Siena College Poll:

By 2-to-1, NYers Oppose Requirement to Turn In Old License Plates for New Ones; Three-Quarters Say $25 Fee is Unfair

Strong Support to Consolidate Presidential & Other Primaries in April

Cuomo's Ratings with Voters Improve; Trump's Ratings Take a Hit

NY Dems Favor Biden (22%), Warren (17%) & Sanders (15%); 1/3 Still Unsure

Loudonville, NY. By a 60-31 percent margin, New Yorkers oppose the recently announced requirement that motorists must turn in license plates that are more than 10-years-old and replace them with new plates. An even larger majority, 75-23 percent, think the $25 license replacement fee is unfair, according to today's new Siena College Poll of registered New York State voters. Ten percent of New Yorkers say they voted in the recent online poll to select a new license plate design, and another third say they were aware of the poll but didn't vote.

At least 63 percent of Democrats, Republicans and independents support consolidating all primaries next year on one day in April, rather than the currently scheduled April presidential primary and June congressional, state and local primaries. Governor Andrew Cuomo's favorability and job performance ratings improved from all-time lows last month and his favorability rating is now back in positive territory. President Donald Trump's favorability rating fell to its lowest level since January, and only 28 percent of voters are prepared to re-elect him.

"New Yorkers of every stripe – regardless of party, region, gender, race, or age – oppose the new requirement to surrender license plates that are at least a decade old for newly designed state license plates. Opposition is smaller with Democrats, New York City voters, and black, Latino and younger voters, however, a majority or plurality of each of those groups oppose this new requirement on motorists," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"When it comes to the $25 license replacement fee, New Yorkers are even more united in their opposition. At least two-thirds of voters from every party, region, gender, race, or age group say the $25 license replacement fee is unfair. Bottom line message from voters to state: NO2PL8FEE," Greenberg said. "Surprisingly, 40 percent of New Yorkers say they were aware of the late summer online poll to select the new license plate design, and 10 percent say they voted online to choose the new design."

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New Yorkers Prefer One Primary Day in 2020, Rather than Two, as Currently Scheduled

In 2016, New York had three primary days – presidential in April, congressional in June, and state and local primaries in September. Since then, the Governor and Legislature combined the congressional, state and local primaries into one June primary date. Next year, New York is currently scheduled to have two primaries – the presidential primary on April 28 and congressional, state and local primaries on June 23.

"Governor Cuomo – who has proposed consolidating New York's two 2020 primary days into one April primary for all offices – has found an issue that has broad bipartisan support. At least 60 percent of Democrats, Republican, independents, upstaters, and downstaters support holding one primary in April for all offices, rather than the presidential primary in April and other primaries in June," Greenberg said. "Interestingly, while more than two-thirds of white voters and voters 55 and older support consolidating the primaries, voters under 35 are only slightly in support of consolidation, while black voters are evenly divided."

New York Democrats Favor Biden, Warren & Sanders; Biden Seen as Having Best Chance to Win

Asked which candidate they want to see be their party's nominee for president, 22 percent of Democrats say they are supporting former Vice President Joe Biden, closely followed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (17 percent) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (15 percent). Sen. Kamala Harris has the support of four percent, followed by Mayor Pete Buttigieg with three percent. No other candidate tops one percent. When asked who has the best chance to win in 2020, 37 percent say Biden, with Warren (13 percent) and Sanders (11 percent) trailing far behind.

"Although Biden, Warren and Sanders are leading the pack among New York Democrats, more than one-third of those Democrats – more than support frontrunner Joe Biden – are still undecided," Greenberg said. "We're still more than four months until Iowa and New Hampshire Democrats vote, and seven months until New York Democrats weigh in on the Democratic presidential nomination.

"The national frontrunners are leading with New York Democrats as well. Biden leads with men and women, in New York City and upstate, with white and black voters, and with voters 35 and older. Warren leads with the downstate suburbs and Latino voters, while Sanders is the strong choice of voters under 35," Greenberg said.

Cuomo Poll Bounce; Favorability Barely Back in Positive Territory; Job Performance Still Under Water

Cuomo has a 48-46 percent favorability rating, up from *negative* 43-50 percent in August. His job performance rating is 38-59 percent, up from 34-64 percent last month.

"Cuomo's favorability rating bounced back into positive territory, albeit by two points. He saw the most gain with independents, among whom he's now evenly divided, and upstate voters, with whom he's now under water by 16 points, a significant improvement from 33 points last month," Greenberg said. "And by 49-35 percent (little changed from last month), voters say Cuomo has made New York better in the last nine years as governor."

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Trump Favorability Falls to Lowest Since January; Re-elect = 28%, Two-Thirds Prefer 'Someone Else'

Trump has a *negative* 32-64 percent favorability rating, down from 35-62 percent in August. His job performance rating is 28-72 percent, down significantly from 34-66 percent last month. While 28 percent of voters are prepared to re-elect Trump, 66 percent would prefer 'someone else.'

"Trump, with a two-to-one negative favorability rating, has hit his lowest favorability rating since January. His job performance rating, with nearly three-quarters of New Yorkers giving him negative reviews, is the worst it's been this year," Greenberg said. "The President continues to enjoy strong support from Republicans but that's it. While two-thirds of Republicans are prepared to re-elect Trump, 87 percent of Democrats and 61 percent of independents would prefer 'someone else.'"

New Yorkers Say Opioid Crisis Continues to Get Worse Across the State & In their Community

In the state, 64 percent of voters say the opioid crisis has worsened, compared to four percent who say it's improved and 23 percent who say it's stayed about the same. In their community, 43 percent say worse, seven percent improved and 38 percent the same.

"Across the country and state, elected officials and politicians have been bemoaning and battling the opioid crisis for years, with several measures to address it being enacted into law. Despite those efforts, a plurality of New Yorkers says the opioid crisis in their community has worsened and nearly two-thirds say it has gotten worse statewide," Greenberg said. "Democrats and New York City voters are not quite as pessimistic, but there is no group of New Yorkers who think the crisis has improved, either statewide or in their community."

Odds & Ends

➤ By a 50-39 percent margin (up slightly from 48-41 percent in March), voters want to keep fusion voting.

➤ Opposition to the new law allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain a New York driver's license has narrowed. It is now opposed 50-45 percent, down from 53-43 percent opposition last month.

➤ Support continues, down a little, for legalizing recreational use of marijuana in New York. It is now supported 52-43 percent, down from 55-40 percent in June. In more than two years of polling, support has always been between 52 and 56 percent, and opposition has always been between 40 and 44 percent.

➤ NYS right track/wrong direction is 47-40 percent, up from 45-44 percent last month, its best showing since January. US right track/wrong direction is 33-59 percent, down from 37-53 percent in August.

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Favorability Ratings					
	Fav	**Unfav**	**DK/NO**	**Net**	**Net from August**
NYS Senate	**46%**	36%	18%	+10	+5
Chuck Schumer	**48%**	39%	13%	+9	-5
NYS Assembly	**43%**	35%	23%	+7	+2
Nancy Pelosi	**47%**	41%	12%	+6	NA
Kirsten Gillibrand	**41%**	36%	23%	+5	E
Andrew Cuomo	**48%**	46%	6%	+2	+9
Mitch McConnell	22%	**48%**	30%	-26	NA
Donald Trump	32%	**64%**	4%	-32	-5
Bill de Blasio	25%	**57%**	18%	-32	-1
Siena College Poll – September 17, 2019					

Andrew Cuomo Favorability 2011-2019
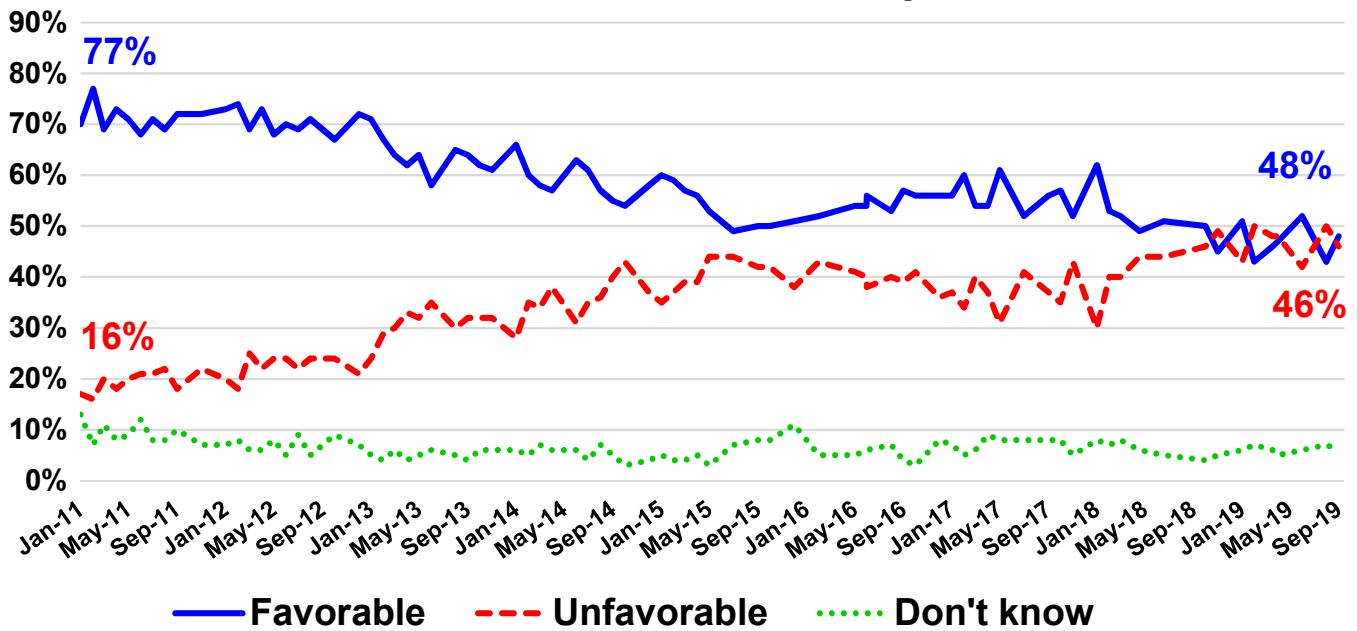
Siena College Polls 2011-2019

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Siena College Poll Trends – September 2019

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
September 2019	47	40	12
August 2019	45	44	11
June 2019	44	43	12
April 2019	42	46	13
March 2019	43	46	11
February 2019	44	45	11
January 2019	49	40	11
HIGHEST EVER	**57 (1/13)**	**76 (10/31/10)**	**30 (1/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**14 (10/10)**	**26 (1/07)**	**7 (2/17, 5/13)**

Q. 2   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
September 2019	2	26	45	22	5
April 2019	4	23	37	30	6
January 2019	4	27	39	24	7
HIGHEST EVER	**4 (4/19, 1/19)**	**29 (7/14)**	**49 (8/12)**	**67 (3/22/10)**	**7 (1/19)**
LOWEST EVER	**0 (many)**	**6 (3/22/10, etc.)**	**25 (3/22/10)**	**21 (12/16)**	**0 (4/11, etc.)**

Q. 3   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
September 2019	33	59	8
August 2019	37	53	10
June 2019	33	60	7
April 2019	36	54	9
March 2019	34	57	9
February 2019	35	57	8
January 2019	32	62	6
HIGHEST EVER	**62 (5/09)**	**74 (10/13, 8/11)**	**17 (9/08)**
LOWEST EVER	**19 (10/13, 10/08)**	**24 (12/09)**	**5 (1/13)**

Q. 6   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	48	46	6
August 2019	43	50	7
June 2019	52	42	6
April 2019	47	48	5
March 2019	46	48	6
February 2019	43	50	7
January 2019	51	43	6
HIGHEST EVER	**77 (2/11)**	**50 (8/19, 2/19)**	**24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**43 (8/19, 2/19)**	**14 (8/09)**	**3 (10/16, 10/20/10)**

Q. 7   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	42	35	23
August 2019	43	38	19
June 2019	47	36	17
April 2019	48	33	19
March 2019	44	35	21
February 2019	43	38	18
January 2019	48	32	20
HIGHEST EVER	**48 (4/19, 1/19)**	**61 (7/10)**	**23 (9/19)**
LOWEST EVER	**25 (7/10)**	**32 (1/19)**	**10 (5/15)**

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	46	36	18
August 2019	45	40	16
June 2019	46	39	16
April 2019	46	39	16
March 2019	46	38	16
February 2019	43	41	17
January 2019	49	38	13
HIGHEST EVER	**50 (2/17)**	**74 (7/09)**	**18 (9/19)**
LOWEST EVER	**20 (7/09)**	**35 (5/17)**	**6 (7/09)**

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	32	64	4
August 2019	35	62	3
June 2019	34	63	3
April 2019	38	59	3
March 2019	36	60	5
February 2019	35	59	6
January 2019	32	64	4
HIGHEST EVER	**41 (12/16)**	**72 (8/16)**	**10 (10/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**24 (8/16)**	**53 (12/16)**	**2 (9/15)**

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	48	39	13
August 2019	53	39	8
June 2019	54	40	6
April 2019	49	43	8
March 2019	51	41	8
February 2019	47	46	7
January 2019	53	39	8
HIGHEST EVER	**70 (7/05)**	**46 (2/19)**	**17 (2/05)**
LOWEST EVER	**47 (2/19)**	**20 (2/05, 11/06)**	**4 (10/31/10)**

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	41	36	23
August 2019	41	36	23
June 2019	44	36	20
April 2019	41	35	24
March 2019	43	33	23
February 2019	44	34	21
January 2019	48	31	21
HIGHEST EVER	**61 (12/12)**	**36 (9/19, 8/19, 6/19)**	**56 (1/09)**
LOWEST EVER	**26 (3/09)**	**14 (1/09)**	**14 (10/31/10)**

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	25	57	18
August 2019	26	57	17
June 2019	29	53	17
April 2019	33	50	17
March 2019	34	50	16
January 2019	38	46	16
HIGHEST EVER	**44 (1/18)**	**57 (9/19, 8/19)**	**32 (11/13)**
LOWEST EVER	**25 (9/19)**	**27 (11/13)**	**15 (2/16)**

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Nancy Pelosi?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	47	41	12
June 2019	47	45	8
May 2017	43	41	16
HIGHEST EVER	47 (9/19, 6/19)	45 (6/19)	16 (5/17)
LOWEST EVER	43 (5/17)	41 (9/19, 5/17)	8 (6/19)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mitch McConnell?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	22	48	30
June 2019	25	50	24
May 2017	20	48	32
HIGHEST EVER	25 (6/19)	50 (6/19)	32 (5/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (5/17)	48 (9/19, 5/17)	24 (6/19)

Q. 15 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	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	7	31	34	25	2
August 2019	6	28	32	32	2
June 2019	7	31	34	27	1
April 2019	8	29	32	30	2
March 2019	7	31	32	29	1
February 2019	8	27	33	31	2
January 2019	9	34	31	25	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	32 (8/19)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	27 (2/19)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 16 Taking everything into consideration, do you think in nine years as Governor, Andrew Cuomo has made New York a better place OR a worse place to live?

DATE	BETTER	WORSE	(SAME)	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	49	35	9	7
August 2019	51	39	5	5
HIGHEST EVER	51 (8/19)	39 (8/19)	9 (9/19)	7 (9/19)
LOWEST EVER	49 (9/19)	35 (9/19)	5 (8/19)	5 (8/19)

Q. 17 Donald Trump has said he's running for re-election as President in 2020. As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	28	66	6
August 2019	32	64	4
June 2019	29	68	3
HIGHEST EVER	32 (8/19)	68 (6/19)	6 (9/19)
LOWEST EVER	28 (9/19)	64 (8/19)	3 (6/19)

Q. 18 How would you rate the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	12	16	21	51	1
August 2019	17	17	16	50	1
June 2019	13	16	18	52	1
April 2019	17	18	17	48	0
March 2019	14	17	19	49	2
February 2019	14	19	16	50	1
HIGHEST EVER	19 (6/18)	19 (2/19, 7/17)	21 (9/19)	63 (10/17)	3 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	8 (10/17, 9/17)	13 (4/18)	12 (6/18)	48 (4/19, 2/17)	0 (4/19, 10/17)

Q. 19 Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	52	43	5
June 2019	55	40	5
April 2019	52	42	6
March 2019	53	43	4
February 2019	52	42	7
January 2019	56	41	3
April 2018	52	44	4
HIGHEST EVER	**56 (1/19, 2/18)**	44 (4/18)	7 (2/19)
LOWEST EVER	**52 (9/19, 4/19, 2/19, 4/18)**	40 (6/19, 2/18)	3 (1/19)

Q. 23 In June, New York passed a law allowing undocumented immigrants to get a New York driver's license. Do you support or oppose that new law?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	45	50	5
August 2019	43	53	4
HIGHEST EVER	**45 (9/19)**	53 (8/19)	**5 (9/19)**
LOWEST EVER	43 (8/19)	**50 (9/19)**	4 (8/19)

Q. 24 In New York, candidates for elected office can be endorsed by more than one political party and then the votes for that candidate from all parties get added together. Some have suggested eliminating what's called fusion voting, and only allowing candidates to appear on the ballot as the candidate of ONE political party. Should New York keep fusion voting – allowing candidates to represent multiple parties, or should New York end fusion voting – allowing candidates to only represent one party?

DATE	KEEP FUSION VOTING	END FUSION VOTING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	50	39	11
March 2019	48	41	11
HIGHEST EVER	**50 (9/19)**	41 (3/19)	**11 (9/19, 3/19)**
LOWEST EVER	48 (3/19)	**39 (9/19)**	**11 (9/19, 3/19)**

Q. 25 Looking ahead to 2020, would you vote to re-elect your state senator, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	45	36	19
August 2019	47	39	14
HIGHEST EVER	47 (8/19)	39 (8/19)	**19 (9/19)**
LOWEST EVER	**45 (9/19)**	**36 (9/19)**	14 (8/19)

Q. 26 And how about your state assemblymember, would you vote to re-elect your state assemblymember, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2019	43	31	25
August 2019	43	36	21
HIGHEST EVER	**43 (9/19, 8/19)**	36 (8/19)	**25 (9/19)**
LOWEST EVER	**43 (9/19, 8/19)**	**31 (9/19)**	21 (8/19)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: June thru November 2018, November 2017, September thru November 2016, July thru October 2014, August/October 2012, October 2010, September/October 2008, and September/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 January 2019.

"Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" are provided at the bottom of each question.

⌃ Inconsequential wording change.