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Siena College Poll:

Harris Leads Trump by 14 Points (53-39%), Up from Biden's 8-Point Lead in June; In 6-Way Matchup, Harris Leads By 12 Points; RFK 7%

Harris Viewed Favorably, 53-43%; Trump Viewed Unfavorably, 39-59%; Three-Quarters Say Upcoming Election is Most Important of Their Lifetime

Gillibrand Leads Sapraicone 56-33%; NYS Proposed ERA Favored 68-23%

Voters Support Smartphones Being Prohibited in Classrooms, 60-32%;

Want Congestion Pricing Plan Scrapped, Not Implemented, 59-22%

Loudonville, NY. Vice President Kamala Harris leads former President Donald Trump 53-39% among likely New York State voters, the first time the Siena College poll has included Harris in a horserace against Trump. In late June Trump trailed President Joe Biden by a narrower 47-39%. In a six-way election horserace, Harris leads Trump 49-37%, with seven percent for Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and four percent for the other three minor party candidates, according to a Siena College poll of New York State likely voters released today.

Harris has a 53-43% favorability rating, up from 42-47% in October 2023. Trump's favorability rating is 39-59%, little changed from 37-59% in June, among registered voters. By a 74-23% margin, voters say this is the most important election of their lifetime. Democratic Senator Kirsten Gillibrand leads Republican challenger Mike Sapraicone 56-33%. Voters strongly support the proposed constitutional amendment on November's ballot, called the Equal Rights Amendment, 68-23%.

"The landscape has changed since the last Siena College poll. The change at the top of the Democratic ticket has had a noticeable, while not dramatic, effect on the horserace. Harris has the support of 86% of Democrats, up from the 75% support Biden had in June. And while independent voters support Trump over Harris 47-40%, they supported Trump over Biden 45-28%," Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. "Harris leads with Black voters 81-11%, up from Biden's 59-29% lead in June.

"The gender gap has widened with Harris replacing Biden. Currently Harris leads with women by 34 points, 64-30%, up from Biden's 51-33%, or 18-point lead. The race moved far less with men, who favor Trump over Harris 49-43%, compared to the 46-42% lead men gave Trump in June," Greenberg said. "Interestingly, it wasn't young voters that moved the needle. Among voters under 35, Harris leads 49-34%, down a little from the 51-32% lead Biden had in June. Harris' big pickup was among voters 35-54, who favor her 54-40%, after backing Trump 44-41% over Biden in June."

lifetime or no more or less important than any other election, more than three-quarters of Democrats (79%) and Republicans (77%) say it is the most important, while nearly two-thirds (65%) of independents say it's the most important election of their lifetime," Greenberg said. "When asked to think about the candidates and issues in the national election and whether they were optimistic or pessimistic about the future of America, a majority, 53-38% say they are optimistic, including 61% of Democrats and 52% of Republicans, but only 40% of independents.

“Voters think that Harris is prepared to be President for four years, 58-42%, and more narrowly, 51-48%, they say Trump is prepared. Not surprisingly, 88% of Democrats say Harris is prepared and 88% of Republicans say she is not. However, while 94% of Republicans say Trump is prepared, even one-quarter of Democrats concede he is prepared,” Greenberg said. “Independents say Trump is prepared, 61-38%, but Harris is not prepared, 52-46%.”

“With only 13 weeks until election day, Gillibrand is in strong position to win her fourth election to the United States Senate. She leads Sapraicone, her Republican opponent, 56-33%. She won reelection in 2018 with a 34-point victory over her then little-known Republican opponent.”

Favorability Ratings						
Person	Net Fav. Rating		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Kirsten Gillibrand	Net +7 points	Fav	40%	58%	20%	28%
		Unfav	33%	19%	54%	37%
Mike Sapaicone	Net -5 points	Fav	5%	4%	4%	7%
		Unfav	10%	12%	10%	9%
Kathy Hochul	Net -11 points	Fav	39%	60%	7%	29%
		Unfav	50%	26%	90%	55%
Chuck Schumer	Net +6 points	Fav	49%	76%	11%	34%
		Unfav	43%	18%	84%	51%
Siena College Poll – August 6, 2024						

“Not surprisingly, Sapaicone, who is making his first run for public office, is virtually unknown to New York voters. His favorability rating is 5-10%, with 85% having no opinion or having never heard of him,” Greenberg said. “What is a little surprising is that Gillibrand, who has been Senator since 2009, remains unknown to more than one-quarter of voters, but does have a 40-33% favorability rating.”

Voters Support Proposed Constitutional Amendment Called ERA on November’s Ballot 3-to-1

“Democrats support New York’s so-called ERA amendment – which adds anti-discrimination provisions to the State Constitution and protects abortion rights – by an overwhelming 89-7%. Independents support it 64-23%. Republicans oppose the amendment, 55-32%,” Greenberg said. “While men support the amendment 56-31%, it is supported by women 79-15%. It is strongly supported in every region, and with white, Black and Latino voters.”

2-to-1 Support for Banning Smartphones in Classrooms; Strong Support for Scrapping Congestion Pricing

“Voters support banning smartphones in classrooms 60-32%. In a true oddity, it is supported 58-36% by *both* Democrats and Republicans, with even stronger support from independents, 64-21%. Voters over 35 support a smartphone classroom ban two-to-one, however, voters under 35 only support such a ban, 44-40%,” Greenberg said. “Republicans (68%), Democrats (56%) and independents (54%) also all support scrapping the proposed congestion pricing plan for Manhattan. It is opposed in every region and with every demographic group.”

Odds & Ends

- Governor Kathy Hochul has a 39-50% favorability rating, compared to 38-49% in June. Her job approval rating, 46-49%, is up slightly from 44-50% in June. Hochul has never hit 50% of voters viewing her favorably, and this month she hit 50% of voters viewing her unfavorably, the first time she’s hit that mark.
- Strong majorities of voters think that crime in New York has gotten worse over the last year, (54%), as has the influx of migrants (64%), the availability of affordable housing (71%), and the cost of living (82%).
- Voters favor Democrats for Congress over Republicans, 52-37%, little changed from 50-35% in June. While the Democratic lead for the presidential race grew from 8 to 14 points, the race for Congress stayed the same. While more than two-thirds of New York City voters favor Democrats, they only hold narrow leads where the most competitive races are – the suburbs (47-44% Democrat) and upstate (44-42% Democrat).
- Voters remain sour on the direction of the state and country. By 51-39% (52-37% in June) voters say New York is off in the wrong direction, rather than on the right track. Voters are even more negative about the direction of the nation, thinking the country is headed in the wrong direction 61-30% (61-31% in June).

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This Siena College Poll was conducted July 28–August 1, 2024, among 1,199 likely voters in New York. 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 and cell phone telephone numbers weighted to reflect known population patterns. The sample of landline and cell phone was drawn from the L-2 database of registered voters. Data from collection modes was weighted to balance sample demographics to match estimates for New York State’s population using data from the Census Bureau’s 2023 U.S. American Community Survey (ACS), on age, region, race/ethnicity, education, and gender to ensure representativeness. The sample was also weighted to match current patterns of party registration using data from the New York State Board of Elections. It has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other public

opinion poll. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, an independent, nonpartisan 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 – August 2024

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
August 2024*	39	51	10
June 2024	37	52	11
May 2024	35	52	14
April 2024	35	53	12
February 2024	36	52	11
January 2024	34	55	10
November 2023	36	53	11
October 2023	34	52	14
September 2023	35	52	13
August 2023	39	48	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
August 2024*	30	61	9
June 2024	31	61	8
May 2024	29	61	11
April 2024	27	64	10
February 2024	31	62	8
January 2024	31	60	9
November 2023	25	66	9
October 2023	25	65	10
September 2023	33	59	8
August 2023	30	62	8
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (8/22, 10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	46	51	3
June 2024	42	53	5
May 2024	45	50	5
April 2024	45	52	3
February 2024	46	50	4
January 2024	43	53	3
November 2023	44	51	4
October 2023	45	52	3
September 2023	50	45	5
August 2023	46	50	4
HIGHEST EVER	65 (2/21)	53 (6/24, 1/24)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	42 (6/24)	26 (9/08)	3 (8/24, 1/24, 2/23, 9/22, 2/21)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	39	59	2
June 2024	37	59	4
May 2024	39	56	6
April 2024	37	59	4
February 2024	37	58	4
January 2024	37	57	5
November 2023	34	60	6
October 2023	36	59	5
September 2023	33	61	5
August 2023	37	56	7
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (8/24, 2/23, 4/20, 9/15)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	39	50	11
June 2024	38	49	13
May 2024	38	46	15
April 2024	40	49	12
February 2024	41	46	13
January 2024	45	42	12
November 2023	40	43	17
October 2023	40	44	16
September 2023	40	41	19
August 2023	40	46	14
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	50 (8/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (1/23)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	40	33	27
June 2024	40	31	28
May 2024	39	32	29
April 2024	39	31	30
February 2024	40	32	28
January 2024	42	28	31
November 2023	42	26	33
October 2023	39	30	31
September 2023	41	27	32
August 2023	39	28	33
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	36 (2/23, 9/19, 8/19, 6/19)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (4/20, 10/31/10)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	49	43	9
June 2024	43	44	13
May 2024	46	40	14
April 2024	44	42	14
February 2024	48	40	12
January 2024	49	38	13
November 2023	46	40	14
October 2023	44	41	15
September 2023	47	37	15

August 2023	48	38	14
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	46 (2/19)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	43 (6/24)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

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Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kamala Harris?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	53	43	3
October 2023	42	47	11
September 2023	46	44	10
January 2021	56	34	10
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/21)	47 (10/23)	12 (11/20)
LOWEST EVER	42 (10/23)	33 (11/20)	3 (8/24)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	37	47	16
February 2024	40	37	23
January 2024	44	32	24
November 2023	37	36	28
October 2023	41	37	22
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/24)	47 (8/24)	28 (11/23)
LOWEST EVER	37 (8/24, 11/23)	32 (1/24)	16 (8/24)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Cornel West?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	21	23	56
February 2024	20	24	56
January 2024	23	22	56
November 2023	18	22	60
October 2023	18	21	60
HIGHEST EVER	23 (1/24)	24 (2/24)	60 (11/23, 10/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (11/23, 10/23)	21 (10/23)	56 (8/24, 2/24, 1/24)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jill Stein?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	15	29	55
October 2016*	22	33	45
HIGHEST EVER	23 (9/16)	33 (10/16)	55 (8/24)
LOWEST EVER	15 (8/24)	26 (9/16)	45 (10/16)

Q. 25 If the 2024 election for your representative in Congress was held today, would you vote for the Democrat or the Republican? (Order was rotated.)

DATE	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	NOT VOTE/OTHER/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2024*	52	37	11
June 2024	50	35	14
May 2024	49	33	18
April 2024	49	36	15
February 2024	49	34	17
January 2024	49	32	19
November 2023	49	34	16
October 2023	49	37	14
HIGHEST EVER	52 (8/24)	37 (8/24, 10/23)	19 (1/24)
LOWEST EVER	49 (5/24, 4/24, 2/24, 1/24, 11/23, 10/23)	32 (1/24)	11 (8/24)

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Q. 27 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Joe Biden is doing as President? FOLLOW UP: Is that strong or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
August 2024*	30	20	8	42	1
June 2024	21	24	14	39	1
May 2024	20	26	11	40	2
April 2024	21	24	17	38	1
February 2024	21	24	15	37	3
January 2024	20	24	16	40	1
November 2023	20	25	16	37	2
October 2023	22	24	12	39	3
September 2023	22	25	13	35	4
August 2023	22	25	13	37	3
HIGHEST EVER	30 (8/24)	30 (1/23)	17 (4/24, 6/23)	42 (8/24)	4 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	18 (8/22)	20 (8/24)	6 (10/22)	31 (2/23)	1 (many)

Q. 28 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Kathy Hochul is doing as governor? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
August 2024*	15	31	13	36	5
June 2024	13	31	15	35	5
May 2024	14	31	16	30	8
April 2024	14	31	16	33	6
February 2024	18	30	20	27	6
January 2024	17	35	13	30	6
November 2023	17	31	15	29	8
October 2023	16	29	14	31	9
September 2023	16	32	16	25	11
August 2023	18	28	17	29	8
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	36 (2/23, 1/23)	20 (2/24)	38 (10/22)	11 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	13 (6/24)	28 (8/23)	7 (10/22)	25 (9/23, 1/23)	4 (2/23)

Q. 29 Do you think the problem of crime in New York State has gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same over the last year? ^

DATE	BETTER	SAME	WORSE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
August 2024*	16	27	54	2
June 2024	17	31	49	2
May 2024	14	29	54	2
April 2024	12	31	55	2
February 2024	12	31	56	2
January 2024	16	34	48	1
November 2023	13	30	53	3
October 2023	9	28	59	4
HIGHEST EVER	17 (6/24)	34 (1/24)	59 (10/23)	4 (10/23)
LOWEST EVER	9 (10/23)	27 (8/24)	48 (1/24)	1 (1/24)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August 2024, August thru October 2022, 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 August 2023.

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

[^] Inconsequential wording change.