



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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Siena Poll:

Hochul Approval & Favorability Ratings Up a Little; Hochul Lead Over Stefanik In 2026 Race Falls to 14 Points, 45-31%, from 23 Points, 47-24%, in June; Voters Say if Stefanik Runs & Is Elected Gov, It Would Be Bad for NY, 49-37%

If BBB Cuts Federal \$ to NY, 36% Say Reduce Services, 24%, Increase Taxes; Voters Oppose NY Spending \$3B to Continue Providing Healthcare to Immigrants in NY Illegally; 69% of NYers Concerned (43% Very) About Rural Hospital Closures
Trump Fav & Job Ratings Up a Bit, Still Underwater; Voters Say He's Not Succeeding Making Necessities More Affordable, Ending Wars, Protecting Rights of All

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul's job approval and favorability ratings are up a little from June, but her lead in a potential gubernatorial race against Rep. Elise Stefanik fell to 14 points, 45-31%, down from a 23-point lead in June, 47-24%, according to a new Siena Poll of New York State registered voters released today. Nearly half of voters say they are at least somewhat familiar with Stefanik, but only 29% say she has the right experience to be governor, and by 49-37%, they say if she was elected governor, it would be bad for New York.

If the recently passed Big Beautiful Bill reduces federal funds to New York, 36% of voters want the state to address it more by reducing state services, compared to 24% who want to see state taxes raised, and 16% who volunteered that the state should do both. By 51-34%, voters are opposed to the state spending \$3 billion to continue providing health care to immigrants illegally in New York. More than two-thirds of voters say they are very (43%) or somewhat (26%) concerned that the BBB will result in rural hospitals in New York closing.

Hochul has a 42-44% favorability rating; it was 42-47% in June. Her job approval rating is 53-42%, up from 50-45% in June. Stefanik's favorability rating is 27-32%, with 41% saying they don't know or never heard of her.

"While the Governor can trumpet her best job approval rating since March 2023, Stefanik can highlight that more than a year out from a potential match-up, Hochul's lead over Stefanik is only 14 points, 45-31%, down from 23 points in June, and that Hochul doesn't hit 'the magic 51% mark,'" Siena pollster Steven Greenberg said. "More than two-thirds of Democrats are with Hochul and three-quarters of Republicans are with Stefanik. Independents are closely divided, leaning toward Stefanik, after favoring Hochul in June.

"New York City voters remain solidly behind Hochul, however downstate suburban voters went from favoring Hochul by 11 points in June to narrowly favoring Stefanik now, and upstate voters had given Hochul a 12-point lead, and are now virtually evenly divided," Greenberg said.

“Stefanik clearly has room to grow with voters – either positively or negatively. While 49% of voters say they are very or somewhat familiar with her, 46% are not very or not at all familiar with Stefanik,” Greenberg said.

“Republicans think she has the right experience to be governor, Democrats don’t, and independents are closely divided. More than three-quarters of Republicans think it would be good for New York if Stefanik ran and won, while more than two-thirds of Democrats and a plurality of independents think it would be bad for the state.”

Voters on BBB: ‘No’ to \$3B for Healthcare for Immigrants in NY Illegally; Concerned About Rural Hospitals

“More than three-quarters of Democrats, nearly two-thirds of independents and half of Republicans are very or somewhat concerned that cuts in the BBB will force many rural hospitals in New York to close, despite bill supporters of the BBB saying it includes additional funding to avoid rural hospital closures,” Greenberg said. “At least 63% of voters from every region of the state are concerned about closures.

“With cuts in the BBB eliminating federal Medicaid funding for immigrants in New York illegally, more than two-thirds of Republicans and nearly two-thirds of independents are opposed to the state spending \$3 billion to continue providing healthcare to those immigrants. Only a plurality of Democrats supports the state continuing to provide them with healthcare,” Greenberg said. “Interestingly voters under 35 support continuing to provide healthcare, but a strong majority of voters 55 and older oppose it.

Close the state budget gap due to the BBB by mostly cutting services or raising taxes? A majority of Republicans and a plurality of independents say cut services. A plurality of Democrats says raise taxes,” Greenberg said.

“With the state budget a long way away, neither side has yet made a convincing argument to voters on how to close any potential gap from federal funding cuts in the BBB.”

Voters Support Several State Proposals; Closely Divided on Reapportionment Constitutional Amendment

Support / Oppose: New York State Proposals					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
A proposed law that would require food stores & retail establishments to accept cash, even if they prefer credit cards or other forms of payment	Support	79%	78%	77%	81%
	Oppose	9%	9%	11%	7%
A proposal to provide federal funding to police departments to provide child care options for police officers	Support	60%	62%	62%	56%
	Oppose	20%	21%	18%	19%
A law that requires all school districts to restrict smartphone use by students in K-12 schools throughout the entire school day	Support	60%	60%	61%	57%
	Oppose	24%	24%	23%	23%
A law that allows NY doctors to prescribe abortion medication to out-of-state patients, while only being known to the patient and the pharmacy	Support	54%	70%	28%	45%
	Oppose	30%	18%	55%	33%
A proposal to develop a zero-emission nuclear energy power plant in New York	Support	49%	49%	55%	46%
	Oppose	26%	27%	24%	25%
A proposed amendment to NYS Constitution that would allow the state to redraw C.D. lines mid-decade – instead of every 10 years – if another state does so	Support	35%	45%	24%	26%
	Oppose	34%	29%	42%	35%
Siena Poll: August 12, 2025					

“Voters are divided on a constitutional amendment to allow mid-decade redistricting in New York if other states do it. A plurality of Democrats supports it. Pluralities of Republicans and independents oppose it,” Greenberg said.

“There is overwhelming bipartisan support for requiring retail establishments to accept cash, providing funding to police departments for child care for officers, and restricting smartphone use in schools,” Greenberg said. “On restricting smartphones in schools, support is down from May – when it was supported 67-16%. Support is still strong across the political and geographic spectrum.

“Developing a zero-emission nuclear power plant in New York has majority or plurality support from Democrats, Republicans, independents, upstaters and downstaters,” Greenberg said. Democrats overwhelmingly support a law allowing New York doctors to prescribe abortion medication to out-of-state patients, while only being known to the patient and pharmacy. It is supported by a plurality of independents and opposed by Republicans two-to-one.

Trump Ratings Up a Bit; Voters Say He’s Not Succeeding on Affordability, Ending Wars & Other Issues

President Donald Trump has a 37-56% favorability rating, compared to 37-60% in June. His job approval rating stands at 41-58%, from 39-59% in June.

“More than two-thirds of Republicans think Trump is succeeding improving America’s standing in the world, protecting the rights

President Donald Trump: Succeeding or Not Succeeding?					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Making everyday necessities - like food, housing and energy - more affordable	Succeeding	23%	12%	54%	19%
	Not succeeding	63%	82%	25%	62%
Ending wars around the world	Succeeding	27%	14%	57%	28%
	Not succeeding	61%	79%	24%	59%
Improving America's standing in the world	Succeeding	33%	16%	72%	35%
	Not succeeding	57%	79%	18%	51%
Protecting the rights of all Americans	Succeeding	34%	18%	73%	34%
	Not succeeding	55%	77%	12%	52%
Ensuring Americans feel safer in their everyday lives	Succeeding	33%	16%	68%	36%
	Not succeeding	54%	75%	16%	49%
Siena Poll: August 12, 2025					

of all Americans, and ensuring Americans feel safer. But at least three-quarters of Democrats and about half of independents say he is not succeeding,” Greenberg said. “Overwhelming majorities of Democrats and independents say Trump is not succeeding making necessities more affordable and ending wars around the world. And about one-quarter of Republicans also say he’s not succeeding on these issues.”

NYC Registered Voters Give Mamdani 19-Point Lead Over Cuomo, 44-25%, Sliwa Third, Adams Fourth

Among the 39% of registered (not likely) voters from New York City included in this poll, 44% say they support Democrat Zohran Mamdani, compared to 25% who support independent Andrew Cuomo, 12% for Republican Curtis Sliwa and 7% for independent incumbent Mayor Eric Adams.

“While City Democrats favor Mamdani over Cuomo 53-32%, with single digits for the other two, more than two-thirds of City Republicans support Sliwa. City independent voters are more closely divided, with 30% supporting Mamdani and 20% supporting Adams,” Greenberg said. “City voters under 35 are overwhelmingly supporting Mamdani, as are a plurality of voters 35-54, however, voters 55 and older back Cuomo over Mamdani, 38-32%.”

“Mamdani, included in the Siena poll for the first time, has a 46-32% favorability rating with New York City voters and a negative 28-37% favorability rating among voters statewide,” Greenberg said. “Cuomo has an underwater favorability rating with City voters, 37-54%, and an even worse 29-61% favorability rating with statewide voters, the worst ever favorability rating for Cuomo in a Siena poll. In fact, among Democrats statewide, Cuomo’s favorability rating is 36-56%, down from 51-39% in March.

Adams is also underwater with voters in the City, 30-58%, statewide 22-51%, and among Democrats statewide 22-59%,” Greenberg said. “Sliwa has a 26-30% statewide favorability rating, and 30-42% in the City.”

Odds & Ends

- Senator Chuck Schumer has his lowest ever favorability rating in a Siena poll (dating to February 2005), 38-50%, down from 41-47% in June. Among Democrats his favorability rating is 49-39%, down from 55-35% in June. For the first time ever, he is underwater with New York City voters, 39-46%.
- Since her re-election last year, voters have soured on Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Her favorability rating stands at 36-38%, down from 44-26% last October (among likely 2024 voters). While a plurality of Democrats views her favorably, pluralities of Republicans and independents view her unfavorably.
- Voters are still pessimistic about the direction of the state, with 41% saying the state is on the right track and 45% saying the state is headed in the wrong direction. It is a noticeable improvement, however, from June when it was 37-50%. There was no similar improvement from voters on the direction of the country. By a 33-59% margin, voters say the US is headed in the wrong direction, little changed from 35-58% in June.
- Voters have an unfavorable view of both Democrats in Congress (42-49%; it was 45-48% in June) and Republicans in Congress (34-58%; it was 34-56% in June).

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This Siena Poll was conducted August 4-7, 2025, among 813 NYS Registered Voters. Of the 813 respondents, 513 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (158 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 +/- 4.2 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 Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social, and cultural research primarily in NYS. SRI, 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/SRI/SNY.



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Siena Poll Trends – August 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
August 2025	41	45	15
June 2025	37	50	13
May 2025	43	46	11
April 2025	41	45	14
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
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
August 2025	5	20	34	36	5
April 2025	10	20	33	32	4
December 2024	5	22	34	34	5
HIGHEST EVER	10 (4/25)	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
August 2025	33	59	8
June 2025	35	58	8
May 2025	37	58	5
April 2025	37	56	8
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
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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	42	44	14
June 2025	42	47	11
May 2025	44	46	10
April 2025	44	43	13
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
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/23)	54 (9/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (5/25, 3/25, 1/23)

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Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Antonio Delgado?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	21	18	61
June 2025	24	18	58
May 2025	25	18	58
April 2025	25	19	56
March 2025	19	16	65
December 2024	17	15	68
HIGHEST EVER	29 (6/22)	19 (4/25)	68 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	17 (12/24, 1/24)	15 (12/24, 12/22)	55 (6/22)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Elise Stefanik?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	27	32	41
June 2025	25	32	43
May 2025	25	35	39
December 2024	22	29	49
HIGHEST EVER	27 (8/25)	35 (5/25)	49 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	22 (12/24)	29 (12/24)	39 (5/25)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	37	56	7
June 2025	37	60	3
May 2025	38	59	3
April 2025	40	55	5
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
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. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	38	50	13
June 2025	41	47	12
May 2025	42	48	10
April 2025	39	49	12
February 2025	45	41	14
December 2024	47	40	12
October 2024*	49	42	8
August 2024*	49	43	9
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	50 (8/25)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	38 (8/25)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	36	38	27
October 2024*	44	26	30
September 2024*	40	31	29
August 2024*	40	33	27
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	38 (8/25)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (4/20, 10/31/10)

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Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Adams?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	22	51	26
March 2025	22	55	23
August 2023	29	37	34
HIGHEST EVER	41 (1/22)	55 (3/25)	44 (2/22)
LOWEST EVER	22 (8/25, 3/25)	19 (1/22)	23 (3/25)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	29	61	10
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)	61 (8/25)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	29 (8/25)	14 (8/09)	2 (4/20)

Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Republicans in Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	34	58	8
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. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Democrats in Congress?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	42	49	9
March 2025	45	48	8
June 2024	45	47	8
HIGHEST EVER	50 (1/23)	54 (9/11)	9 (8/25)
LOWEST EVER	40 (9/11)	43 (1/23)	6 (9/11)

Q. 16 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 ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	35	53	12
June 2025	37	55	8
May 2025	36	55	10
April 2025	39	48	13
March 2025	34	56	10
February 2025	31	57	12
December 2024	33	57	11
HIGHEST EVER	39 (4/25)	57 (2/25, 12/24)	13 (4/25)
LOWEST EVER	31 (2/25)	48 (4/25)	8 (6/25)

Q. 17 (DEMS ONLY) If the 2026 Democratic primary for Governor was held today, would you vote for Kathy Hochul, Antonio Delgado, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	KATHY HOCHUL	ANTONIO DELGADO	RITCHIE TORRES	OTHER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2025	50	15	NA	4	31
June 2025	49	12	10	4	26
May 2025	46	12	10	4	28
April 2025	44	12	9	5	30
March 2025	46	11	10	4	28
HIGHEST EVER	50 (8/25)	15 (8/25)	10 (6/25, 5/25, 3/25)	5 (4/25)	31 (8/25)
LOWEST EVER	44 (4/25)	11 (3/25)	9 (4/25)	4 (8/25 & others)	26 (6/25)

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- Q. 19** If the general election for Governor was held today, and the candidates were Democrat Kathy Hochul and Republican Elise Stefanik, would you vote for Stefanik, Hochul, or someone else? ^ (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	HOCHUL	STEFANIK	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
August 2025	45	31	3	20
June 2025	47	24	2	27
HIGHEST EVER	47 (6/25)	31 (8/25)	3 (8/25)	27 (6/25)
LOWEST EVER	45 (8/25)	24 (6/25)	2 (6/25)	20 (8/25)

- 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
August 2025	15	38	15	27	5
June 2025	17	33	15	30	5
May 2025	15	35	17	29	3
April 2025	16	32	18	27	7
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 204*	12	27	16	40	5
August 2024*	15	31	13	36	5
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	38 (8/25)	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)	3 (5/25)

- Q. 21** Do you support or oppose requiring school districts to restrict smartphone use by students in K-12 schools throughout the entire school day? ^

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
August 2025	60	24	14	3
May 2025	67	16	14	2
April 2025	61	19	18	2
February 2025	62	21	14	3
HIGHEST EVER	67 (5/25)	24 (8/25)	18 (4/25)	3 (8/25, 2/25)
LOWEST EVER	60 (8/25)	16 (5/25)	14 (8/25, 5/25, 2/25)	2 (5/25, 4/25)

- Q. 33** 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
August 2025	23	18	9	49	2
June 2025	25	14	11	48	2
May 20225	24	16	8	49	2
April 2025	25	17	8	48	2
March 2025	27	15	7	48	3
February 2025	31	15	7	44	3
HIGHEST EVER	31 (2/25)	18 (8/25)	11 (6/25)	49 (8/25, 5/25)	3 (2/25)
LOWEST EVER	23 (8/25)	14 (6/25)	7 (2/25)	44 (2/25)	2 (8/25, 6/25, 5/25, 4/25)

- Q. 39** Overall, when you consider everything President Trump is doing both domestically and foreign affairs, do you think Trump's actions will or will not make America great?

DATE	WILL	WILL NOT	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
August 2025	33	54	9	4
June 2025	33	54	9	4
HIGHEST EVER	33 (8/25, 6/25)	54 (8/25, 6/25)	9 (8/25, 6/25)	4 (8/25, 6/25)
LOWEST EVER	33 (8/25, 6/25)	54 (8/25, 6/25)	9 (8/25, 6/25)	4 (8/25, 6/25)

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Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August thru October 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 Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since August 2024.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.