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Siena College Poll:

New Yorkers Say Worst of the Pandemic Is Still to Come, 55-31%; Nearly 3/4 of NYers Have or Plan to Get Vaccinated; 1/4 Do Not

Voters Say Biden Administration Will Have Positive Impact on NYS; They Also Say Incoming Senate Majority Leader Schumer Will Too

Voters – Other than Republicans – Support NY Attorney General James Continuing to Investigate Trump's Businesses' Financial Dealings

Majority – 57-37% – Is Optimistic About America Looking Forward in 2021

Loudonville, NY. By a 55-31 percent margin, New Yorkers say the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is still to come rather than over. Seven percent of New Yorkers say they have already been vaccinated and among those who have not, 69 percent say they plan to get vaccinated and 27 percent say they do not, according to a new Siena College Poll of New York State voters released today.

Fifty-four percent of voters say the incoming Biden Administration will have a positive impact on New York, compared to 23 percent who say it will have a negative impact and 16 percent who say it will have no real impact. New Yorkers also say, 49-22 percent, as Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer will have a positive impact on the state, with 18 percent saying no real impact. By almost two-to-one, 62-33 percent, voters support Attorney General Letitia James continuing to investigate the financial dealings of President Donald Trump's businesses.

"While 31 percent of New Yorker think the worst of the pandemic is over, 55 percent say the worst is yet to come. Unlike some issues that divide New Yorkers by partisanship, geography or race, this question doesn't. A majority of between 50 and 61 percent of Democrats, Republicans, independents, upstaters, downstaters, Black, Latino and white voters all think the worst of the pandemic is still in front of us," said Steven Greenberg, Siena College pollster. "In fact, a majority of every demographic group says the worst is still to come, with the exception of voters under 35 – only a plurality – and conservatives, a plurality of whom think the worst is over.

"New York – like the country – has a long way to go on getting people vaccinated for COVID-19, with only seven percent saying they've received the vaccine. More than two-thirds of those who've not yet been vaccinated say they plan to but about one-quarter of New Yorkers say they don't plan on getting the vaccine, including about one-third of Republicans, independents, voters under 35, and Black and Latino voters," Greenberg said.

Voters Say Biden and Schumer Will Each Have Positive Impact on NY in Their New Roles

"President-elect Joe Biden – who continues to have a two-to-one positive favorability rating and have two-thirds of voters approve of the way he's acted as president-elect – has some high expectations to meet with New York voters," Greenberg said. "By a 54-23 percent margin, voters say the Biden Administration will have a positive impact on New York, a view shared by three-quarters of Democrats and a plurality of independents. However, Republicans, by a two-to-one margin, say the Biden Administration will have a negative impact on the state.

"A strong majority of downstaters think the incoming administration will have a positive impact, as do a wide plurality of upstaters. At least half of white and Latino voters are optimistic about Biden's impact on New York, as are three-quarters of Black voters," Greenberg said.

"New Yorkers are also optimistic that New York's senior senator – soon to be in his new role as Majority Leader – will have a positive impact on the state. Democrats, voters from New York City and Black voters are most optimistic about Schumer's impact, but among party, geography and race, only Republicans – and only a plurality of them – think Schumer will have a negative impact on the state," Greenberg said.

By Nearly Two-to-One, Voters Support AG James' Continuing to Investigate Trump Businesses

"While 63 percent of Republicans oppose James' continuing to investigate the financial dealings of the Trump Organization, they are in the minority among New Yorkers. Support for the New York AG's continuing to investigate Trump's businesses is strong to overwhelming among Democrats, independents, downstaters and upstaters, white, Black and Latino voters," Greenberg said. "While James is not known by half of voters, among those who know her, she has a positive two-to-one favorability rating, largely on the strength of Democrats, Black and New York City voters.

For Majority of New Yorkers, 2021 Provides Optimism for America

Fifty-seven percent of voters, when asked to consider all that's happened in the last year, are optimistic (15 percent very optimistic) about America as they look forward to 2021, compared to 37 percent who are pessimistic (16 percent very pessimistic).

"Despite everything that's happened in the last year – from the pandemic to the events at the US Capitol and all the political changes – and despite that the majority think the worst of the pandemic is still to come, and despite that a majority say the country is headed in the wrong direction, 57 percent of New Yorkers are optimistic about America looking forward to 2021," Greenberg said.

"At least two-thirds of Democrats and New York City voters are optimistic. But so, too, are a majority of downstate suburbanites, upstaters, Blacks, whites, and Latinos. Independents are evenly divided between optimists and pessimists, while Republicans are closely divided but lean toward pessimism," Greenberg said.

Cuomo Ratings Hold Largely Steady and Remain Positive

Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 57-39 percent favorability rating, little changed from 56-39 percent in November. His job performance rating is 56-42 percent, up a little from 54-45 percent in November. By a 63-32 percent margin, voters approve of Cuomo's handling of the pandemic, little changed from 63-30 percent. Currently, 48 percent of voters say they are prepared to re-elect Cuomo if he runs for re-election in 2022 and 42 percent say they would 'prefer someone else,' down a bit from 51-42 percent in November.

"Cuomo, whose ratings have continued to be strong since March and the onset of the pandemic, remains very popular with Democrats and gets mixed reviews from independents. Two-thirds of Republicans continue to both view Cuomo unfavorably and give him a negative job performance rating," Greenberg said.

"Interestingly, while 57 percent of New Yorkers view Cuomo favorably, 56 percent give him a positive job performance rating and 63 percent approve of his handling of the pandemic, only 48 percent of voters – including 61 percent of Democrats – are prepared to re-elect him. Forty-two percent of voters – including 67 percent of Republicans – would prefer 'someone else,' " Greenberg said.

"Voters say 53-37 percent – down from 57-35 percent in November – that the Legislature should continue to allow Cuomo to manage the state with the extraordinary executive powers they gave him at the beginning of the pandemic," Greenberg said. "A majority of Democrats and downstaters think he should maintain those executive powers, as do a plurality of independents and, by a narrow margin, upstaters. A majority of Republicans would like to see the Legislature discontinue those executive powers for the governor.

Biden & Harris Top List of New York's Favorite Pols; de Blasio & Trump Bring Up the Rear

Favorability Ratings				
	Fav	**Unfav**	**DK/NO**	**Net**
Joe Biden	**62%**	32%	6%	+30
Kamala Harris	**56%**	34%	10%	+22
NYS Senate	**51%**	30%	19%	+21
NYS Assembly	**48%**	28%	24%	+20
Andrew Cuomo	**57%**	39%	4%	+18
Letitia James	35%	17%	**48%**	+18
Kirsten Gillibrand	**43%**	29%	29%	+14
Tom DiNapoli	21%	14%	**65%**	+7
Chuck Schumer	**45%**	39%	16%	+6
Andrea Stewart-Cousins	18%	12%	**71%**	+6
Carl Heastie	13%	13%	**75%**	E
Alexandrea Ocasio-Cortez	38%	**39%**	23%	-1
Mike Pence	42%	**45%**	12%	-3
Rudy Giuliani	32%	**56%**	12%	-24
Bill de Blasio	28%	**53%**	19%	-25
Donald Trump	30%	**66%**	5%	-36
Siena College Poll – January 19, 2021				

Odds & Ends

➢ Addressing the pandemic remains the top issue that New Yorkers want to see the Governor and Legislature address in 2021 – one-third make it their top choice and half make it one of their top two choices. Helping businesses succeed, creating jobs and improving health care are the next top priorities for voters. Closing the state budget deficit, adequate funding for public schools and addressing racial inequality issues rounded out the bottom three.

➢ New Yorkers continue to support legalizing the recreational use of marijuana in New York 56-33 percent, down from 60-32 percent, the strongest support legalization has ever had in a Siena College poll, in November. It is strongly supported by Democrats and independents, but Republicans oppose 54-33 percent, after having narrowly supported it in November. Young voters overwhelmingly support it, while a plurality of voters over 55 oppose it.

➢ By a 48-35 percent margin, down from 50-32 percent in November, voters support online sports betting. It is supported – though not widely – by Democrats, Republicans and independents. Similarly, it has plurality support in all three regions of the state.

➢ The State Senate has a 51-30 percent favorability rating, little changed from 50-31 percent in November. The Assembly has a 48-28 percent favorability rating, little changed from 47-28 percent in November. For both houses, this month either sets or ties the record for their lowest-ever unfavorable rating.

➢ When it comes to the legislative leaders, they both remain largely unknown. Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has an 18-12 percent favorability rating, with 71 percent not knowing her, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie has a 13-13 percent favorability rating, with 75 percent not knowing him.

➢ As Trump leaves the presidency, he has a negative 30-66 percent favorability rating, down from 33-64 percent in November. And he has a negative 31-68 percent job performance rating, down from 34-65 percent in November.

➢ By nearly two-to-one, 59-31 percent, voters say the country is headed on the wrong track, not in the right direction, up significantly from 48-38 percent in November.

➢ Voters are more positive about the direction of the state. By a 50-40 percent margin, little changed from 50-37 percent in November, voters say the state is headed in the right direction.

# # #

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2021

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
January 2021	50	40	10
November 2020	50	37	13
October 2020*	46	34	20
June 2020	52	38	10
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
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
January 2021	31	59	10
November 2020	38	48	14
October 2020*	24	62	14
June 2020	28	64	8
May 2020	35	56	9
April 2020	34	60	6
March 2020	42	47	11
February 2020	38	55	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
January 2021	30	66	5
November 2020	33	64	4
October 2020*	29	66	5
June 2020	33	62	5
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
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
January 2021	62	32	6
November 2020	63	31	6
October 2020*	62	33	6
June 2020	53	39	8
May 2020	51	40	9
April 2020	60	36	4
March 2020	51	40	9
February 2020	45	47	7
HIGHEST EVER	**63 (11/20)**	**47 (2/20)**	**28 (9/08)**
LOWEST EVER	**45 (2/20)**	**26 (9/08)**	**4 (4/20)**

Siena College Poll Trends – January 2021 – Page 2

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	57	39	4
November 2020	56	39	5
October 2020*	59	33	7
June 2020	65	31	4
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
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   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	48	28	24
November 2020	47	28	25
June 2020	45	30	25
April 2020	57	29	14
February 2020	46	36	18
January 2020	40	35	25
HIGHEST EVER	**57 (4/20)**	**61 (7/10)**	**25 (6/20, 1/20)**
LOWEST EVER	**25 (7/10)**	**28 (1/21, 11/20)**	**10 (5/15)**

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	51	30	19
November 2020	50	31	18
June 2020	45	34	21
April 2020	58	31	11
February 2020	46	39	14
January 2020	43	38	19
HIGHEST EVER	**58 (4/20)**	**74 (7/09)**	**21 (6/20)**
LOWEST EVER	**20 (7/09)**	**30 (1/21)**	**6 (7/09)**

Q. 8   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kamala Harris?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	56	34	10
November 2020	55	33	12
HIGHEST EVER	**56 (1/21)**	**34 (1/21)**	**12 (11/20)**
LOWEST EVER	**55 (11/20)**	**33 (11/20)**	**10 (1/21)**

Q. 9   Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mike Pence?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	42	45	12
March 2020	36	50	14
HIGHEST EVER	**42 (1/21)**	**55 (10/19)**	**14 (3/20)**
LOWEST EVER	**34 (10/19)**	**45 (1/21)**	**11 (10/19)**

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	45	39	16
November 2020	45	39	16
April 2020	55	39	6
March 2020	52	38	9
February 2020	54	38	9
January 2020	54	36	11
HIGHEST EVER	**70 (7/05)**	**46 (2/19)**	**17 (2/05)**
LOWEST EVER	**45 (1/21, 11/20)**	**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
January 2021	43	29	29
November 2020	39	29	32
April 2020	55	31	14
January 2020	45	29	26
HIGHEST EVER	**61 (12/12)**	**36 (9/19, 8/19, 6/19)**	**56 (1/09)**
LOWEST EVER	**26 (3/09)**	**14 (1/09)**	**14 (4/20, 10/31/10)**

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	21	14	65
November 2020	22	16	63
January 2020	27	15	58
August 2019	23	17	60
HIGHEST EVER	**35 (10/14)**	**36 (10/31/10)**	**80 (6/07)**
LOWEST EVER	**7 (6/07, 5/07)**	**9 (10/18)**	**37 (10/31/10)**

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	35	17	48
November 2020	33	17	49
January 2020	36	15	49
August 2019	36	18	46
HIGHEST EVER	**39 (1/19)**	**18 (8/19, 4/19, 1/19)**	**70 (6/18)**
LOWEST EVER	**20 (6/18)**	**10 (10/18, 6/18)**	**43 (1/19)**

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	28	53	19
November 2019	27	56	17
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. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	38	39	23
August 2019	41	41	17
HIGHEST EVER	**41 (8/19)**	**44 (3/19)**	**26 (3/19)**
LOWEST EVER	**31 (3/19)**	**==39 (1/21)==**	**17 (8/19)**

Q. 16 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	13	13	75
February 2020	14	18	68
HIGHEST EVER	**14 (2/20, 1/19)**	**20 (10/15)**	**78 (1/17, 9/15)**
LOWEST EVER	**8 (9/15)**	**11 (1/18)**	**68 (2/20)**

Q. 17 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrea Stewart-Cousins?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	18	12	71
February 2020	16	16	68
HIGHEST EVER	**20 (1/19)**	**16 (2/20)**	**79 (4/18)**
LOWEST EVER	**12 (4/18)**	**9 (4/18)**	**68 (2/20)**

Q. 18 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rudy Giuliani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	32	56	12
November 2019	30	62	8
HIGHEST EVER	63 (1/07, 11/06, 4/05)	62 (11/19)	12 (1/21)
LOWEST EVER	30 (11/19)	26 (4/05)	4 (11/09, 4/09, 11/08)

Q. 20 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
January 2021	15	16	12	56	1
November 2020	19	15	12	53	1
October 2020*	16	13	10	61	1
June 2020	14	17	12	56	2
May 2020	14	16	19	50	1
April 2020	14	16	15	54	1
March 2020	19	14	16	49	1
HIGHEST EVER	19 (11/20, etc.)	19 (2/19, 7/17)	21 (9/19)	63 (10/17)	3 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	8 (10/17, 9/17)	13 (10/20, 4/18)	10 (10/20)	48 (4/19, 2/17)	0 (4/19, 10/17)

Q. 22 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is acting as President-elect?

DATE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	66	27	8
November 2020	66	25	10
HIGHEST EVER	66 (1/21, 11/20)	27 (1/21)	10 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	66 (1/21, 11/20)	25 (11/20)	8 (1/21)

Q. 25 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
January 2021	24	32	15	27	2
November 2020	23	31	18	27	1
October 2020*	30	31	18	20	1
June 2020	27	35	17	20	1
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
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)	15 (1/21)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 26 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Andrew Cuomo is doing to address the coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic? ^

DATE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	63	32	6
November 2020	63	30	7
October 2020*	73	24	3
June 2020	76	21	4
May 2020	76	21	3
April 2020	84	15	1
March 2020	87	11	2
HIGHEST EVER	87 (3/20)	32 (1/21)	7 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	63 (1/21, 11/20)	11 (3/20)	1 (4/20)

Q. 27 If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as governor in 2022, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect Cuomo or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT CUOMO	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	48	42	10
November 2020	51	42	7
HIGHEST EVER	51 (11/20)	42 (1/21, 11/20)	10 (1/21)
LOWEST EVER	48 (1/21)	42 (1/21, 11/20)	7 (11/20)

Q.28/29 As Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature return to Albany for the 2021 legislative session, which of the following issues do you think should be their top priority? And what should be Albany's next top 2021 priority? (First number reflects combined top and 2nd top priority; number in parentheses is top priority only.) (CHOICES WERE ROTATED.)

ISSUE	JANUARY 2021	NOVEMBER 2020
Addressing the coronavirus pandemic	49 (34)	60 (46)
Helping businesses succeed	33 (17)	28 (12)
Creating jobs	31 (12)	30 (11)
Improving our health care system	23 (10)	25 (9)
Providing adequate funding for schools	19 (7)	16 (5)
Addressing racial inequality issues	17 (4)	18 (6)
Closing the state budget deficit	16 (8)	15 (7)
Something else	1 (1)	2 (1)
Don't know/no opinion	12 (6)	7 (3)

Q. 30 Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	56	33	11
November 2020	60	32	7
February 2020	55	40	5
January 2020	58	38	4
HIGHEST EVER	**60 (11/20)**	**44 (4/18)**	**11 (1/21)**
LOWEST EVER	**52 (9/19, 4/19, 2/19, 4/18)**	**32 (11/20)**	**3 (1/19)**

Q. 31 The state allows sports betting at commercial casinos. Do you support or oppose broadening the sports betting law to allow for online sports betting? ⌃

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	48	35	17
November 2020	50	32	18
HIGHEST EVER	**50 (11/20)**	**44 (2/19)**	**18 (11/20)**
LOWEST EVER	**44 (2/19)**	**32 (11/20)**	**12 (2/19)**

Q. 32 This spring, in response to the pandemic, the State Legislature gave Governor Cuomo extraordinary executive powers to be able to manage the state during this critical time. Do you think the Legislature should or should not allow the Governor to continue managing the state using these executive powers?

DATE	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2021	53	37	10
November 2020	57	35	8 (11/20)
HIGHEST EVER	**57 (11/20)**	**37 (1/21)**	**10 (1/21)**
LOWEST EVER	**53 (1/21)**	**35 (11/20)**	**8 (11/20)**

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: October 2020; 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.
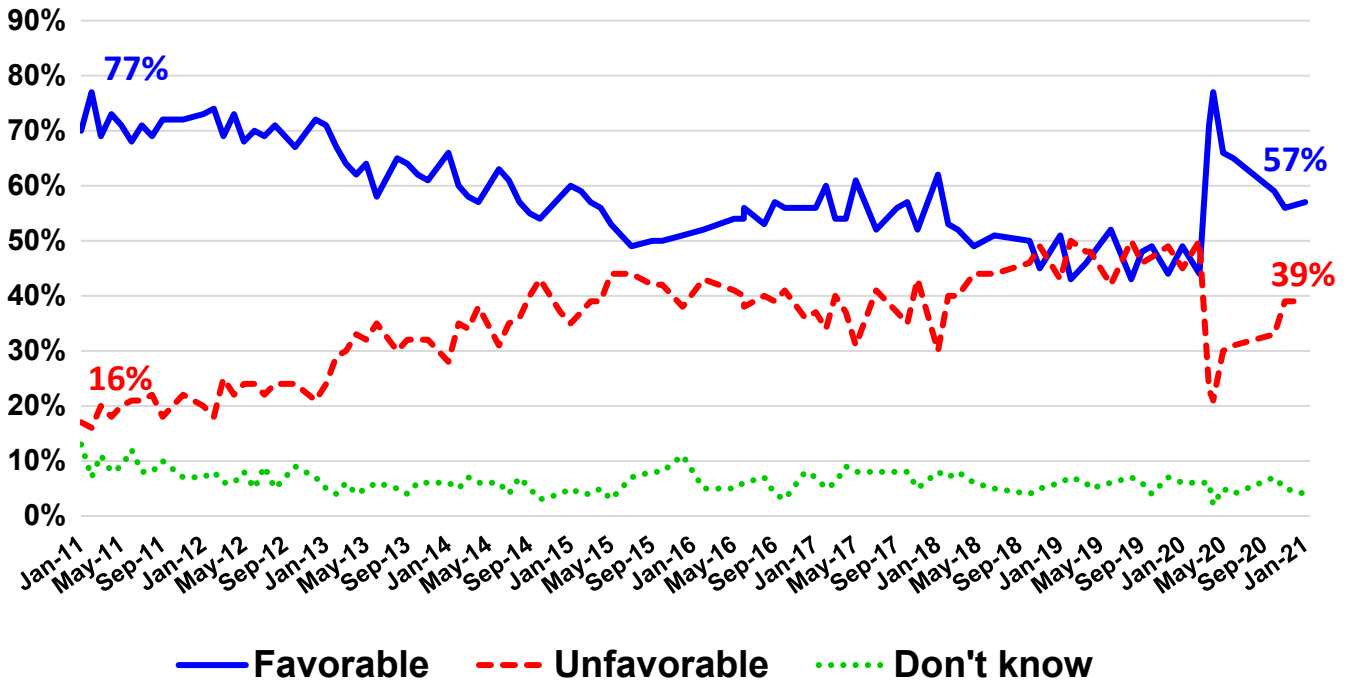
Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2020.

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

⌃ Inconsequential wording change.

Andrew Cuomo Favorability 2011-2021

Favorable — — **Unfavorable** ······ **Don't know**

Siena College Polls 2011- 2021