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Siena College Poll:

Hochul Continues Early Lead in Growing Democratic Primary Field

Economic Opportunity & Crime are Voters' Top Two 2022 Albany Priorities

Strong Support for Build Back Better Act (52-28%); Six Components Have Support Between 62% & 90%; 47% think BBB Bill Will Increase Inflation

Loudonville, NY. New York Democrats continue to favor Governor Kathy Hochul in the gubernatorial primary, with 36 percent supporting Hochul, 18 percent backing Attorney General Letitia James, 10 percent supporting New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and six percent each for Rep. Tom Suozzi and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio; 24 percent are undecided or back another candidate, according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters released today.

Creating economic opportunity (26 percent), fighting crime (26 percent), and managing the pandemic (18 percent) are the issues that voters identify as the top 2022 priority for the Governor and Legislature. Nearly half of voters say that the federal Build Back Better Act will increase inflation, which they say is having a serious negative effect on the economy and their personal finances. Still, voters support BBB passage 52-28 percent. Six specific components of the BBB Act are each supported by between 62 and 90 percent of New Yorkers.

"Hochul continues to have a double-digit lead over her opponents in the Democratic gubernatorial primary and, unlike what is often seen in early polls, it is not completely based on name recognition. After all, Hochul and James have very similar favorability ratings among all voters – with nearly identical favorability ratings among Democrats – and de Blasio is the most known – and most disfavored – candidate among all voters and with just Democrats," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

Hochul has a 42-28 percent favorability rating, little changed from 42-26 percent in October. Her job performance rating is *negative* 42-46 percent, little changed from October's 43-45 percent. James has a 40-25 percent favorability rating, from 39-19 percent in October. Williams has a 23-17 percent favorability rating. Suozzi's is 20-15 percent. And de Blasio is 28-55 percent, up slightly from 25-56 percent in October. Hochul (57-18 percent) and James (56-18 percent) have the best favorability ratings with Democrats.

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"With all the candidates trying to introduce themselves to voters and stand out among a growing field, Hochul has the advantage of incumbency and the largest bully pulpit and it appears to be helping her in this early going. But as Yogi so sagely put it, 'It gets late early out there.' The first financial filings in the race will come next month, the state convention the following month and the primary in just 28 weeks," Greenberg said. "The clock is ticking and all the gubernatorial campaigns – on both sides of the aisle – have their work cut out for them."

Voters Give Hochul Strongest Marks on Honesty and Integrity & Working Hard for New Yorkers

Does or Does Not Governor Hochul Demonstrate?					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Demonstrates both honorty and integrity	Does	56%	67%	38%	49%
Demonstrates both honesty and integrity	Does Not	22%	13%	41%	25%
Works hard for the poople of New York	Does	55%	68%	36%	47%
Works hard for the people of New York	Does Not	23%	12%	41%	29%
Orange all and an emballibrary	Does	49%	61%	26%	45%
Cares about people like you	Does Not	31%	19%	51%	37%
Provides New Yorkers with her vision for	Does	47%	60%	31%	37%
New York's future	Does Not	29%	19%	46%	36%
Effectively collaborates with other	Does	44%	57%	27%	35%
government leaders	Does Not	22%	12%	39%	26%
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"A majority of New Yorkers think Hochul both demonstrates honesty and integrity, and works hard for the people. Pluralities think she cares about people like you, provides her vision for the future and collaborates effectively with other government leaders," Greenberg said. "A strong majority of Democrats say Hochul possesses each of these attributes, as do a plurality of independents. Republicans tend to say she does not."

Creating Economic Opportunity, Fighting Crime, Managing Pandemic Are Voters' Top Albany Priorities

Voters were asked their top and second top priories for the Governor and Legislature in 2022 and the results were

(combined top and second priority is first number, followed by top priority only in parenthesis): creating economic opportunity, 49 percent (26 percent); fighting crime, 43 (26); managing the pandemic, 37 (18); ensuring public schools teach appropriate curriculum, 21 (8); addressing racial inequality issues, 17 (8); and, working to ensure clean water and air, 16 (5).

"Republicans, Democrats, independents, upstaters and downstaters all agree that creating economic opportunity and fighting crime are the top two issues they want Albany to address in the upcoming session. Managing the pandemic came in as third most important issue, more so for Democrats, downstate suburbanites and Black voters," Greenberg said. "Ensuring appropriate public school curriculum, was the third most important issue for Republicans, with one in five making it the most important issue, while one in five Black voters said addressing racial inequality was their top priority."

Support/Opposition for Build Back Better Act – And Its Components					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
Overall, do you support or oppose the Build	Support	52%	70%	26%	42%
Back Better Act?	Oppose	28%	11%	60%	33%
Expanding Medicare to include hearing care and	Support	90%	94%	84%	88%
hearing aids for senior citizens	Oppose	8%	3%	13%	10%
Universal preschool for all three- and four-year-	Support	77%	89%	59%	71%
olds	Oppose	18%	8%	32%	23%
Ensuring that child care will not cost parents more	Support	76%	85%	66%	70%
than 7% of their income	Oppose	17%	10%	25%	26%
Guaranteeing that virtually all workers receive up	Support	69%	80%	53%	63%
to 4 weeks of paid leave	Oppose	24%	14%	38%	31%
Investing \$500 billion over the next 10 years in	Support	65%	82%	37%	57%
clean energy & climate investments	Oppose	29%	15%	56%	34%
Extending the child tax credit that was enacted	Support	62%	78%	45%	50%
last year during the pandemic	Oppose	27%	13%	46%	35%
Siena College Po	oll: Decembe	r 7, 2021			

"While there is strong support for Build Back Better overall, there is large to huge support for each of the components," Greenberg said "Seventy percent of Democrats support the BBB Act and at least 78 percent support each of the specifics. A plurality of independents supports the Act and a majority support each part. And although 60 percent of Republicans oppose the BBB Act, strong GOP majorities support four of the specific proposals.

"Forty-seven percent of voters – including 69 percent of Republicans, 52 percent of independents and 33 percent of Democrats – say the BBB Act would increase inflation," Greenberg said. "Currently, about half of voters say that inflation is having a very serious negative effect on the nation's economy, and more than one-quarter say it is having a serious negative impact on their personal finances."

Odds & Ends

- For the first time since February 2020, fewer New Yorkers say the state is headed on the right track (41 percent), rather than in the wrong direction (45 percent), down from 44-43 percent last month.
- ➢ By a 52-37 percent margin, voters would prefer to see the Democrats retain control of the House of Representatives next year, and a slightly larger 56-35 percent majority want to see Democrats keep control of the Senate. Democrats overwhelmingly want their party to keep both houses; same for Republicans; independents, by small margins, side with Republicans for the House and Democrats for the Senate.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted November 29-December 3, 2021 among 785 New York State registered voters with 467 voters contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode and 318 responses drawn from a proprietary online panel (Lucid) of New Yorkers. Telephone calls were conducted in English and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest person in the household. Telephone sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline (ASDE) and cell phone (Dynata) telephone numbers within New York State weighted to reflect known population patterns. Data from both collection modes (phone and web) was merged and statistically adjusted by age, party by region, race/ethnicity, education, and gender to ensure representativeness. It has an overall margin of error of \pm 4.0 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. There were 399 Democrats, with a margin of error of \pm 5.4 percentage points including the design effect resulting from weighting. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey crosstabs: www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – December 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
December 2021	41	45	15
October 2021	44	43	13
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 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
December 2021	34	56	10
October 2021	35	54	12
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. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	52	44	4
October 2021	51	44	5
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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	42	28	30
October 2021	42	26	32
September 2021	42	17	41
April 2021	18	13	69
March 2021	23	14	64
HIGHEST EVER	42 (12,/21, 10/21, 9/2	1) 28 (12/21)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	30 (12/21)

Siena College Poll Trends – December 2021 – Page 2

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	36	58	6
October 2021	37	59	3
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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	48	38	14
October 2021	50	40	10
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. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	40	25	35
October 2021	39	19	42
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 (12/21, 3/21)	25 (12/21)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	35 (12/21)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jumaane Williams?

DATE	FAVORABLE	Unfavorable	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	23	17	59
October 2021	25	13	62
HIGHEST EVER	25 (10/21)	<mark>17 (12/21)</mark>	62 (10/21)
LOWEST EVER	23 (12/21)	13 (10/21)	59 (12/21)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	28	55	17
October 2021	25	56	19
January 2021	28	53	19
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/18)	57 (9/19, 8/19)	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	25 (10/21, 9/19)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

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Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	16	15	69
October 2021	17	16	67
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. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Giuliani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	30	46	24
October 2021	27	49	24
September 2021	29	42	29
HIGHEST EVER	30 (12/21)	49 (10/21)	29 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	27 (10/21)	42 (9/21)	24 (12/21, 10/21)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Lee Zeldin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	20	17	63
October 2021	17	19	64
September 2021	18	15	67
May 2021	20	19	62
April 2021	18	17	66
HIGHEST EVER	20 (12/21, 5/21)	19 (10/21, 5/21)	67 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	17 (10/21)	15 (9/21)	62 (5/21)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Tom Suozzi?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	20	15	65
April 2008	21	15	64
HIGHEST EVER	28 (8/06)	17 (8/06)	70 (1/06)
LOWEST EVER	18 (1/06)	12 (1/06)	55 (8/06)

Q. 14 DEMS ONLY: While the Democratic primary for governor in New York isn't until June, if the primary election was held today, would you voter for: Bill de Blasio, Kathy Hochul, Letitia James, Tom Suozzi, Jumaane Williams, or someone else? (Candidate choices were rotated.)

DATE	Сиомо	DE BLASIO	HOCHUL	JAMES	SUOZZI	WILLIAMS	OTHER DON	'T KNOW
December 2021	NA	6	36	18	6	10	1	23
October 2021	17	6	31	14	NA	7	2	23
HIGHEST EVER	17 (10/	⁽²¹⁾ 6 (12/21,	, 10/21) <mark>36 (12/21</mark>)	18 (12/21)	6 (12/2)	1) 10 (12/2)	1) 2 (10/21)	23 (12/21, 10/21)
LOWEST EVER	17 (10/	(21) 6 (12/21,	31 (10/21)	14 (10/21)	6 (12/2)	1) 7 (10/2)	1 (12/21)	23 (12/21, 10/21)

Q.15 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
December 2021	16	23	21	38	2
October 2021	13	27	24	34	1
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)	24 (10/21)	<mark>38 (12</mark> /	(21) 6 (2/21)
LOWEST EVER	13 (10/21)	23 (12/21)	17 (5/21, 2/21)	21 (2/2	1) 1 (10/21, 6/21)

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Q.16 How would you rate the job that Kathy Hochul is doing as Governor? Would you rate it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor Don	'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	12	30	29	17	12
October 2021	9	34	26	19	12
September 2021	9	35	27	10	18
HIGHEST EVER	<mark>12 (12/21</mark>) 35 (9/21)	<mark>29 (12/21, 9</mark>	<mark>9/21)</mark> 19 (10/21)	18 (9/21)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/21,	9/21) <mark>30 (12/21)</mark>	26 (10/21)	10 (9/21)	12 (12/21, 10/21)

Q. 22 If Kathy Hochul wins the primary for governor in June, and is the Democratic candidate for governor in 2022, as things stand now would you vote to elect Hochul as governor would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT HOCHUL	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
December 2021	42	39	18
October 2021	45	37	18
HIGHEST EVER	45 (10/21)	<mark>39 (12/21)</mark>	18 (12/21, 10/21)
LOWEST EVER	42 (12/21)	37 (10/21)	18 (12/21, 10/21)

Poll Trend Notes:

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.

^{*} 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.

[&]quot;Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" are provided at the bottom of each question.

[^] Inconsequential wording change.