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Siena College New York State Poll:

Hochul – with a Big Lead in a Very Early Democratic Primary Look – Gets Good Grades from Voters on Protecting Constitutional Rights & Ensuring Quality Affordable Healthcare, But Not on Making NY More Affordable

NY State Voters Want Congestion Pricing Eliminated, 40-33%; New York City Voters Want It to Remain, 42-35%; Downstate Suburbanites Say Eliminate, 48-30%

Trump Job Approval Rating Drops 8 Points, While Favorability Little Changed; His Job Approval Is Better on Specific Issues, with a 54-37% Majority Approving of His Efforts to Combat the Flow of Fentanyl into the Country

Voters Overwhelmingly Oppose Making Canada the 51st State and Owning & Developing Gaza; Strong Support for Making English the Official US Language

Loudonville, NY. In a hypothetical 2026 Democratic primary, Governor Kathy Hochul has the support of 46% of Democrats, with a commanding lead over Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado, 11%, and Rep. Ritchie Torres, 10%. Hochul's favorability (40-50%) and overall job approval (46-48%) ratings are little changed from last month. On three specific issues – protecting constitutional rights, ensuring access to quality, affordable healthcare, and making New York safer – Hochul has a positive job approval rating, but on making New York more affordable, she's underwater by 11 points, according to a Siena College poll of New York State registered voters.

More voters side with President Donald Trump and say congestion pricing should be eliminated, 40%, than say it should remain, as Hochul does, 33%. Trump's favorability rating, 39-57%, is little changed from last month, but his overall job approval rating, 42-55% is down from 46-51% last month. When it comes to combatting fentanyl, voters approve of the job Trump is doing 54-37%. Voters oppose making Canada the 51st state, 68-11%, and owning and redeveloping Gaza, 58-15%. They do support making English the US's official language, 57-27%.

“Although Hochul's favorability rating continues to remain in stubbornly negative territory, where it has been since February last year, her overall job approval rating is close to the breakeven mark,” Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. “Two-thirds of Democrats approve of the job Hochul is doing as Governor, however, 79% of Republicans and 59% of independents disapprove. Currently, 34% of voters say they would re-elect Hochul, while 56% want ‘someone else.’ Among Democrats, they would re-elect Hochul 51-40%.

“Strong majorities of voters approve of the job she is doing to protect New Yorkers' constitutional rights and ensuring access to quality, affordable healthcare, and a narrow plurality approves her efforts to make New York safer,” Greenberg said. “But a majority disapproves of her efforts to make the state more affordable.”

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“On each of these issues, a majority or plurality of Democrats approve of the job that Hochul’s doing, while a majority of Republicans and a majority or plurality of independents disapprove of the job she’s doing on most of the issues, except independents are split on protecting

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Hochul is doing on the following issues:					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Protecting the Constitutional rights of all New Yorkers	Approve	58%	77%	32%	45%
	Disapprove	35%	18%	59%	47%
Ensuring New Yorkers have access to quality affordable healthcare	Approve	55%	70%	37%	44%
	Disapprove	35%	23%	54%	44%
Making New York a safer place to live and work	Approve	48%	62%	31%	38%
	Disapprove	45%	31%	64%	57%
Making New York a more affordable place to live and work	Approve	41%	53%	27%	33%
	Disapprove	52%	42%	68%	59%
Addressing the corruption indictment against NYC Mayor Eric Adams	Approve	40%	50%	28%	31%
	Disapprove	44%	36%	54%	47%
Working with the Trump administration to benefit New York	Approve	38%	46%	33%	32%
	Disapprove	46%	40%	52%	51%
Handling the strike by correctional officers at New York State prisons	Approve	33%	43%	23%	23%
	Disapprove	42%	28%	62%	52%
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constitutional rights and access to healthcare,” Greenberg said.

Hochul Has Commanding Early Lead in Potential Primary for Dems; Lawler Leads Blakeman with Reps

“While Hochul’s favorability and job approval ratings remain negative, among Democrats her favorability and job approval ratings are decidedly positive. Factor that in with two largely unknown potential opponents, even among Democrats – Delgado and Torres – and it is easy to see why Hochul holds a commanding early lead among registered Democrats in a potential June 2026 gubernatorial primary,” Greenberg said.

Delgado’s overall favorability rating is 19-16%, with 65% not knowing or having an opinion about him. Among Democrats, Delgado’s favorability rating is 26-10-64%. Torres’ favorability rating with all voters is 18-15-67%, and with Democrats, 27-14-59%. Republican Rep. Mike Lawler has a 18-19-63% favorability rating among all voters and a 18-14-68% rating among Republicans. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman has a 12-14-74% favorability rating among all voters and a 15-16-69% rating with Republicans.

“Not surprisingly, the big winner in a potential 2026 Republican gubernatorial primary is ‘don’t know,’ 60%, given two potential candidates who are largely unknown to New York Republicans,” Greenberg said. “Among Republicans ready to take an early position, Lawler leads Blakeman 25-13%.”

Plurality Takes Trump’s Side Over Hochul’s and Wants Congestion Pricing Eliminated

“A plurality of voters wants to see congestion pricing eliminated, as Trump has called for. Pluralities of New York City voters and Democrats want congestion pricing to remain, Hochul’s position,” Greenberg said. “In June 2024, voters approved of Hochul’s temporary halt of congestion pricing 45-23%. In December, voters opposed Hochul’s announced reimposition of the congestion pricing tolls, 51-29%.”

“Having one-third of voters statewide supporting the continuation of congestion pricing is the best congestion pricing has done in a Siena College poll,” Greenberg said. “Additionally, support currently trails opposition by seven points, when it was 22 points in both December and June 2024.”

Trump Job Approval Falls a Little; Specific Issues Job Approval Largely Better than Overall Job Approval

“While Trump’s favorability rating barely moved since last month, his overall job approval rating took a little hit since February, largely as a result of Republican approval ‘falling’ from 86-10% approval last month to 78-20% approval this month,” Greenberg said. “His approval rating also fell in the downstate suburbs, from 58-41% last month to 46-51% today.”

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Trump is doing on the following issues:					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Combatting the flow of dangerous drugs like fentanyl into our country	Approve	54%	37%	82%	62%
	Disapprove	37%	54%	12%	29%
Fixing our country’s immigration system	Approve	48%	26%	86%	58%
	Disapprove	48%	72%	12%	35%
Making the federal government run more efficiently	Approve	46%	25%	83%	55%
	Disapprove	50%	73%	15%	39%
Negotiating a peace deal in the Middle East	Approve	45%	25%	74%	53%
	Disapprove	48%	70%	18%	34%
Ending the war between Russia and Ukraine	Approve	43%	24%	75%	53%
	Disapprove	51%	73%	20%	38%
Reducing the cost of living for everyday Americans	Approve	43%	22%	75%	50%
	Disapprove	53%	74%	21%	44%
Unifying Americans	Approve	41%	23%	75%	45%
	Disapprove	53%	74%	19%	42%
Enhancing America’s reputation in the world	Approve	40%	20%	76%	45%
	Disapprove	54%	75%	21%	45%

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“Trump’s overall job approval rating may be 13 points underwater, and he gets similar negative grades for unifying Americans, enhancing America’s reputation abroad, and reducing the cost of living, but a majority of voters approve of the job he’s doing to combat the flow of fentanyl into the US,” Greenberg said. “Voters are evenly divided on whether they approve or disapprove of Trump’s actions to fix the country’s immigration system.

“Democrats disapprove of the job Trump is doing on each of these issues and three-quarters or more of Republicans approve of the job he’s doing on each issue,” Greenberg said. “Independents approve of the job Trump is doing on six of the issues and they are closely divided on two others, unifying Americans and enhancing America’s reputation.”

Support / Oppose: Trump proposals					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Making English the official language of the United States	Support	57%	41%	88%	60%
	Oppose	27%	40%	6%	22%
Making significant cuts to the size of the Federal workforce	Support	33%	17%	60%	38%
	Oppose	43%	63%	15%	29%
Taking back control of the Panama Canal	Support	33%	17%	61%	38%
	Oppose	45%	64%	19%	31%
Assuming ownership of the Gaza strip and redeveloping it as the ‘Riviera of the Middle East’	Support	15%	10%	29%	13%
	Oppose	58%	71%	38%	49%
Making Canada the 51st state	Support	11%	8%	22%	10%
	Oppose	68%	78%	53%	62%

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“Trump’s executive order making English the official language of the United States is supported by New Yorkers better than two-to-one, 57-27%, with overwhelming support from Republicans and independents, while Democrats are closely divided,” Greenberg said. “On four other issues an overwhelming majority of Democrats and a majority or plurality of all voters oppose each.

“Even Republicans are not with Trump on making Canada the 51st state, opposed by 68% of all voters, or owning and redeveloping Gaza into the ‘Riviera of the Middle East,’ opposed by 58% of all voters,” Greenberg said.

“When it comes to significant federal workforce cuts and taking back the Panama Canal, at least 60% of Democrats oppose each, at least 60% of Republicans support each, as do a plurality of independents, 38% in both cases.”

Odds & Ends

- Three years into the war between Russia and Ukraine, New Yorkers continue to overwhelmingly view Vladimir Putin unfavorably, 8-81%, only slightly changed from 6-88% in March 2022, just after the start of the war. On the other side, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has a 49-33% favorability rating, down from 70-13% in March 2022. While Zelenskyy continues to be viewed favorably by more than two-thirds of Democrats, he is viewed unfavorably by 57% of Republicans (who had viewed him favorably three years ago, 71-15%) and a plurality, 39% of independents (who viewed him favorably, 67-12%, in March 2022).
- The US Supreme Court is viewed favorably by 39% and unfavorably by 47%. In February 2024, the Court had a 44-45% favorability rating. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats view SCOTUS unfavorably, while two-thirds of Republicans view it favorably, and independents are closely divided.
- Democrats in Congress have a 45-48% favorability rating, nearly identical to 45-47% last June. They’re viewed favorably by Democrats, 71-25%, and unfavorably by 79% of Republicans and 61% of independents. Republicans in Congress have a worse favorability rating, 34-56%, which is up from June’s 29-62%. They’re viewed favorably by 76% of Reps, and unfavorably by 83% of Dems and 43% of independents, a plurality.
- New York City Mayor Eric Adams has a 22-55% favorability rating. It’s 23-63% among Democrats and 30-62% among New York City voters. It was 29-37% back in August 2023.
- Former Governor and current NYC mayoral candidate Andrew Cuomo has a 37-51% favorability rating, up from 32-60% in March 2022. It’s 51-39% with Democrats and 48-41% with New York City voters.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted March 2-6, 2025, among 806 NYS Registered Voters. Of the 806 respondents, 506 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (218 completed via text to web) and 300 respondents were drawn from a proprietary online panel (Cint). 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 landline telephone sample was obtained from ASDE and the cell phone sample was obtained from MSG. Interviews conducted online are excluded from the sample and final analysis if they fail any data quality attention check question. Duplicate responses are identified by their response ID and removed from the sample. Three questions were asked of online respondents including a honey-pot question to catch bots and two questions ask the respondent to follow explicit directions. The proprietary panel also incorporates measures that “safeguard against automated bot attacks, deduplication issues, fraudulent VPN usage, and suspicious IP addresses”. Coding of open-ended responses was done by a single human

coder. 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 +/- 4.3 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, 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 – March 2025

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
March 2025	38	46	16
February 2025	36	50	14
December 2024	36	50	14
October 2024*	37	51	12
September 2024*	32	55	13
August 2024*	39	51	10
June 2024	37	52	11
May 2024	35	52	14
April 2024	35	53	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
March 2025	36	54	10
February 2025	37	55	8
December 2024	30	60	9
October 2024*	28	61	11
September 2024*	31	59	11
August 2024*	30	61	9
June 2024	31	61	8
May 2024	29	61	11
April 2024	27	64	10
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. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	40	50	10
February 2025	39	47	14
December 2024	39	49	12
October 2024*	36	51	14
September 2024*	34	54	12
August 2024*	39	50	11
June 2024	38	49	13
May 2024	38	46	15
April 2024	40	49	12
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	54 (9/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (1/23)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Antonio Delgado?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	19	16	65
December 2024	17	15	68
HIGHEST EVER	29 (6/22)	18 (1/24)	68 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	17 (12/24, 1/24)	15 (12/24, 12/22)	55 (6/22)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Mike Lawler?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	18	19	63
December 2024	17	20	64
HIGHEST EVER	18 (3/25)	20 (12/24)	64 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	17 (12/24)	19 (3/25)	63 (3/25)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ritchie Torres?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	18	15	67
December 2024	19	13	68
HIGHEST EVER	19 (12/24)	15 (3/25)	68 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	18 (3/25)	13 (12/24)	67 (3/25)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bruce Blakeman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	12	14	74
August 2010	7	10	83
HIGHEST EVER	12 (3/25)	14 (3/25)	90 (12/09)
LOWEST EVER	4 (12/09)	6 (5/10, 4/10, 2/09)	74 (3/25)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Adams?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	22	55	23
August 2023	29	37	34
HIGHEST EVER	41 (1/22)	55 (3/25)	44 (2/22)
LOWEST EVER	22 (3/25)	19 (1/22)	23 (3/25)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	37	51	12
March 2022	32	60	8
September 2021	34	55	11
June 2021	45	47	8
HIGHEST EVER	77 (4/20, 2/11)	60 (3/22, 2/22, 10/21)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	32 (3/22)	14 (8/09)	2 (4/20)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	39	57	4
February 2025	41	56	4
December 2024	37	59	4
October 2024*	38	60	2
September 2024*	39	57	4
August 2024*	39	59	2
June 2024	37	59	4
May 2024	39	56	6
April 2024	37	59	4
HIGHEST EVER	41 (2/25, 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. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the United States Supreme Court?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	39	47	14

February 2024	44	45	10
May 2023	37	52	11
December 2022	45	41	14
October 2021	51	32	17
July 2012	63	30	8
HIGHEST EVER	63 (7/12)	52 (5/23)	17 (10/21)
LOWEST EVER	37 (5/23)	30 (7/12)	8 (7/12)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Democrats in Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	45	48	8
June 2024	45	47	8
HIGHEST EVER	50 (1/23)	54 (9/11)	8 (3/25, 6/24, 1/23)
LOWEST EVER	40 (9/11)	43 (1/23)	6 (9/11)

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Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Republicans in Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	34	56	10
June 2024	29	62	9
HIGHEST EVER	36 (1/23)	68 (9/11)	10 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	26 (9/11)	56 (3/25)	6 (9/11)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Elon Musk?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	34	58	8
February 2025	34	53	12
HIGHEST EVER	34 (3/25, 2/25)	58 (3/25)	12 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	34 (3/25, 2/25)	53 (2/25)	8 (3/25)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Vladimir Putin?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	8	81	11
March 2022	6	88	6
HIGHEST EVER	10 (7/17)	88 (3/22)	17 (7/17)
LOWEST EVER	6 (3/22)	73 (7/17)	6 (3/22)

Q. 16 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Volodymyr Zelenskyy?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	49	33	18
March 2022	70	13	16
HIGHEST EVER	70 (3/22)	33 (3/25)	18 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	49 (3/25)	13 (3/22)	16 (3/22)

Q. 19 I know it's a long way off, but if Kathy Hochul runs for re-election as Governor in 2026, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect Hochul, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE		DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
		ELSE		
March 2025	34	56		10
February 2025	31	57		12
December 2024	33	57		11
HIGHEST EVER	34 (3/25)	57 (2/25, 12/24)		12 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	31 (2/25)	56 (3/25)		10 (3/25)

Q. 20 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
March 2025	15	31	16	32	6
February 2025	14	30	16	32	8
December 2024	13	33	20	29	4
October 2024*	14	27	17	34	7
September 2024*	12	27	16	40	5
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
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	36 (2/23, 1/23)	20 (12/24, 2/24)	40 (9/24)	11 (9/23)
LOWEST EVER	12 (9/24)	27 (10/24, 9/24)	7 (10/22)	25 (9/23, 1/23)	4 (12/24, 2/23)

Q. 29 Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? FOLLOW UP: Is that strongly or somewhat?

DATE	STRONGLY APPROVE	SOMEWHAT APPROVE	SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	STRONGLY DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	27	15	7	48	3
February 2025	31	15	7	44	3
HIGHEST EVER	31 (2/25)	15 (2/25)	7 (2/25)	44 (2/25)	3 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	31 (2/25)	15 (2/25)	7 (2/25)	44 (2/25)	3 (2/25)

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Q. 41 Do you support or oppose taking back control of the Panama Canal?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	33	45	23
February 2025	34	41	25
HIGHEST EVER	34 (2/25)	45 (3/25)	25 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	33 (3/25)	41 (2/25)	23 (3/25)

Q. 43 Despite the current partisan divisions, how likely do you think it is that the United States will continue to be a democratic republic in 2030 – is it very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

DATE	VERY LIKELY	SOMEWHAT LIKELY	NOT VERY LIKELY	NOT AT ALL LIKELY	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2025	30	30	17	9	15
February 2025	32	31	16	7	14
December 2024	33	33	13	7	12
HIGHEST EVER	40 (12/22)	38 (1/22)	17 (3/25, 1/22)	9 (3/25)	15 (3/25)
LOWEST EVER	29 (1/22)	30 (3/25, 12/22)	13 (12/24, 9/23)	4 (2/24)	7 (12/22)

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 April 2024.

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

[^] Inconsequential wording change.