favorable rating is 9-15 percent, with 76 percent having no opinion. Suozzi's favorable rating is 18-12 percent, with 70 percent having no opinion.

"Nearly half of upstaters have a favorable opinion of Golisano, and among those who have an opinion he has a favorable rating from Republicans, Democrats and independents," Caruso said. "Weld has an unfavorable rating – among those few who know him – from Republicans, Democrats, independents, and voters in every region of the state. Suozzi enjoys a strong favorability rating in his home suburbs (43-14 percent) and a better favorability among Republicans (19-11 percent) than Weld (9-14 percent).

In the race for Senate, Clinton beats Spencer 58-31 percent. Nearly six in ten voters say she deserves re-election, while 37 percent say it is time to elect someone else.

"With a favorability rating of 60 percent, a re-elect number of 59 percent, and 58 percent of voters saying they would support her against John Spencer, Hillary Clinton is in very strong position to win re-election this November," Caruso said. "With 79 percent of voters not knowing or having no opinion of him and only a slightly favorable rating among those who do have an opinion (12-9 percent), Spencer has a long way to go to become competitive in the race against Hillary."

In the race for Attorney General, Cuomo (who led Mark Green 37-20 percent, with all other candidates at five percent or less, in a Siena New York primary poll of Democrats last month) beats Pirro 49-36 percent. Cuomo has a 45-31 percent favorable rating, while Pirro has a 26-30 percent favorable rating (it was 26-22 percent in November).

"Cuomo has the early lead for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General and a 13 point lead in general election against Pirro," Caruso said. "The attention she received since changing to run for AG generated a negative reaction among voters, increasing her unfavorable rating from 22 to 30 percent."

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This SRI survey was conducted January 23-27, 2006 by telephone calls to 621 New York State registered voters. It has a margin of error of \pm 3.9 percentage points. For more information or comments, please call Joe Caruso, SRI Director of Polling, at 518-783-2901.



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Siena New York Poll Trends – January 2006

If the election for Governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Thomas Golisano on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	GOLISANO	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	29	55	16
November 2005	26	58	16
October 2005	26	56	18
August 2005	28	52	21
July 2005	26	52	22
June 2005	22	53	24

If the election for Governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were William Weld on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	WELD	SPITZER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	17	60	23
November 2005	16	64	19
October 2005	18	62	20
August 2005	19	56	26
May 2005	15	57	28

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	59	19	23
November 2005	65	15	20
October 2005	61	19	20
August 2005	60	14	26
July 2005	62	15	22
June 2005	59	15	25
May 2005	58	17	25
April 2005	53	18	29
March 2005	50	18	32
February 2005	48	17	34

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas Golisano?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	33	17	50
November 2005	28	19	53
October 2005	30	18	52
August 2005	28	14	57
July 2005	28	17	55
June 2005	28	17	56

Siena New York Poll Trends – January 2006

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about William Weld?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	9	15	76
November 2005	11	9	80
October 2005	9	16	75
August 2005	9	7	84
May 2005	10	11	79

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	48	44	8
November 2005	53	39	8
October 2005	48	44	8
August 2005	50	44	7
July 2005	52	40	8
June 2005	46	45	9
May 2005	40	53	7
April 2005	50	39	11
March 2005	37	50	13
February 2005	39	45	16

Hillary Clinton has indicated that she is running for re-election to the United States Senate. 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
January 2006	59	37	4
November 2005	58	36	6
October 2005	59	37	4
August 2005	56	39	6
July 2005	60	37	4
June 2005	59	34	7
May 2005	59	36	5
April 2005	60	34	5

If the election for United States Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and John Spencer on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices)

DATE	CLINTON	SPENCER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	58	31	11
November 2005	59	27	14

Siena New York Poll Trends – January 2006

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	60	37	3
November 2005	60	34	6
October 2005	59	35	6
August 2005	59	37	4
July 2005	60	34	6
June 2005	60	33	7
May 2005	58	35	7
April 2005	60	33	6
March 2005	58	34	8
February 2005	61	33	6

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Spencer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	12	9	79
November 2005	13	7	80

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeanine Pirro?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2006	26	30	45
November 2005	26	22	52
October 2005	24	25	51
August 2005	26	20	55
July 2005	27	12	61
June 2005	23	12	65
May 2005	20	12	68

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 2006	34	43	24
November 2005	38	41	22
October 2005	34	42	24
August 2005	36	44	20
July 2005	33	41	26
June 2005	30	44	26
May 2005	29	46	25
April 2005	29	44	27
March 2005	26	47	27
February 2005	32	44	24

1. Is New York State on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
right track	34%	33%	34%	32%	33%	34%	44%	39%	23%	30%	40%	43%	45%	38%	26%	35%	43%	24%	44%
wrong direction	43%	40%	44%	46%	44%	41%	30%	39%	54%	45%	40%	37%	33%	43%	45%	48%	22%	50%	31%
don't know/no opinion	24%	26%	22%	22%	23%	24%	26%	22%	23%	25%	19%	20%	23%	18%	29%	17%	35%	26%	25%

I'm going to read the names of several people in public life and I'd like for you to tell me whether you have a favorable opinion or an unfavorable opinion of each of the people I name. [Names asked in rotated order]

2. George Pataki

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	48%	36%	62%	49%	46%	50%	44%	54%	47%	47%	40%	53%	61%	51%	41%	50%	44%	44%	56%
unfavorable	44%	58%	27%	44%	47%	41%	48%	38%	44%	44%	56%	47%	36%	44%	47%	41%	48%	47%	34%
don't know/no opinion	8%	7%	11%	7%	8%	9%	8%	7%	9%	9%	4%	0%	3%	5%	12%	9%	7%	9%	9%

3. Eliot Spitzer

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	59%	69%	52%	54%	61%	57%	62%	57%	58%	60%	65%	60%	48%	55%	66%	53%	72%	66%	45%
unfavorable	19%	11%	26%	23%	22%	16%	15%	19%	21%	20%	13%	10%	14%	21%	18%	20%	11%	20%	21%
don't know/no opinion	23%	20%	22%	24%	18%	27%	24%	23%	21%	20%	21%	30%	39%	24%	16%	26%	17%	14%	34%

4. Hillary Clinton

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	60%	80%	36%	55%	54%	65%	72%	53%	56%	54%	85%	90%	71%	58%	58%	58%	63%	53%	63%
unfavorable	37%	15%	63%	42%	42%	32%	24%	44%	42%	43%	10%	10%	26%	40%	38%	41%	30%	44%	33%
don't know/no opinion	3%	4%	1%	3%	4%	3%	5%	3%	2%	3%	6%		3%	2%	4%	2%	7%	4%	3%

5. Thomas Golisano

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
favorable	33%	31%	37%	33%	36%	31%	23%	20%	49%	34%	27%	40%	29%	34%	34%	39%	15%	38%	26%
unfavorable	17%	17%	15%	19%	21%	13%	15%	21%	15%	17%	21%	17%	10%	19%	17%	15%	19%	19%	15%
don't know/no opinion	50%	52%	47%	48%	43%	56%	62%	59%	36%	49%	52%	43%	61%	48%	49%	47%	67%	44%	59%

6. John Spencer																				
		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other	
favorable	12%	12%	13%	12%	12%	12%	10%	13%	13%	11%	17%	10%	18%	11%	12%	13%	9%	12%	13%	
unfavorable	9%	8%	10%	8%	11%	6%	9%	10%	7%	7%	13%	23%	8%	11%	7%	11%	4%	7%	10%	
don't know/no opinion	79%	80%	78%	80%	76%	82%	81%	77%	80%	81%	69%	67%	75%	79%	81%	76%	87%	81%	77%	
7. William Weld																				
		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other	
favorable	9%	8%	9%	10%	13%	5%	6%	9%	11%	8%	15%	7%	14%	8%	9%	7%	7%	11%	6%	
unfavorable	15%	18%	14%	14%	20%	10%	12%	14%	18%	16%	12%	20%	14%	17%	14%	15%	17%	15%	13%	
don't know/no opinion	76%	74%	78%	75%	67%	84%	81%	77%	71%	76%	73%	73%	73%	74%	78%	78%	76%	74%	82%	
8. Tom Suozzi																				
		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other	
favorable	18%	14%	19%	23%	22%	14%	15%	43%	6%	19%	15%	20%	14%	25%	14%	19%	28%	16%	13%	
unfavorable	12%	13%	11%	12%	15%	8%	10%	14%	12%	11%	15%	13%	14%	14%	9%	15%	4%	6%	14%	
don't know/no opinion	70%	73%	70%	65%	62%	78%	76%	44%	82%	71%	69%	67%	73%	61%	77%	66%	69%	78%	74%	
9. Andrew Cuomo																				
		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other	
favorable	45%	55%	33%	43%	43%	47%	50%	45%	42%	44%	60%	47%	30%	48%	47%	50%	48%	43%	34%	
unfavorable	31%	23%	41%	34%	36%	26%	28%	33%	32%	34%	15%	27%	25%	35%	29%	30%	30%	34%	25%	
don't know/no opinion	24%	22%	26%	23%	21%	26%	22%	22%	26%	22%	25%	27%	45%	17%	23%	20%	22%	23%	40%	
10. Jeanine Pirro																				
		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion				
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other	
favorable	26%	20%	31%	28%	27%	24%	19%	40%	21%	26%	35%	17%	23%	27%	26%	28%	22%	30%	23%	
unfavorable	30%	38%	19%	30%	32%	27%	35%	27%	27%	30%	25%	33%	24%	28%	33%	28%	39%	23%	22%	
don't know/no opinion	45%	42%	50%	42%	41%	49%	45%	33%	52%	44%	40%	50%	54%	45%	42%	43%	39%	47%	55%	

11. I know it is a long way off, but if the election for governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were Thomas Golisano on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Thomas Golisano	29%	10%	55%	28%	30%	27%	15%	27%	39%	33%	6%	20%	19%	34%	27%	35%	15%	31%	25%
Eliot Spitzer	55%	78%	34%	47%	55%	55%	68%	55%	46%	51%	87%	67%	65%	50%	57%	47%	74%	56%	53%
don't know/no opinion	16%	12%	11%	25%	14%	18%	17%	18%	15%	16%	8%	13%	16%	17%	15%	18%	11%	13%	22%

12. How about if the candidates were William Weld on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
William Weld	17%	5%	36%	15%	20%	15%	13%	20%	18%	20%	6%	10%	16%	19%	16%	22%	13%	14%	15%
Eliot Spitzer	60%	82%	41%	49%	58%	62%	70%	54%	56%	58%	81%	70%	64%	58%	60%	54%	74%	65%	56%
don't know/no opinion	23%	13%	23%	35%	22%	23%	16%	25%	26%	23%	13%	20%	20%	23%	23%	24%	13%	22%	29%

13. How about if the candidates were Tom Suozzi on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Tom Suozzi	20%	9%	38%	16%	22%	19%	13%	36%	16%	23%	4%	13%	18%	26%	16%	28%	19%	14%	18%
Eliot Spitzer	58%	80%	37%	48%	54%	60%	69%	48%	55%	54%	85%	70%	68%	52%	60%	50%	70%	62%	54%
don't know/no opinion	22%	11%	24%	36%	24%	21%	18%	17%	29%	23%	12%	17%	15%	22%	24%	22%	11%	23%	28%

14. Hillary Clinton has indicated she is running for re-election to the United States Senate. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect her or would you prefer someone else?

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
re-elect Clinton	59%	83%	34%	51%	55%	63%	73%	52%	53%	53%	92%	83%	73%	56%	58%	55%	63%	55%	60%
prefer someone else	37%	15%	63%	43%	40%	33%	22%	45%	42%	43%	6%	17%	23%	40%	37%	42%	28%	41%	31%
don't know/no opinion	4%	3%	4%	6%	5%	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	2%	0%	5%	4%	4%	2%	9%	4%	9%

15. Again, I know it is a long way off, but if the election for US Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and John Spencer on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (rotate choices)

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Hillary Clinton	58%	83%	31%	50%	54%	61%	73%	49%	53%	53%	85%	83%	70%	54%	58%	54%	63%	54%	60%
John Spencer	31%	10%	59%	32%	32%	29%	17%	40%	36%	36%	10%	13%	20%	34%	32%	37%	22%	38%	24%
don't know/no opinion	11%	7%	10%	19%	13%	9%	10%	12%	12%	11%	6%	3%	10%	12%	11%	9%	15%	8%	16%

16. Now, thinking about the election for New York State Attorney General. If that election was held tomorrow and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Jeanine Pirro on the Republican line, for whom would you vote?

		Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
Andrew Cuomo	49%	70%	25%	45%	45%	53%	65%	38%	44%	46%	60%	60%	49%	51%	46%	47%	48%	41%	52%
Jeanine Pirro	36%	17%	62%	36%	41%	31%	21%	50%	38%	40%	25%	20%	30%	34%	40%	40%	31%	47%	24%
don't know/no opinion	16%	13%	13%	19%	14%	16%	14%	12%	18%	14%	15%	20%	21%	15%	14%	13%	20%	13%	24%

Demographics:																			
Party:	t			Gender	t														
Democrat	42%			M	49%														
Republican	30%			F	51%														
Ind./Other	25%			Total	100%														
Refused	3%																		
Total	100%			Age:	t														
				18-34	13%														
Race/Ethnicity:	t			35-54	40%														
Caucasian/white	76%			55+	47%														
African American/Black	8%			refused	0%														
Hispanic/Latino	5%			Total	100%														
Other	10%																		
refused	1%																		
Total	100%																		
Region:	t																		
Upstate West	31%																		
Upstate East	13%																		
NYC Sub	26%																		
NYC	30%																		
Total	100%																		
Religion:	t																		
Catholic	40%																		
Jewish	9%																		
Protestant	21%																		
other	14%																		
no affiliation	13%																		
refused	3%																		
Total	100%																		