Siena College Poll:

Hochul Has Early 42-17% Favorability Rating; 41% Still Undecided

Majority: Hochul More Collaborative than Cuomo; ¾ Excited with First Woman Governor; Strong Majorities Think She Will Be Successful Controlling Spread of Covid, Leading NY Through Disasters, Ensuring In-person Education

Cuomo – with Worst-ever Favorability Rating – Should Have Resigned, 67-26%, Including Majority of Dems; 50-48% Job Performance Rating for His Tenure as Gov

About 2/3 Support Various Vaccine Mandates; Even Stronger Support for Mask Mandates

Loudonville, NY. Weeks after becoming New York's 57th Governor, Kathy Hochul is viewed favorably by 42 percent of voters and unfavorably by 17 percent, with 41 percent who either don't know Hochul or don't know enough about her to have an opinion, according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters.

By 52-18 percent, voters say Hochul has a more collaborative approach to government leadership than her predecessor, and they say it's exciting to have New York's first woman governor, 74-16 percent. Strong majorities of voters think Hochul will be successful in ensuring a safe transition to in-person public education, leading the state through natural disasters and controlling the spread of COVID.

Andrew Cuomo should have resigned, rather than remain in office, voters say 67-26 percent, including Democrats, 55-35 percent. Cuomo has his worst-ever favorability rating, 34-55 percent, down from 45-47 percent in June. Looking back over the last decade, voters give Cuomo a 50-48 percent job performance rating, and a plurality, 39 percent, say he left New York a better place to live and work, compared to 27 percent who say he left it worse.

"While still largely unknown to a wide swath of New Yorkers, Governor Hochul begins her tenure with a lot of good will from voters. Among those with an opinion about her, she is viewed strongly favorably, although two in five New Yorkers don't yet have an opinion, despite Hochul having been Lt. Governor for six years and elected statewide twice. Among all voters, Hochul has a 44-37 percent job performance rating after only a few weeks in office," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

"Voters overwhelmingly say it's exciting to have New York's first woman governor, including 84 percent of Democrats, 68 percent of independents and 59 percent of Republicans," Greenberg said. "A strong 52-18 percent majority, including majorities of all parties, say she will be more collaborative than Cuomo. Voters reject the notion, 48-28 percent, that Hochul doesn't have enough experience to lead New York."

Likelihood of Success for Gov. Hochul Addressing Policy Issues					
Now I´m going to ask you about a few policy issues facing the new governor and I´d like you to tell me how successful you think she will be in addressing that issue: very successful, somewhat successful, not very successful, or not at all successful.					
Policy Issues	**Rating**	**Total**	**Dem**	**Rep**	**Ind/Other**
Ensuring a safe transition back to in-person public school education	Successful	**69%**	**74%**	**61%**	**67%**
	Not successful	16%	9%	30%	21%
Leading New York through natural disasters	Successful	**65%**	**70%**	**56%**	**65%**
	Not successful	16%	10%	29%	16%
Controlling the spread of COVID-19 including the Delta variant	Successful	**61%**	**69%**	**49%**	**56%**
	Not successful	24%	15%	35%	29%
Revitalizing the state´s economy	Successful	**56%**	**65%**	39%	**52%**
	Not successful	26%	15%	**46%**	28%
Balancing both the needs of tenants and the rights of landlords	Successful	**49%**	**59%**	35%	**49%**
	Not successful	30%	19%	**47%**	33%
Siena College Poll: September 14, 2021					

"It may be too early to call it a honeymoon, however, voters across the partisan spectrum say that they think Hochul will be successful in ensuring in-person public school education (69-16 percent), leading the state through natural disasters (65-16 percent) and controlling the spread of COVID (61-24 percent). While most think she will be successful in revitalizing the state's economy and balancing tenant/landlord rights, a plurality of Republicans think she will be unsuccessful in each of those efforts," Greenberg said.

Voters: Cuomo Right to Resign; Worst-ever Favorability Rating; 50-48% Job Performance Rating as Gov

"Cuomo gets his worst-ever favorability rating from voters, 34-55 percent, with Democrats only giving him a 47-39 percent favorability rating. Voters overwhelmingly said Cuomo should have resigned rather than remain in office, 67-26 percent, including Democrats, 55-35 percent," Greenberg said. "More than three-quarters of Republicans, independents and voters from outside New York City say Cuomo was right to resign rather than remain, as do a plurality of New York City voters.

"Additionally, by a wide 56-20 percent margin, voters say Cuomo did sexually harass multiple women that worked for the state, including a majority or plurality of voters from every party and region," Greenberg said. "By a narrow 45-40 percent margin, voters think Cuomo should be barred from holding public office again.

"On the good news front for Cuomo, he gets a 50-48 percent job approval rating for his tenure as governor, including a 65-32 percent rating from Democrats," Greenberg said. "Did Cuomo make New York a better place to live and work? A majority of Democrats and 39 percent of all voters, a plurality, say 'yes,' compared to 27 percent who say he made the state worse, including a majority of Republicans and a plurality of independents. An additional 27 percent say he made the state neither better nor worse."

Strong Support for Vaccine Mandates; Even Stronger Support for Mask Mandates

Voters support public schools requiring teachers and staff to be vaccinated 69-26 percent, businesses like gyms and restaurants requiring customers to show vaccination proof 66-32 percent and employers requiring employees to be vaccinated 65-31 percent. Support for school districts requiring teachers, staff and students to wear masks is supported 78-18 percent and government requiring masks in indoor public facilities is supported 74-21 percent.

"Three different vaccine mandates – employees generally, school employees specifically and customers of certain businesses – each has the support of at least 65 percent of voters. Each has support from more than three-quarters of Democrats and a majority of independents. Although a majority of Republicans support two of the mandates, they are divided on employers mandating their employees," Greenberg said. "Mask mandates have even greater support among New Yorkers. A mask mandate for schools is supported by 89 percent of Democrats, 76 percent of independents and 57 percent of Republicans.

"While 40 percent of voters think the worst of the pandemic is over, 44 percent say the worst is still to come, a major change from May, when by a 69-19 percent margin, voters thought the worst was over," Greenberg said.

Odds & Ends

➢ President Joe Biden has a 57-37 percent favorability rating, down from 63-34 percent in June. His job performance rating is 46-52 percent, down from June's 52-46 percent.

➢ Sen. Chuck Schumer has a 52-33 percent favorability, up from 50-38 percent in June. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's favorability rating is 44-23 percent, up from 41-32 percent in May.

➢ Attorney General Letitia James has 38-18 percent favorability, with 45 percent having never heard of her or not knowing enough to have an opinion, up from 34-21 percent in June.

➢ The Assembly's favorability rating is 45-30 percent, little changed from 45-29 percent in June, while the State Senate has a 46-33 percent favorability rating, little changed from 48-33 percent in June.

➢ Voters continue to say that New York's best days are ahead of us, not behind us, 57-26 percent, up a little from 53-27 percent in June.

➢ Looking at three of the declared Republican candidates for Governor, Andrew Giuliani has a 29-42 percent favorability rating (this is the first time Siena has asked about him), Rep. Lee Zeldin has an 18-15 percent favorability rating, little changed from 20-19 percent in May, and Rob Astorino has a 17-15 percent favorability rating, little changed from 10-15 percent in May.

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Siena College Poll Trends – September 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
September 2021	48	37	16
June 2021	48	38	13
May 2021	48	40	11
April 2021	49	40	12
March 2021	48	38	14
February 2021	48	41	11
January 2021	50	40	10
November 2020	50	37	13
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 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 2021	7	23	35	32	4
February 2021	4	16	33	42	5
November 2020	5	19	33	37	5
HIGHEST EVER	**7 (9/21)**	**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 2021	40	48	12
June 2021	45	44	11
May 2021	46	43	10
April 2021	45	45	10
March 2021	50	41	10
February 2021	49	42	9
January 2021	31	59	10
November 2020	38	48	14
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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	57	37	6
June 2021	63	34	3
May 2021	62	34	4
April 2021	62	33	5
March 2021	64	30	5
February 2021	65	29	5
January 2021	62	32	6
November 2020	63	31	6
HIGHEST EVER	**65 (2/21)**	**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 Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	42	17	41
April 2021	18	13	69
March 2021	23	14	64
HIGHEST EVER	42 (9/21)	17 (9/21)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	41 (9/21)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	34	55	11
June 2021	45	47	8
May 2021	44	48	8
April 2021	40	52	9
March 2021	43	45	12
February 2021	56	39	5
January 2021	57	39	4
November 2020	56	39	5
HIGHEST EVER	77 (4/20, 2/11)	55 (9/21) (Prev: 52 (4/21))	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	34 (9/21) (Prev: 40 (4/21))	14 (8/09)	2 (4/20)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	33	61	6
April 2021	33	64	4
March 2021	31	66	3
February 2021	26	67	6
January 2021	30	66	5
November 2020	33	64	4
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. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	45	30	24
June 2021	45	29	25
May 2021	46	32	22
April 2021	42	30	28
March 2021	49	25	26
February 2021	45	31	24
January 2021	48	28	24
November 2020	47	28	25
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	28 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	46	33	21
June 2021	48	33	18
May 2021	47	34	18
April 2021	46	32	22
March 2021	50	28	22
February 2021	47	33	20
January 2021	51	30	19
November 2020	50	31	18
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	22 (4/21, 3/21)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	28 (3/21)	6 (7/09)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	52	33	15
June 2021	50	38	13
May 2021	50	39	11
April 2021	49	38	14
March 2021	49	35	16
February 2021	49	39	12
January 2021	45	39	16
November 2020	45	39	16
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
September 2021	44	23	32
May 2021	41	32	27
March 2021	43	27	30
January 2021	43	29	29
November 2020	39	29	32
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 Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	38	18	45
June 2021	34	21	45
May 2021	38	20	42
April 2021	39	17	44
March 2021	40	14	46
February 2021	36	17	47
January 2021	35	17	48
November 2020	33	17	49
HIGHEST EVER	**40 (3/21)**	**21 (6/21)**	**70 (6/18)**
LOWEST EVER	**20 (6/18)**	**10 (10/18, 6/18)**	**42 (5/21)**

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	22	14	64
May 2021	23	14	63
January 2021	21	14	65
November 2020	22	16	63
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. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	17	15	68
May 2021	20	15	65
October 2014*	32	41	27
HIGHEST EVER	**32 (10/14)**	**41 (10/14)**	**76 (1/14)**
LOWEST EVER	**11 (2/14)**	**10 (1/14)**	**27 (10/14)**

Q. 17 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	18	15	67
May 2021	20	19	62
April 2021	18	17	66
HIGHEST EVER	**20 (5/21)**	**19 (5/21)**	**67 (9/21)**
LOWEST EVER	**18 (9/21, 4/21)**	**15 (9/21)**	**62 (5/21)**

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

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	16	30	22	30	2
June 2021	22	30	20	26	1
May 2021	26	27	17	28	2
April 2021	24	29	20	25	2
March 2021	28	26	18	23	4
February 2021	24	31	17	21	6
HIGHEST EVER	28 (3/21)	31 (2/21)	22 (9/21)	30 (9/21)	6 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	16 (9/21)	26 (3/21)	17 (5/21, 2/21)	21 (2/21)	1 (6/21)

Q. 40 Do you think that the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is over, or do you think the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is still to come?

DATE	WORST OVER	WORST TO COME	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	40	44	16
May 2021	69	19	11
April 2021	60	27	13
March 2021	65	23	13
February 2021	46	36	18
January 2021	31	55	14
HIGHEST EVER	69 (5/21)	55 (1/21)	18 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	31 (1/21)	19 (5/21)	11 (5/21)

Q. 41 Overall, do you think New York State's best days are behind us or do you think New York State's best days lie ahead?
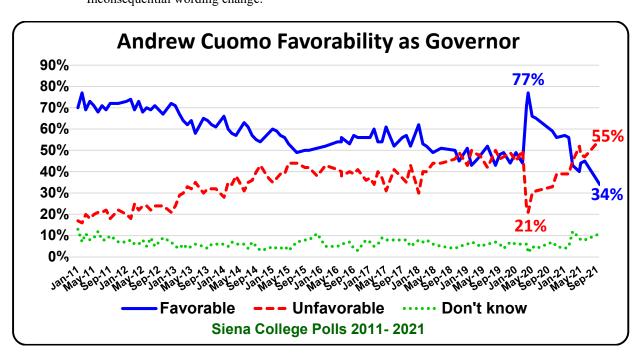
DATE	BEST DAYS BEHIND US	BEST DAYS LIE AHEAD	MIXED/DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
September 2021	26	57	17
June 2021	27	53	18
HIGHEST EVER	27 (6/21)	57 (9/21)	18 (6/21)
LOWEST EVER	26 (9/21)	53 (6/21)	17 (9/21)

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 November 2020.

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

⋏ Inconsequential wording change.

Andrew Cuomo Favorability as Governor — Siena College Polls 2011- 2021. Favorable, Unfavorable, Don't know.