# SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
## SIENA COLLEGE, LOUDONVILLE, NY
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**Siena College Poll:**

# By 2-to-1, Voters Say Moving Too Quickly to Loosen Stay-at-Home Orders is Bigger Danger than Moving Too Slowly

## 75% of NYers Think We Will Face Another Large COVID-19 Outbreak in the Fall; Yet, 64% of New Yorkers Think it Likely School Will Open in September

### *While 38% Say Legislature Should Resume Session, 55% Say There Will Be Time for Legislature to Reconvene After Crisis Has Subsided*

### *Cuomo Ratings Fall from Record Highs but Remain Strong; Small Plurality Gives Cuomo Negative Rating on Addressing Needs of Nursing Homes*

**Loudonville, NY.** By a margin of 65-32 percent, voters say moving too quickly to loosen stay-at-home orders – spreading the virus faster, resulting in more lives being lost – is a bigger danger than moving too slowly to loosen those orders – resulting in a worse economic impact and more jobs being lost – according to a new Siena College Poll of registered New York State voters released today.

Looking to the fall, 64 percent think it is at least somewhat likely that schools will reopen in September, and 75 percent say it is at least somewhat likely we will face another large outbreak of COVID-19. Fifty-five percent say there will be time for the Legislature to get back to business after the crisis has subsided, while 38 percent say the Legislature should resume session and start passing laws to help New Yorkers in the midst of the crisis.

"New Yorkers, including 79 percent of Democrats, 50 percent of Republicans and 54 percent of independents, see a bigger danger for the state in moving too quickly to reopen rather than in moving too slowly. Three-quarters of New York City voters are concerned about moving too quickly to end the stay-at-home orders, as are nearly 60 percent of upstaters and downstate suburbanites," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Forty-four percent of black voters and 27 percent of white voters live in a household where at least one person has been laid off, yet 84 percent of black voters are more concerned about opening too quickly, compared to 59 percent of white voters," Greenberg said. "Clearly, the devastating health consequences of the pandemic are of greater concern to New Yorkers than the devastating economic impacts. Only self-identified conservatives, by a margin of 50-45 percent, say the bigger danger for the state is in moving too slowly to reopen."

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"Asked to look into their crystal balls, voters are closely divided on whether they think large family gatherings without social distancing will be able to happen by July. Nearly two-thirds believe it likely that schools will reopen in September," Greenberg said. "At the same time, three-quarters of voters – 82 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents and 63 percent of Republicans – think another large COVID-19 outbreak is likely this fall. At least 73 percent of voters from every region think another outbreak is likely. And 84 percent say it's likely that those who can effectively work from home will be working from home for most of the rest of the year."

### Majority of Voters Not Clamoring for Legislature to Return to Session

"Democrats overwhelmingly say, 69-25 percent, that the Governor is appropriately using the emergency powers given to him by the Legislature and will have time to get back to business when the crisis subsides. However, a majority of Republicans, 55 percent, and a plurality of independents, 49 percent, say the Governor should not be acting unilaterally and the Legislature should resume session to pass laws to help New Yorkers," Greenberg said. "New York City voters strongly say the Legislature will have time to get back to business after the crisis, and by smaller majorities, downstate suburbanites and upstaters agree."

### Cuomo Ratings Strong but Down from Record Highs; Plurality Disapprove His Handling of Nursing Homes

Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 66-30 percent favorability rating, down from a record high 77-21 percent last month. His job performance rating is 63-36 percent, down from a record 71-28 percent. And voters approve his overall handling of the pandemic 76-21 percent, down from 84-15 percent in April.

"Cuomo's stratospheric ratings from New Yorkers in April have fallen from their record highs but remain very strong as two-thirds of voters still view him favorably, nearly two-thirds give him a positive job performance rating and more than three-quarters still approve of the job he's doing to address the pandemic," Greenberg said. "While Republicans still approve of his handling of the pandemic 56-39 percent, small majorities of Republicans view him unfavorably and give him a negative job performance rating."

| Gov. Cuomo Job Performance Ratings | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind | NYC | Downstate Suburbs | Upstate |
| Overall Job Performance | Positive | 63% | 77% | 44% | 53% | 75% | 56% | 54% |
| | Negative | 36% | 21% | 56% | 47% | 23% | 42% | 45% |
| Pandemic: Communicating with people of NY | Positive | 81% | 90% | 70% | 77% | 84% | 81% | 79% |
| | Negative | 18% | 9% | 30% | 23% | 15% | 18% | 22% |
| Pandemic: Implementing right plans for reopening NY | Positive | 64% | 77% | 49% | 53% | 72% | 62% | 56% |
| | Negative | 34% | 22% | 50% | 46% | 27% | 37% | 41% |
| Pandemic: Ensuring NYers entitled to UI receiving benefits | Positive | 59% | 65% | 49% | 51% | 65% | 54% | 54% |
| | Negative | 32% | 24% | 44% | 40% | 25% | 34% | 40% |
| Pandemic: Addressing needs of nursing homes across NY | Positive | 44% | 54% | 40% | 31% | 51% | 36% | 42% |
| | Negative | 48% | 39% | 55% | 61% | 41% | 54% | 54% |
| Siena College Poll – May 27, 2020 | | | | | | | | |

"When it comes to specific aspects of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, voters give Cuomo high marks for communicating with New Yorkers, 81-18 percent, implementing the right plans for reopening New York, 64-34 percent, and ensuring those entitled are receiving unemployment benefits, 59-32 percent," Greenberg said. "However, when it comes to addressing the needs of nursing homes, only 44 percent give him positive marks, compared to a plurality, 48 percent, who rate him negatively. While Democrats view his handling of nursing homes positively, 54-39 percent, 55 percent of Republicans and 61 percent of independents give him a negative grade. Voters 55 and older are closely divided, with 49 percent grading him positively and 46 percent negatively."

### Overwhelming Support for Wearing Masks; Vast Majority Wear One; Most See People Who Don't

By an 89-9 percent margin, voters support the Governor's order requiring face masks to be worn in public when social distancing cannot be maintained, little changed from 92-8 percent last month. Ninety-four percent say they wear a mask in public when social distancing cannot be maintained always (79 percent) or most of the time (15 percent). Yet, 71 percent say in the last week they have seen someone not wearing a mask who should be.

"Support for wearing masks in public is above 90 percent with Democrats and downstaters and at least 82 percent with Republicans, independents and upstaters," Greenberg said. "While fewer than 10 percent of voters from every party and region say they never or only sometimes wear a face mask in public, more than two-thirds of voters say they've encountered someone in the last week not wearing a mask when they should have been."

### Odds & Ends

➢ Fifty-seven percent of voters know someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, including more than two-thirds of downstaters, up from 51 percent last month.

➢ Thirty-seven percent know someone who has died from COVID-19, including nearly half of downstaters, compared to 32 percent last month who knew someone who had died.

➢ While New York voters continue to give Joe Biden a solid lead over Donald Trump in the race for President, 57-32 percent, that's down significantly from Biden's 65-29 percent lead in April.

➢ Voters still say New York is on the right track and not heading in the wrong direction 56-34 percent, down from 65-28 percent in April. New Yorkers are still negative about the direction of the country, 35-56 percent, up a little from 34-60 percent last month.
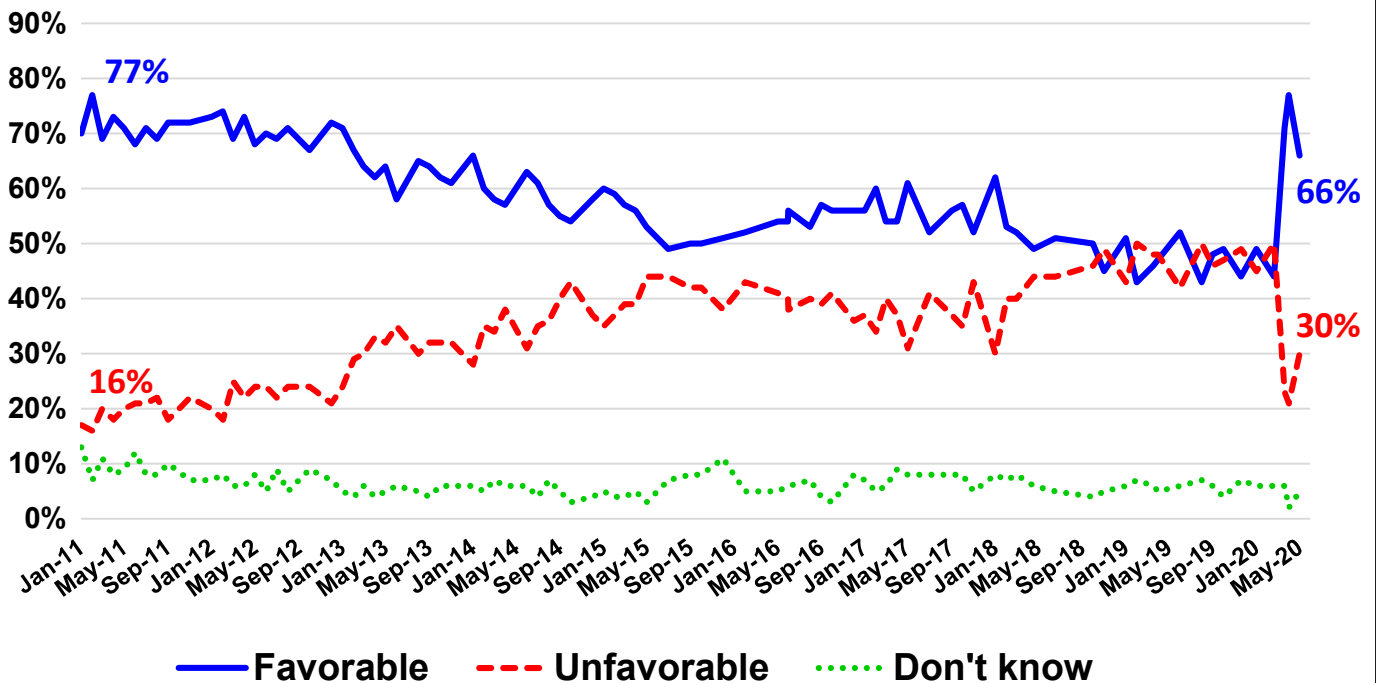
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## Approve / Disapprove of the Job Each is Doing to Address the Pandemic

| | | May 27 | | | | April 27 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind | Total | Dem | Rep | Ind |
| Andrew Cuomo | Approve | 76% | 89% | 56% | 66% | 84% | 93% | 74% | 76% |
| | Disapprove | 21% | 9% | 39% | 31% | 15% | 7% | 25% | 22% |
| Dr. Anthony Fauci | Approve | 75% | 85% | 67% | 68% | 81% | 84% | 85% | 74% |
| | Disapprove | 12% | 6% | 19% | 19% | 12% | 10% | 11% | 19% |
| *(Downstate Suburbs or Upstate Only):* Your local government leader | Approve | 68% | 75% | 67% | 62% | 78% | 86% | 75% | 73% |
| | Disapprove | 17% | 10% | 18% | 21% | 15% | 10% | 19% | 18% |
| *(NYC Only):* Bill de Blasio | Approve | 61% | 68% | 47% | 43% | 66% | 73% | 44% | 54% |
| | Disapprove | 31% | 26% | 44% | 41% | 30% | 23% | 54% | 41% |
| Donald Trump | Approve | 35% | 12% | 71% | 43% | 34% | 17% | 72% | 33% |
| | Disapprove | 61% | 84% | 27% | 50% | 65% | 83% | 27% | 66% |
| Siena College Poll – May 27, 2020 | | | | | | | | | |



**Andrew Cuomo Favorability 2011-2020**

Siena College Polls 2011- 2020

Legend: —— Favorable — — Unfavorable ······ Don't know

## Siena College Poll Trends – May 2020

**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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 56 | 34 | 10 |
| April 2020 | 65 | 28 | 7 |
| March 2020 | 56 | 27 | 17 |
| February 2020 | 41 | 46 | 13 |
| January 2020 | 49 | 41 | 10 |
| November 2019 | 45 | 42 | 13 |
| October 2019 | 46 | 44 | 10 |
| September 2019 | 47 | 40 | 12 |
| August 2019 | 45 | 44 | 11 |
| June 2019 | 44 | 43 | 12 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **65 (4/20)** | **76 (10/31/10)** | **30 (1/07)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **14 (10/10)** | **26 (1/07)** | **7 (4/20, 2/17, 5/13)** |

**Q. 2**  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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 35 | 56 | 9 |
| April 2020 | 34 | 60 | 6 |
| March 2020 | 42 | 47 | 11 |
| February 2020 | 38 | 55 | 7 |
| November 2019 | 32 | 58 | 10 |
| October 2019 | 31 | 62 | 7 |
| September 2019 | 33 | 59 | 8 |
| August 2019 | 37 | 53 | 10 |
| June 2019 | 33 | 60 | 7 |
| **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. 3**  Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 32 | 63 | 5 |
| April 2020 | 31 | 66 | 2 |
| March 2020 | 35 | 59 | 5 |
| February 2020 | 36 | 61 | 3 |
| January 2020 | 31 | 64 | 5 |
| November 2019 | 32 | 65 | 3 |
| October 2019 | 30 | 67 | 3 |
| September 2019 | 32 | 64 | 4 |
| August 2019 | 35 | 62 | 3 |
| June 2019 | 34 | 63 | 3 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **41 (12/16)** | **72 (8/16)** | **10 (10/13)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **24 (8/16)** | **53 (12/16)** | **2 (4/20, 9/15)** |

**Q. 4**  Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 51 | 40 | 9 |
| April 2020 | 60 | 36 | 4 |
| March 2020 | 51 | 40 | 9 |
| February 2020 | 45 | 47 | 7 |
| March 2016 | 50 | 30 | 10 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **62 (10/27/08)** | **47 (2/20)** | **28 (9/08)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **45 (2/20)** | **26 (9/08)** | **4 (4/20)** |

**Q. 5**  Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 66 | 30 | 5 |
| April 2020 | 77 | 21 | 2 |
| March 2020 | 71 | 23 | 6 |
| February 2020 | 44 | 50 | 6 |
| January 2020 | 49 | 45 | 6 |
| November 2019 | 44 | 49 | 7 |
| October 2019 | 49 | 47 | 4 |
| September 2019 | 48 | 46 | 6 |
| August 2019 | 43 | 50 | 7 |
| June 2019 | 52 | 42 | 6 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **77 (4/20, 2/11)** | **50 (2/20, 8/19, 2/19)** | **24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **43 (8/19, 2/19)** | **14 (8/09)** | **2 (4/20)** |

**Q. 6**  If the election for President was being held today and the candidates were Joe Biden on the Democratic line and Donald Trump on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated.)

| DATE | BIDEN | TRUMP | OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| April 2020 | 65 | 29 | 6 |
| March 2020 | 58 | 33 | 10 |
| February 2020 | 55 | 36 | 9 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **65 (4/20)** | **36 (2/20)** | **10 (3/20)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **55 (2/20)** | **29 (4/20)** | **6 (4/20)** |

**Q. 7**  Even though the general election is months away, if you had to predict today, do you think Donald Trump will or will not be re-elected President of the United States?

| DATE | WILL | WILL NOT | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 46 | 41 | 13 |
| April 2020 | 45 | 48 | 7 |
| March 2020 | 51 | 37 | 12 |
| February 2020 | 62 | 29 | 9 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **62 (2/20)** | **48 (4/20)** | **13 (5/20)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **45 (4/20)** | **29 (2/20)** | **7 (4/20)** |

**Q. 8**  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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 50 | 1 |
| April 2020 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 54 | 1 |
| March 2020 | 19 | 14 | 16 | 49 | 1 |
| November 2019 | 17 | 15 | 15 | 52 | 1 |
| October 2019 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 56 | 1 |
| September 2019 | 12 | 16 | 21 | 51 | 1 |
| August 2019 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 50 | 1 |
| June 2019 | 13 | 16 | 18 | 52 | 1 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **19 (3/20, 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. 9** 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 29 | 34 | 18 | 18 | 1 |
| April 2020 | 37 | 34 | 18 | 10 | 1 |
| March 2020 | 27 | 36 | 22 | 13 | 1 |
| February 2020 | 8 | 28 | 32 | 31 | 1 |
| January 2020 | 10 | 31 | 29 | 27 | 3 |
| November 2019 | 6 | 29 | 36 | 29 | 1 |
| October | 6 | 35 | 30 | 27 | 1 |
| 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 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 37 (4/20) | 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) | 18 (5/20, 4/20) | 4 (2/11, 1/11) | 0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14) |

**Q. 10** Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing to address the pandemic?

| DATE | APPROVE | DISAPPROVE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 35 | 61 | 5 |
| April 2020 | 34 | 65 | 1 |
| March 2020 | 41 | 56 | 3 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 41 (3/20) | 65 (4/20) | 5 (5/20) |
| LOWEST EVER | 34 (4/20) | 56 (3/20) | 1 (4/20) |

**Q. 11** Do you approve or disapprove of the job Andrew Cuomo is doing to address the pandemic?

| DATE | APPROVE | DISAPPROVE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 76 | 21 | 3 |
| April 2020 | 84 | 15 | 1 |
| March 2020 | 87 | 11 | 2 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 87 (3/20) | 21 (5/20) | 3 (5/20) |
| LOWEST EVER | 76 (5/20) | 11 (3/20) | 1 (4/20) |

**Q. 12** Do you approve or disapprove of the job Dr. Anthony Fauci is doing to address the pandemic?

| DATE | APPROVE | DISAPPROVE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 75 | 12 | 13 |
| April 2020 | 81 | 12 | 6 |
| March 2020 | 74 | 6 | 20 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 81 (4/20) | 12 (5/20, 4/20) | 20 (3/20) |
| LOWEST EVER | 74 (3/20) | 6 (3/20) | 6 (4/20) |

**Q. 13** (NYC ONLY) Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill de Blasio is doing to address the pandemic?

| DATE | APPROVE | DISAPPROVE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 61 | 31 | 9 |
| April 2020 | 66 | 30 | 5 |
| March 2020 | 61 | 31 | 8 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 66 (4/20) | 31 (5/20, 3/20) | 9 (5/20) |
| LOWEST EVER | 61 (5/20, 3/20) | 30 (4/20) | 5 (4/20) |

**Q. 14** (Downstate Suburbs and Upstate ONLY) Do you approve or disapprove of the job your local government leader is doing to address the pandemic?

| DATE | APPROVE | DISAPPROVE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 2020 | 68 | 17 | 15 |
| April 2020 | 78 | 15 | 7 |
| March 2020 | 73 | 16 | 11 |
| HIGHEST EVER | 78 (4/20) | 17 (5/20) | 15 (5/20) |
| LOWEST EVER | 68 (5/20) | 15 (4/20) | 7 (4/20) |

**Q. 19** Do you personally know someone who has tested positive for coronavirus?

| DATE | YES | NO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| May 2020 | 57 | 43 | 0 |
| April 2020 | 51 | 46 | 2 |
| March 2020 | 31 | 67 | 2 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **57 (5/20)** | 67 (3/20) | 2 (4/20, 3/20) |
| **LOWEST EVER** | 31 (3/20) | **43 (5/20)** | **0 (5/20)** |

**Q. 20** Do you personally know someone who has died as result of coronavirus?

| DATE | YES | NO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| May 2020 | 37 | 63 | 0 |
| April 2020 | 32 | 67 | 1 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | **37 (5/20)** | 67 (4/20) | 1 (4/20) |
| **LOWEST EVER** | 32 (4/20) | **63 (5/20)** | **0 (5/20)** |

**Q. 21** Have you or has someone in your household been laid off from work because of the coronavirus pandemic?

| DATE | YES, SELF | YES, HH MEMBER | YES, BOTH | NO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| May 2020 | 12 | 15 | 5 | 67 | 0 |
| April 2020 | 14 | 13 | 5 | 68 | 1 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | 14 (4/20) | **15 (5/20)** | **5 (5/20, 4/20)** | 68 (4/20) | 1 (4/20) |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **12 (5/20)** | 13 (4/20) | **5 (5/20, 4/20)** | **67 (5/20)** | **0 (5/20)** |

**Q. 22** Do you support or oppose the Governor's executive order requiring New Yorkers to wear a face mask or covering in public when social distancing cannot be maintained?

| DATE | YES | NO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| May 2020 | 89 | 9 | 2 |
| April 2020 | 92 | 8 | 1 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | 92 (4/20) | **9 (5/20)** | **2 (5/20)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **89 (5/20)** | 8 (4/20) | 1 (4/20) |

**Q. 31** While it is impossible to predict the future, as you think about this historic public health crisis, which of the following two statements comes closer to how you feel – America will weather this crisis and things will be back to normal sometime soon, OR I'm not confident that America will be back to normal anytime soon? (Choices were rotated.)

| DATE | NORMAL SOMETIME SOON | NOT ANYTIME SOON | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| May 2020 | 43 | 54 | 3 |
| April 2020 | 43 | 56 | 2 |
| March 2020 | 53 | 44 | 3 |
| **HIGHEST EVER** | 53 (3/20) | 56 (4/20) | **3 (5/20, 3/20)** |
| **LOWEST EVER** | **43 (5/20, 4/20)** | 44 (3/20) | 2 (4/20) |

**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 June 2019.

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

˄ Inconsequential wording change.