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SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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For Immediate Release:
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Siena New York Poll:

**NYers Oppose Legislative Pay Raise; Support Death Penalty
for Cop Killers; Nearly Evenly Divided on Gay Marriage**

*Support for Public Campaign Finance Reform; Voters Think
Spitzer Hurts Chances to Enact Reform Given His Fundraising*
Spitzer & Cuomo Job Performance Ratings Edge Up Slightly

Loudonville, NY By a nearly two-to-one margin, New York voters oppose a pay increase for state legislators, and they support reinstating the death penalty for those convicted of killing police officers, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll released today. The new Siena poll also shows that New Yorkers are divided on the issue of gay marriage, support public campaign financing for statewide offices and believe that Governor Eliot Spitzer's campaign finance reform legislation would make elections fairer. They also believe that the Governor's fundraising makes it more difficult to enact campaign finance reform.

"While New York voters want the Legislature to enact campaign finance reform and bring back the death penalty for cop killers, on the issue of the Legislature giving itself a pay raise, New Yorkers say 'no' strongly and loudly," said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman.

By a margin of 62-32 percent, New York voters oppose a legislative pay hike. At least 56 percent of Democrats, Republicans, independents, New York City and suburban voters oppose the pay hike, and by a margin of 70-24 percent upstaters oppose it.

"On the issue of gay marriage, New Yorkers are divided. While 43 percent support legalizing gay marriage, 47 percent oppose it. A majority of Democrats, voters under 55 years old and Jewish voters support gay marriage. Republicans are most strongly opposed, although a majority of independent voters, Catholics, Protestants and voters 55 and older also oppose such a law," Greenberg said.

Reinstating the death penalty for those convicted of killing law enforcement officials is supported by a margin of 52-42 percent. More than three-quarters of Republicans support it, a majority of Democrats oppose it and independent voters are nearly evenly divided. It has strong support in the downstate suburbs and upstate, but is opposed in New York City.

By a margin of 51-37 percent, New York voters support public campaign financing, with support strongest among Democrats, young voters and in New York City. Republicans and upstaters are essentially evenly divided. A plurality of every demographic group, and a majority of most, believe that the Governor's proposal on campaign finance reform would make elections fairer. Overall, 53 percent of voters think it would make elections fairer, seven percent think it would make elections less fair, and 28 percent think it would have no effect.

"New York voters tell Siena, 'Yes' to public campaign financing and 'Yes' to Governor Spitzer's campaign finance reform," Greenberg said. "But they also say the Governor is hurting his chances of getting reform because of the fundraising he has been doing, which has received a lot of attention."

Spitzer's favorable/unfavorable rating is 67-21 percent, virtually unchanged in the last month. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's favorable/unfavorable rating, 51-32 percent, was also essentially unchanged in the last month. Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's favorable/unfavorable rating fell to 7-18 percent, down from 11-14 percent in April.

"Spitzer and Cuomo both saw their favorable ratings remain constant but both enjoy strengthened job performance ratings. By a 57-36 margin, voters give Spitzer a positive job performance rating, and Cuomo has a positive 50-35 percent rating," Greenberg said. "Five months into their terms, both Cuomo and Spitzer are getting good reviews from most voters, although not from Republicans.

"New York voters remain overwhelmingly upbeat downstate, and even a plurality of upstaters think the state is headed in the right direction. Young voters and Democrats are very optimistic, while a plurality of Republicans say the state is headed in the wrong direction," Greenberg said.

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Siena New York Poll Trends – May 2007

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2007	67	21	12
April 2007	67	20	13
March 2007	62	20	18
February 2007	74	12	14
January 2007	75	10	16
November 15, 2006	75	14	12
November 3, 2006	74	17	10
October 2006	69	20	12
September 2006	74	16	10
August 2006	71	15	15
June 2006	68	16	16
May 2006	63	19	19
March 2006	62	18	20
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

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

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2007	11	46	27	9	7
April 2007	10	45	31	7	7
March 2007	8	39	31	8	13
February 2007	15	43	21	3	20
January 2007	11	37	15	4	33

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2007	7	18	75
April 2007	11	14	76
March 2007	9	14	78
February 2007	9	15	76

Siena New York Poll Trends – May 2007

Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2007	51	32	18
April 2007	52	31	18
March 2007	50	32	19
February 2007	45	35	20
January 2007	48	29	23
November 15, 2006	50	36	15
November 3, 2006	49	36	15
October 2006	44	42	15
September 2006	50	35	15
August 2006	44	35	21
June 2006	47	29	24
January 2006	45	31	24

How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Attorney General – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
May 2007	9	41	26	9	16
April 2007	8	39	29	9	15
March 2007	5	35	29	8	23
January 2007	11	37	15	4	33

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
May 2007	46	29	25
April 2007	47	29	24
March 2007	37	37	26
February 2007	49	26	25
January 2007	45	26	30
November 15, 2006	52	30	18
November 3, 2006	36	43	21
October 2006	29	47	23
September 2006:	33	39	28
August 2006	29	47	25
June 2006	29	45	26
May 2006	27	52	21
March 2006	35	39	26
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	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr. Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
right track	46%	55%	35%	40%	47%	45%	48%	51%	41%	47%	35%	62%	67%	48%	43%	47%	61%	44%	35%
wrong direction	29%	19%	42%	34%	33%	26%	23%	28%	36%	30%	35%	19%	14%	32%	29%	32%	15%	32%	35%
don't know/no opinion	25%	26%	23%	25%	20%	29%	29%	21%	23%	24%	30%	19%	20%	20%	28%	21%	24%	24%	31%

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. Eliot Spitzer

	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	67%	79%	52%	59%	65%	68%	71%	55%	71%	68%	67%	71%	63%	69%	67%	63%	79%	66%	58%
unfavorable	21%	14%	30%	25%	22%	19%	17%	29%	18%	21%	21%	19%	22%	21%	20%	25%	8%	19%	25%
don't know/no opinion	12%	7%	18%	16%	12%	12%	12%	16%	10%	12%	12%	10%	16%	10%	13%	12%	13%	15%	16%

4. Thomas DiNapoli

	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	7%	7%	8%	7%	9%	5%	7%	10%	6%	8%	2%	14%	12%	10%	5%	9%	3%	3%	4%
unfavorable	18%	18%	18%	17%	20%	15%	18%	17%	17%	17%	16%	33%	31%	17%	16%	18%	11%	17%	20%
don't know/no opinion	75%	75%	74%	76%	70%	80%	75%	73%	77%	76%	81%	52%	57%	72%	79%	74%	85%	80%	76%

5. 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	51%	67%	26%	45%	47%	53%	61%	44%	45%	48%	70%	71%	49%	46%	53%	47%	68%	46%	51%
unfavorable	32%	18%	53%	35%	35%	29%	26%	40%	31%	34%	14%	24%	27%	33%	32%	36%	15%	31%	31%
don't know/no opinion	18%	15%	20%	20%	18%	17%	13%	15%	24%	18%	16%	5%	24%	21%	16%	17%	18%	23%	18%

13. How would you rate the job that Eliot Spitzer is doing as Governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	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
excellent	11%	15%	6%	9%	12%	10%	12%	12%	10%	11%	14%	14%	14%	12%	10%	10%	13%	10%	9%
good	46%	52%	36%	45%	45%	46%	44%	39%	52%	46%	44%	48%	47%	45%	45%	40%	58%	53%	38%
fair	27%	22%	36%	26%	25%	29%	28%	28%	25%	27%	33%	24%	29%	26%	27%	28%	19%	27%	36%
poor	9%	5%	14%	11%	10%	8%	8%	12%	9%	10%	2%	10%	4%	10%	9%	15%	0%	5%	9%
don't know/no opinion	7%	6%	8%	9%	7%	7%	8%	10%	5%	7%	7%	5%	6%	6%	8%	7%	10%	5%	7%

14. How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Attorney General? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?																			
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr. Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
excellent	9%	12%	5%	7%	8%	9%	10%	7%	8%	9%	12%	5%	0%	7%	10%	9%	13%	9%	5%
good	41%	49%	29%	37%	37%	44%	43%	36%	42%	39%	51%	52%	49%	38%	41%	38%	47%	47%	35%
fair	26%	21%	36%	22%	25%	26%	25%	28%	24%	26%	21%	29%	37%	23%	26%	29%	13%	22%	31%
poor	9%	4%	13%	13%	11%	7%	8%	12%	8%	9%	5%	10%	8%	11%	8%	10%	2%	5%	16%
don't know/no opinion	16%	14%	16%	21%	19%	14%	14%	17%	18%	17%	12%	5%	6%	21%	16%	14%	26%	17%	13%
15. Governor Spitzer has proposed a bill to legalize gay marriage in New York State. Do you support or oppose such a law?																			
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr. Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
support	43%	56%	26%	37%	44%	43%	49%	42%	38%	46%	33%	48%	63%	51%	37%	36%	60%	35%	35%
oppose	47%	34%	65%	53%	47%	47%	42%	50%	49%	44%	53%	48%	29%	41%	51%	53%	26%	53%	58%
don't know/no opinion	10%	10%	9%	10%	10%	11%	9%	7%	13%	10%	14%	5%	8%	8%	12%	11%	15%	11%	7%
16. Do you support or oppose reinstating the death penalty in New York State for people convicted of killing police officers and other law enforcement officials?																			
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr. Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
support	52%	40%	77%	49%	54%	51%	42%	60%	57%	55%	28%	43%	45%	49%	55%	57%	50%	57%	40%
oppose	42%	53%	19%	47%	40%	44%	50%	36%	39%	40%	65%	38%	47%	44%	40%	38%	42%	38%	45%
don't know/no opinion	6%	7%	4%	4%	7%	5%	8%	5%	4%	5%	7%	19%	8%	8%	5%	5%	8%	5%	15%
17. Do you support or oppose instituting a system of public campaign financing for statewide offices – like governor, attorney general and comptroller – in New York State?																			
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr. Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
support	51%	57%	42%	49%	53%	48%	58%	52%	42%	50%	53%	62%	59%	45%	52%	43%	63%	50%	47%
oppose	37%	31%	43%	40%	38%	36%	31%	37%	42%	38%	30%	38%	31%	43%	35%	45%	23%	36%	35%
don't know/no opinion	13%	11%	15%	11%	9%	16%	11%	11%	16%	12%	16%	0%	10%	12%	13%	12%	15%	14%	18%
18. Governor Spitzer has recently proposed campaign finance reform legislation which he says will limit the influence of big money special interests in New York elections. Do you think his proposal would make elections fairer, less fair or have no effect?																			
	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr. Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
fairer	53%	59%	45%	49%	48%	58%	54%	58%	49%	54%	56%	52%	63%	55%	51%	49%	74%	54%	47%
less fair	7%	7%	11%	2%	9%	5%	9%	6%	6%	6%	9%	14%	4%	8%	7%	8%	2%	7%	7%
no effect	28%	23%	31%	36%	31%	26%	25%	28%	32%	28%	26%	33%	29%	28%	28%	33%	11%	28%	35%
don't know/no opinion	12%	11%	13%	13%	13%	10%	12%	9%	13%	12%	9%	0%	4%	10%	13%	10%	13%	11%	11%

19. While the Governor is pushing the Legislature on campaign finance reform, he has been raising campaign money himself, even though his election is in 2010. While he has voluntarily and significantly reduced the amount of money his campaign will accept, some have said he is being hypocritical raising campaign funds while promoting campaign finance reform. Do you think the Governor's fundraising makes it more difficult to enact campaign finance reform?

	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
yes	56%	49%	63%	63%	54%	57%	55%	53%	58%	57%	49%	52%	45%	54%	58%	63%	48%	51%	60%
no	30%	37%	24%	25%	35%	26%	31%	34%	27%	30%	40%	33%	47%	32%	27%	27%	27%	34%	27%
don't know/no opinion	14%	14%	14%	11%	11%	16%	14%	13%	15%	13%	12%	14%	8%	14%	15%	11%	24%	15%	13%

20. State legislators currently receive a base salary of \$79,500, and most make additional money for committee or leadership assignments. Lately there has been talk of legislators increasing their salary for the first time since 1999. Do you support or oppose a pay hike for state legislators?

	Total	Party			GENDER		Region			Ethnic			AGE			Religion			
		Dem	Rep	Ind./ Other	M	F	NYC	NYC Suburbs	Upstate	White	Afr.Am./ Black	Latino	18-34	35-54	55+	Cath.	Jewish	Prot.	Other
yes	32%	36%	24%	29%	36%	27%	35%	37%	24%	31%	42%	43%	45%	30%	31%	32%	29%	24%	36%
no	62%	56%	70%	66%	58%	66%	57%	57%	70%	62%	56%	57%	47%	63%	63%	64%	53%	69%	60%
don't know/no opinion	7%	8%	6%	5%	6%	7%	8%	6%	6%	7%	2%	0%	8%	8%	6%	4%	18%	6%	4%