



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SIENA UNIVERSITY, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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Siena Poll:

Hochul Lead Over Still Largely Unknown Blakeman Drops 7 Points to 47-34%, from 51-31%; Her Favorability & Approval Ratings Unchanged in Last Month

Voters Strongly – In Bipartisan Fashion – Say ‘No’ to 4-Year Legislative Terms And ‘Yes’ To Making it Easier for New Yorkers to Buy Pepper Spray

Two-Thirds of Voters – Including Majority of Reps – Say President Should Get Congressional Approval to Wage War; A Majority – But Not Dems – Support Proof of Citizenship to Register & Photo ID Every Time To Vote

NYers Overwhelmingly Oppose Trump’s Tariffs & Taking Action Against Media/Journalists Critical of President, Reps Strongly Support Tariffs and Tepidly Support Actions Against Media

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul continues to lead Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, but by a narrower 13-point margin, 47-34%, down from a 20-point lead in February, 51-31%. Hochul’s favorability rating, 45-42%, is little changed from last month’s 46-42%. Similarly, her job approval rating is 52-40%, compared to 53-41% in February. Blakeman has an 18-18% favorability rating, from 21-18% last month, with 64% of voters saying they never heard of Blakeman or don’t know enough to have an opinion, according to a new Siena Poll of New York State registered voters released today.

A strong, bipartisan majority supports keeping legislative terms at two years, rather than making those terms four years, 64-25%. And a strong bipartisan majority also wants New York to remove current restrictions and make it easier for New Yorkers to buy pepper spray. By a 65-22% margin, including a majority of Republicans, voters want the President to be required to get Congressional approval to wage war. By a 54-36% margin, New Yorkers support mandating voters show proof of citizenship when they register and a photo-ID every time they vote, although a majority of Democrats disagree.

“Interestingly, Hochul’s standing with New Yorkers is essentially the same as last month – a small plurality views her favorably, and a small majority approves of the job she’s doing as governor – as is Blakeman’s, yet the race between the two has tightened a little,” Siena pollster Steven Greenberg said. “Three-quarters of Democrats continue to support Hochul, and more than three-quarters of Republicans continue to support Blakeman, but now independents favor Blakeman by seven points, after siding with Hochul by five points.”

“While Hochul maintains very narrow leads upstate and in the downstate suburbs, her lead in New York City fell from 46 points, 63-17%, last month to 29 points, 54-25%, today,” Greenberg said. “Is that movement or merely noise? Let’s see what happens next month after the budget and as the campaign unfolds.”

Voters (Ds, Rs & Is): ‘No’ to 4-Year Legislative Terms & ‘Yes’ to Making Pepper Spray Easier to Buy

“Looking at both Albany and DC, there are still some issues that bring voters of different political stripes together. At least 60% of Democrats (60%), Republicans (71%) and independent voters (64%) say New York should keep its two-year legislative terms for state senators and assemblymembers, rather than doubling that term to four years,” Greenberg said. “At least 60% of voters from downstate and upstate, men, women, Black, white and Latino voters all agree that legislative terms should remain two years.”

“A strong majority of New Yorkers also say that pepper spray should be easier to buy – currently, only available from certain pharmacies and gun stores – including 65% of independents, 62% of Republicans and 53% of Democrats,” Greenberg said. “Men, women and voters upstate and downstate agree.”

New Yorkers Want President to Get Congressional Approval on War & Photo ID to Vote Every Time

Support or Oppose Proposals Being Discussed in Washington, DC					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Requiring the President to get Congressional approval to wage war	Support	65%	74%	51%	61%
	Oppose	22%	18%	28%	24%
	In the middle	9%	5%	16%	12%
Mandating that voters both show proof of citizenship at the time of registration, and a photo ID every time they vote	Support	54%	36%	82%	63%
	Oppose	36%	55%	12%	25%
	In the middle	7%	7%	5%	9%
Ending the US Senate filibuster, which requires most bills to pass the Senate with the support of at least 60 of the 100 senators, rather than a simple majority of the senators	Support	40%	35%	47%	41%
	Oppose	33%	37%	30%	28%
	In the middle	14%	14%	13%	17%
Continuing President Trump’s tariff policies	Support	28%	11%	62%	28%
	Oppose	60%	82%	22%	54%
	In the middle	9%	5%	13%	13%
Taking action against both journalists and media organizations that publish information critical of the President or the President’s policies	Support	25%	21%	40%	21%
	Oppose	57%	68%	33%	59%
	In the middle	11%	6%	20%	13%

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“With bipartisan support – 74% of Democrats, 61% of independents and 51% of Republicans – New Yorkers would overwhelmingly require the President to obtain Congressional approval to wage war. White voters are most supportive, 70-18%, while it is supported by 61% of Latinos and 56% of Black voters,” Greenberg said. “A clear majority of New Yorkers support voters having to show proof of citizenship when registering and photo ID when they vote. Although Democrats oppose 55-36%, 82% of Republicans and 63% of independents support.

“Republicans (62%) support continuing President Trump’s tariff policies, while 60% of New Yorkers oppose continuing those policies, including 82% of Democrats and 54% of independents,” Greenberg said. “By a similar 57-25%, voters oppose taking actions against media and journalists critical of the President or his policies. More than two-thirds of Democrats oppose, as do 59% of independents; a 40-33% plurality of Republicans support it.

“A plurality of voters, 40-33%, would end the Senate filibuster. Dems are closely divided, leaning against elimination, but pluralities of Reps, 47-30%, and independents, 41-28%, support its elimination,” Greenberg said.

Trump Ratings Largely Unmoved in March

“Trump has a 35-62% favorability rating, compared to 35-60% in February. Similarly, his job approval rating is 37-61%, from 36-61% last month,” Greenberg said. “Over the last year, Trump has been viewed favorably by between 32% and 40% of voters, while between 34% and 42% have approved of the job he’s doing. New Yorkers are pretty locked in on their view of Trump; nothing seems to move the numbers out of its narrow band.”

Plurality Prepared to Re-elect AG James; Plurality Undecided on Re-electing Comptroller DiNapoli

“Attorney General Letitia James has a 41-30% favorability rating, and 46% of voters say they would re-elect her, while 37% want ‘someone else,’” Greenberg said. “Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, in that office since 2007, has a 20-15% favorability rating, with 65% saying they’ve never heard of him or don’t know enough to have an opinion. 30% of voters are prepared to re-elect him, while 29% want ‘someone else’ and 41% are undecided.”

Odds & Ends

- The Democrats’ lead on the generic congressional ballot continues, 52-35%, down a little from 53-32% last month and down net 10 points since it was 56-29% in January. Eighty-seven percent of Republicans support a Republican, 84% of Democrats support a Democrat, and independents lean Dem ever so slightly, 37-36%.
- NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani is still viewed favorably by a plurality of voters statewide, 44-37%, down a little from February’s 47-35%. By a 53-30% majority, 54-29% last month, voters support the Governor and Legislature allowing the City to raise the personal income taxes of its residents earning at least \$1 million.
- Support has decreased for ‘deporting immigrants illegally living in the US,’ from 49-29% in February to 44-33% today. Similarly, voters oppose the way ICE is working to arrest suspected immigrants living in the US illegally, 62-27% up from 57-30% last month.
- Currently, voters oppose building new nuclear power plants 41-35%, with opposition down a little from the last time Siena asked in April 2025, when voters opposed the building of new nuclear power plants 47-35%.

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This Siena Poll was conducted March 23-26, 2026, among 804 New York State Registered Voters. Of the 804 respondents, 528 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (158 completed via text to web) and 276 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 and the cell phone sample was obtained from Marketing Systems Group (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 that ask respondents 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 by region 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 (SRI) powered by ReconMR is directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D. SRI 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 – March 2026

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 2026	37	48	15
February 2026	42	46	12
January 2026	43	45	12
December 2025	44	41	14
November 2025	39	45	16
September 2025	42	41	17
August 2025	41	45	15
June 2025	37	50	13
May 2025	43	46	11
April 2025	41	45	14
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 2026	30	62	8
February 2026	31	62	7
January 2026	30	63	7
December 2025	31	63	6
November 2025	30	62	8
September 2025	33	59	8
August 2025	33	59	8
June 2025	35	58	8
May 2025	37	58	5
April 2025	37	56	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. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	45	42	12
February 2026	46	42	12
January 2026	49	40	11
December 2025	43	41	16
November 2025	43	45	12
September 2025	45	42	14
August 2025	42	44	14
June 2025	42	47	11
May 2025	44	46	10
April 2025	44	43	13
HIGHEST EVER	49 (1/26)	54 (9/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	10 (5/25, 3/25, 1/23)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bruce Blakeman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	18	18	64
February 2026	21	18	61
January 2026	18	20	62
December 2025	13	17	70
June 2025	16	17	67
May 2025	17	16	66
April 2025	18	15	67
HIGHEST EVER	21 (2/26)	20 (1/26)	90 (12/09)
LOWEST EVER	4 (12/09)	6 (5/10, 4/10, 2/09)	62 (1/26)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	35	62	3
February 2026	35	60	5
January 2026	33	63	4
December 2025	32	62	6
November 2025	35	61	3
September 2025	34	61	5
August 2025	37	56	7
June 2025	37	60	3
May 2025	38	59	3
April 2025	40	55	5
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. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	38	48	14
February 2026	38	50	13
January 2026	39	46	15
December 2025	36	49	15
November 2025	32	55	13
September 2025	42	45	13
August 2025	38	50	13
June 2025	41	47	12
May 2025	42	48	10
April 2025	39	49	12
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	55 (11/25)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	32 (11/25)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Zohran Mamdani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	44	37	19
February 2026	47	35	18
January 2026	48	32	20
December 2025	46	31	23
November 2025	40	40	20
September 2025	30	38	32
August 2025	28	37	34
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/26)	40 (11/25)	34 (8/25)
LOWEST EVER	28 (8/25)	31 (12/25)	18 (2/26)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Tom DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	20	15	65
February 2026	22	14	64
January 2026	21	13	66
November 2025	19	15	65
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. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	41	30	29
February 2026	44	29	27
January 2026	44	30	26
December 2025	45	31	24
November 2025	43	32	25
HIGHEST EVER	45 (12/25, 1/24, 9/22)	33 (2/25, 5/24, 10/22)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	24 (12/25, 1/24)

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Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Larry Sharpe?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	9	15	76
November 2018*	10	8	82
HIGHEST EVER	10 (11/18)	15 (3/26)	84 (10/18)
LOWEST EVER	5 (10/18)	8 (11/18)	76 (3/26)

Q. 11 If the general election for Governor was held today, and the candidates were Democrat Kathy Hochul and Republican Bruce Blakeman, would you vote for Blakeman, Hochul, or someone else? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	HOCHUL	BLAKEMAN	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
March 2026	47	34	3	16
February 2026	51	31	3	15
January 2026	54	28	1	17
December 2025	50	25	4	21
HIGHEST EVER	54 (1/26)	34 (3/26)	4 (12/25)	21 (12/25)
LOWEST EVER	47 (3/26)	25 (12/25)	1 (1/26)	15 (2/26)

Q. 12 If the election for your representative in Congress was held today, would you vote for the Democrat or the Republican? (Names of parties were rotated.)

DATE	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	OTHER/ NOT VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
March 2026	52	35	4	9
February 2026	53	32	5	9
January 2026	56	29	4	10
December 2025	55	31	5	9
November 2025	55	32	1	12
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/26)	35 (3/26)	5 (2/26, 12/25)	12 (11/25)
LOWEST EVER	52 (3/26)	29 (1/26)	1 (11/25)	9 (3/26, 2/26, 12/25)

Q. 13 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 2026	17	35	14	26	8
February 2026	19	34	13	28	7
January 2026	17	37	15	26	5
December 2025	16	36	15	24	8
November 2025	15	37	16	27	5
September 2025	16	38	16	24	7
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
HIGHEST EVER	24 (9/22)	38 (9/25, 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)	24 (12/25, 9/25)	3 (5/25)

Q. 16 Mayor Mamdani wants to raise the personal income tax for New York City residents earning more than one million dollars, but to do that, he needs approval from the State Legislature and Governor. Mamdani says that if the State doesn't allow the City to raise taxes on millionaires, he will have to raise property taxes on all New York City property owners. Do you think the Governor and Legislature should or should not allow New York City to raise the personal income taxes of its residents earning more than one million dollars

DATE	SHOULD	SHOULD NOT	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	53	30	10	7
February 2026	54	29	12	5
HIGHEST EVER	54 (2/26)	30 (3/26)	12 (2/26)	7 (3/26)
LOWEST EVER	53 (3/26)	29 (2/26)	10 (3/26)	5 (2/26)

Siena Poll Trends – March 2026 – Page 4

Q. 18 Do you support or oppose building new nuclear power plants in New York State

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	IN THE MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	35	41	17	7
April 2025	35	47	11	7
HIGHEST EVER	42 (12/24)	47 (4/25)	17 (3/26)	13 (12/24)
LOWEST EVER	35 (3/26, 4/25)	41 (3/26)	1 (12/24)	7 (3/26, 4/25)

Q. 20 Do you support or oppose deporting immigrants illegally living in the United States?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	44	33	19	3
February 2026	49	29	18	4
January 2026	43	35	20	3
HIGHEST EVER	49 (2/26)	35 (1/26)	20 (1/26)	4 (2/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (1/26)	29 (2/26)	18 (2/26)	3 (3/26, 1/26)

Q. 21 Do you support or oppose the way in which Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, commonly called ICE agents, are working to arrest people they suspect of being immigrants living illegally in the United States?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	MIDDLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2026	27	62	9	2
February 2026	30	57	10	3
January 2026	29	61	8	2
HIGHEST EVER	30 (2/26)	62 (3/26)	10 (2/26)	3 (2/26)
LOWEST EVER	27 (3/26)	57 (2/26)	8 (1/26)	2 (3/26, 1/26)

Q. 22 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 2026	23	14	8	53	2
February 2026	21	15	8	53	3
January 2026	22	12	9	54	3
December 2025	19	15	10	52	3
November 2025	21	16	10	51	2
September 2025	22	15	10	52	1
August 2025	23	18	9	49	2
June 2025	25	14	11	48	2
May 2025	24	16	8	49	2
April 2025	25	17	8	48	2
HIGHEST EVER	31 (2/25)	18 (8/25)	11 (6/25)	54 (1/26)	3 (2/26, 1/26, 12/25, 2/25)
LOWEST EVER	19 (12/25)	12 (1/26)	7 (2/25)	44 (2/25)	1 (9/25)

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 every time questions have been asked since April 2025.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.