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Siena College NYS Democratic Primary Poll:
Among Likely Democratic Primary Voters:
Cuomo Leads Nixon Two-to-One, 60-29 Percent
James Has Early Lead Over AG Field; Four in Ten Dems Undecided
Hochul Leads Williams for LG; Half of Dems Unsure; Both Little Known

Loudonville, NY. With a little more than six weeks until primary day, Governor Andrew Cuomo holds a two-to-one, 60-29 percent lead over Cynthia Nixon in the battle for the Democratic nomination for Governor, according to a new Siena College poll of likely Democratic primary voters. Cuomo has a 67-29 percent favorability rating, compared to Nixon's 43-30 percent favorability rating.

In the race for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General, New York City Public Advocate Letitia James has the support of 25 percent of likely voters, compared to 16 percent for Representative Sean Patrick Maloney, 13 percent for Zephyr Teachout and four percent for Leecia Eve, with 42 percent of likely Democrats saying they are undecided. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul leads New York City Councilman Jumaane Williams 30-21 percent, with half of Democrats undecided in the primary race for Lieutenant Governor.

"Andrew Cuomo, viewed favorably by two-thirds of Democratic voters, has a commanding 31-point lead over Cynthia Nixon, who's viewed favorably by a plurality of Democrats, with one-quarter not knowing enough about her to have an opinion," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "Cuomo leads by 21 points upstate, 29 points in New York City and 58 points in the downstate suburbs, where he leads 74-16 percent.

"Democrats under 35 years-old back Cuomo by a comfortable, low double-digit 14 points, and Democrats 35-54 years-old favor him by 17 points. However, voters 55 and older, likely to make up the majority of the electorate, support Cuomo 64-25 percent, or by 39 points," Greenberg said.

Andrew Cuomo vs. Cynthia Nixon				
	Cuomo	**Nixon**	**DK/ Other**	**Cuomo Lead**
Likely Primary Voters	**60%**	**29%**	**11%**	**31 Points**
New York City	60%	31%	8%	29 Points
Downstate Suburbs	74%	16%	10%	58 Points
Upstate	54%	33%	13%	21 Points
Men	59%	33%	8%	26 Points
Women	61%	27%	12%	34 Points
White	56%	33%	11%	23 Points
Black	75%	19%	6%	56 Points
Latino	67%	28%	5%	39 Points
18-34 years old	51%	37%	12%	14 Points
35-54 years old	54%	37%	9%	17 Points
55+ years old	64%	25%	10%	39 Points
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"Liberal Democrats are strongly with Cuomo, while moderates are overwhelmingly with Cuomo. Nixon trails among men by 26 points and an even larger 34 points with women. Cuomo has the support of three-quarters of black Democrats and two-thirds of Latinos," Greenberg said.

"More than 80 percent of Democrats supporting Cuomo say they are voting *for* him more than voting *against* Nixon, however, 60 percent of Nixon voters say their vote is more *against* Cuomo than it is *for* her," Greenberg said. "Nixon has the anti-Cuomo Democrats but she'll need to expand on that to make this race competitive.

"Small pluralities of Democrats say Nixon would be a better Governor than Cuomo on advancing progressive policies and combatting state government corruption," Greenberg said. "A plurality of voters says Cuomo would be better than Nixon on improving public education. A

Who Will Do A Better Job – Cuomo or Nixon – on Issues?		Likely Dems	Cuomo Voters	Nixon Voters
Combatting corruption in state government	**Cuomo**	40%	**60%**	11%
	Nixon	**46%**	28%	**83%**
Fixing NY's infrastructure, including mass transit as well as roads & bridges	**Cuomo**	61%	84%	23%
	Nixon	26%	7%	**67%**
Advancing progressive policies	**Cuomo**	40%	**61%**	7%
	Nixon	**45%**	25%	**87%**
Improving public education	**Cuomo**	48%	**72%**	11%
	Nixon	34%	14%	**79%**
Creating a tax structure fair for all New Yorkers	**Cuomo**	51%	**76%**	11%
	Nixon	30%	9%	**72%**
Siena College Poll – July 31, 2018 – Likely Democratic Primary Voters				

majority says Cuomo would be better on creating a fair tax structure. And a strong majority of Democrats says Cuomo would be better than Nixon fixing New York's infrastructure – mass transit and roads and bridges.

"Not surprisingly, Nixon voters say she'd be better on all the issues, although about a quarter of her supporters say Cuomo would be better on infrastructure. Similarly, Cuomo does better on all the issues with his voters, although he loses about a quarter of his supporters to Nixon on corruption and progressive policies," Greenberg said. "Both younger voters and liberals – despite favoring Cuomo in the horse race – say Nixon is better on three of the five issues: corruption, progressive policies and public education."

James Has Early Lead in Race for AG Nomination; Long Way to Go, with 42 Percent Undecided

James has 36-10 percent favorability rating, with 54 percent having no opinion. Teachout's favorability rating is 27-12-61 percent, with Mahoney at 21-12-67 and Eve at 9-7-83.

"The four-way race for the Democratic nomination for Attorney General has a frontrunner in James but Maloney and Teachout are certainly within shouting distance and Eve is running far behind. The plurality of Democrats, however, are undecided," Greenberg said. "It's not surprising that the race is wide open since none of the candidates are particularly well known to voters.

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"James has solid constituencies among New York City, younger, black and Latino voters. White voters are closely divided among Maloney, Teachout and James. Older voters give James a small edge lead over Maloney. Downstate suburban voters favor Maloney by 10 points over James. Upstate Democrats favor Maloney with a slim four-point lead over Teachout," Greenberg said. "James and Teachout virtually tie for the lead with liberals.

"Over the next six weeks, all of these candidates have a lot of work to do to become known to Democratic primary voters and then get them to the polls in what is likely to be – sadly – a low turnout election," Greenberg said. "Although James has the early lead, there's a long way to go in this race before we know which Democrat will take on Republican Keith Wofford to succeed Barbara Underwood in an election with no incumbent."

Hochul Leads Williams in LG Race by Nine Points; Half of Democrats Are Undecided

Hochul has a 21-11-68 percent favorability rating, compared to Williams' 20-8-72 percent favorability rating.

"Both candidates are essentially unknown to between two-thirds and three-quarters of likely Democratic primary voters. Half of those voters couldn't tell you who they'll support for the second spot on the top of the ticket," Greenberg said. "With a lead of only 30-21 percent, Hochul is far from a shoe-in to win renomination as Lieutenant Governor.

"Although Williams has a nine-point edge in New York City, which is likely to produce about half of all voters, he trails Hochul by seven points in the downstate suburbs, and upstate Hochul has a commanding 48-11 percent lead," Greenberg said. "Black voters favor Williams by 33 points. Latino voters are evenly divided. And white voters favor Hochul by 22 points, as do liberals by 10 points."

Democrats Optimistic About Direction of the State

"By a two-to-one, 55-28 percent, margin, Democrats likely to vote in the September primary say the state is on the right track. Interestingly, there is virtually no difference between New York City Democrats – 54-30 percent – and upstate Democrats – 53-31 percent. Suburban Democrats are far more optimistic, saying the state is on the right track by a 66-16 percent margin, which may explain that it's the region giving Cuomo his largest lead over Nixon."

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