



SIENA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SIENA UNIVERSITY, LOUDONVILLE, NY

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Siena Poll:

Hochul Favorability & Approval Ratings Each Drop 8 Points To Lowest Levels In Last Year; Her Lead Over Blakeman Grows 3 Points to 49-33%

49% Say New York's Best Days Are Still Ahead & 32% Say Best Days Are Behind Us; 36% Say NY Does Not Spend Enough on Programs Like Health Care, Education & Infrastructure, 22% Say NY Spends Too Much & 29% Say NY Spends the Right Amount

Trump Favorability & Approval Ratings Edge Down; Fav Rating Lowest in Current Term; Job Approval Hits Lowest Ever 'Strongly Approve' & Highest Ever 'Strongly Disapprove'

America's Pope, Leo XIV, Viewed Favorably 55-19% Nearly a Year into Papacy; After Two Years as Pope, in 2015, Pope Francis was Viewed Favorably 73-11%

Loudonville, NY. Governor Kathy Hochul has a 41-46% favorability rating, down from 45-42% in March, her lowest favorability rating since June 2025. Her job approval rating stands at 48-44%, down from 52-40% in March, her lowest job approval rating since April 2025. At the same time, Hochul's lead over Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman edged up three points to 49-33%, from 47-34% in March, according to a new Siena Poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Voters say, 49-32%, New York's best days are still ahead, rather than behind us, and 7% say New York's best days are taking place now. When it comes to New York's \$260+ billion budget and the money going to health care, education, infrastructure, and other programs, a plurality of voters, 36%, says the state does not spend enough, compared to 29% who say the spends the right amount, and 22% who say the state spends too much.

"Is it the late state budget? Is it something the Governor has said or done? Hard to say, but either way, Hochul heads into a campaign – with an election 26 weeks from today – with her lowest favorability and job approval ratings in about a year," Siena pollster Steven Greenberg said. "Both Hochul's favorability and approval ratings fell the most in the last month with independents, men and voters from New York City. While she continues to be in positive territory on both measures in New York City, she has fallen even deeper underwater with independents.

"Yet, Hochul's lead over still-largely-unknown Blakeman – 64% of voters have never heard of or don't have an opinion about him – has nudged up three points in the last month to 49-33%," Greenberg said. "Six months out, voters are largely in their partisan lanes. Three-quarters of Democrats are with Hochul. Three-quarters of Republicans are with Blakeman. And independents tilt toward Blakeman by two points, down from seven points in March. Hochul leads by 34 points in New York City and by a handful of points outside of the City."

Half of Voters Say NY’s Best Days Are Ahead But 1/3 Say They’re Behind Us; Plurality Says Spend More

“Democrats, by a 61-22% margin say New York’s best days are ahead of us, while a plurality of Republicans, 45-32%, says our best days are behind us. Independents are nearly evenly divided,” Greenberg said. “A majority of New York City voters and a plurality of upstaters say our best days are to come, while downstate suburbanites are evenly divided.

“Two-thirds of New Yorkers say either the state budget doesn’t spend enough on programs like education, healthcare, roads, and mass transit, or the state spends just about the right amount of money, while only 22% – including a plurality of Republicans – say the state spends too much on these programs,” Greenberg said. “Nearly half of Democrats say the state doesn’t spend enough, and only 12% say the state spends too much. Yet again, independents are almost evenly divided, 29% just right, 27% too much, 25% not enough.”

NY Barely on Right Track on K-12 Ed & Environment; Deeply Underwater on Cost of Living & Housing

“On seven issues – cost of living, housing, crime, healthcare, infrastructure, environment, and education – a majority or plurality of Republicans and independents say the state is headed in the wrong direction. A majority of Democrats think the state is on the right track on five issues,

Is NYS on the Right Track or Headed in the Wrong Direction on....					
		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Providing quality K-12 education to young NYers	Right Track	45%	59%	29%	33%
	Wrong Direction	41%	30%	56%	47%
Safeguarding the environment	Right Track	43%	53%	36%	33%
	Wrong Direction	40%	33%	49%	42%
Improving the state’s transportation infrastructure	Right Track	42%	53%	32%	32%
	Wrong Direction	42%	32%	55%	48%
Ensuring NYers have access to affordable, quality healthcare	Right Track	40%	52%	29%	28%
	Wrong Direction	47%	37%	59%	54%
Reducing crime	Right Track	38%	51%	22%	30%
	Wrong Direction	53%	40%	74%	56%
Creating more affordable housing	Right Track	31%	43%	21%	21%
	Wrong Direction	57%	47%	69%	64%
Addressing the cost of living	Right Track	27%	34%	17%	24%
	Wrong Direction	67%	59%	79%	71%
Siena Poll: May 5, 2025					

but even Democrats agree with Republicans and independents that the state is headed in the wrong direction on housing and cost of living,” Greenberg said.

Trump Ratings Down; Lowest 2nd Term Favorability Rating; Highest Strongly Disapprove on Job Approval

President Donald Trump has a 33-64% favorability rating, down from 35-62% in March. His job approval rating is 34-64%, down from 37-61% in March.

“The drop in Trump’s favorability and job approval ratings is not because of Democrats; they overwhelmingly continue to view Trump unfavorably and strongly disapprove of the job he’s doing. It’s not the independents, with whom his negative numbers improved slightly. No, it’s Republicans. His favorability rating among Republicans is down to 65-27%, from 78-18%, and his job approval rating is down to 71-27%, from 84-15%,” Greenberg said.

“This is the lowest favorability rating – net -31 points – during Trump’s current term in office. It also represents the highwater mark for voters who strongly disapprove of the job he’s doing, 55%, and the low water mark for those who strongly approve of the job he’s doing, 19%.”

Strong Majorities Say US Headed in Wrong Direction on Seven Issues; Republicans Disagree on 5½

“Strong majorities of New Yorkers, including overwhelming majorities of Democrats, think the country is headed in the wrong direction on seven issues from making prices more affordable to creating opportunity,” Greenberg said. “Republicans disagree and think America is on the right track on five of the

Is the U.S. on the Right Track or Headed in the Wrong Direction on....		Total	Dems	Reps	Ind
Enforcing immigration policies	Right Track	39%	19%	70%	46%
	Wrong Direction	54%	73%	25%	44%
Creating opportunity for all Americans	Right Track	33%	18%	64%	32%
	Wrong Direction	60%	76%	32%	57%
Being a guiding light for the free world	Right Track	33%	19%	58%	35%
	Wrong Direction	60%	76%	34%	53%
Protecting Americans’ Constitutional rights	Right Track	31%	17%	56%	35%
	Wrong Direction	61%	77%	35%	54%
Improving America’s standing in the world	Right Track	31%	14%	59%	36%
	Wrong Direction	62%	81%	32%	56%
Addressing how AI is becoming part of daily lives	Right Track	24%	18%	38%	23%
	Wrong Direction	58%	69%	36%	57%
Making prices more affordable	Right Track	22%	15%	36%	24%
	Wrong Direction	73%	81%	58%	71%
Siena Poll: May 5, 2025					

issues, but they are closely divided on AI, and they agree with Democrats on making prices more affordable. Majorities of independents think the country is headed in the wrong direction on six of the issues, but they are closely divided on enforcing immigration policies.”

Majority of NYers View Pope Leo XIV Favorably; Not Nearly as High as Pope Francis’ Favorability

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has a 55-19% favorability rating as he approaches the first anniversary of his papacy. Two years into his papacy in 2015, Pope Francis had a 73-11% favorability rating.

“America’s Pope is viewed favorably by two-thirds of Democrats, 66-15%, and pluralities of Republicans, 43-27%, and independents, 45-19%. In 2015, Pope Francis was viewed favorably by at least 70% of Democrats, Republicans and independents,” Greenberg said. “New York Catholics view Pope Leo favorably, 62-18%, although they viewed Pope Francis favorably, 83-6%. It is still early in the papacy of the Chicago native, but it seems that even the Pope is not immune to being viewed through the prism of America’s current political winds.”

Odds & Ends

- Whether it’s the late state budget or something else, voters’ views of the State Legislature have soured a little since January. The Assembly’s favorability rating is now 33-36%, down from 41-32% in January. Similarly, the State Senate’s favorability rating is 35-39%, down from 43-37% in January.

- NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani is still viewed favorably – barely – by a plurality of voters statewide, 43-40%, down a little from 44-37% in March and 47-35% in February. His favorability rating in New York City is 56-34%, and it is worth noting, higher than Hochul, 46-37%, Attorney General Letitia James, 49-24%, and Senator Chuck Schumer, who is viewed unfavorably by New York City voters 37-45%.
- The Democrats' lead on the generic congressional ballot is little changed and stands at 52-33%, from 52-35% in March.
- Schumer's favorability rating is 33-52%, down from 38-48% in March, and perilously close to his all-time worst favorability rating, 32-55%, in November 2025. Democrats continue to view him favorably, but only by a 47-40% margin, down from 51-36% in March.

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This Siena University Poll was conducted April 27-30, 2026, among 806 New York State Registered Voters. Of the 806 respondents, 516 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (112 completed via text to web) and 290 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 were 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 – April 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
April 2026	38	48	14
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
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
April 2026	2	22	34	38	5
January 2025	5	22	36	30	7
November 2025	4	23	33	33	6
August 2025	5	20	34	36	5
April 2025	10	20	33	32	4
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
April 2026	29	65	7
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
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
April 2026	41	46	13
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
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)

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Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bruce Blakeman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	17	19	64
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
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)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	33	64	3
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
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. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	33	52	14
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
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. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Zohran Mamdani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	43	40	17
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 (4/26, 11/25)	34 (8/25)
LOWEST EVER	28 (8/25)	31 (12/25)	17 (4/26)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Tom DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	19	16	66
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)

Siena Poll Trends – April 2026 – Page 3

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	40	32	28
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)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	33	36	30
January 2026	41	32	27
June 2025	44	35	22
May 2025	41	35	23
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/20)	61 (7/10)	30 (4/26)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	25 (3/21)	10 (5/15)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	35	39	26
January 2026	43	37	20
June 2025	45	37	17
May 2025	42	37	21
HIGHEST EVER	58 (4/20)	74 (7/09)	26 (4/26)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	28 (3/21)	6 (7/09)

Q. 14 If the general election for Governor was held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were Democrat Kathy Hochul and Republican Bruce Blakeman? (Names of candidates were rotated.)

DATE	HOCHUL	BLAKEMAN	OTHER/ NO VOTE	DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION
April 2026	49	33	3	16
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. 15 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
April 2026	52	33	6	9
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)	6 (4/26)	12 (11/25)
LOWEST EVER	52 (4/26, 3/26)	29 (1/26)	1 (11/25)	9 (4/26, 3/26, 2/26, 12/25)

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Q. 16 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
April 2026	15	33	15	29	9
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
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. 17 Letitia James is running for re-election as New York State Attorney General this year, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect James, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT JAMES	'SOMEONE ELSE'	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	43	41	16
March 2026	46	37	18
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/26)	41 (4/26)	18 (3/26)
LOWEST EVER	43 (4/26)	37 (3/26)	16 (4/26)

Q. 18 Tom DiNapoli is running for re-election as New York State Comptroller this year, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect DiNapoli, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT DINAPOLI	'SOMEONE ELSE'	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
April 2026	28	29	43
March 2026	30	29	41
HIGHEST EVER	30 (3/26)	29 (4/26, 3/26)	43 (4/26)
LOWEST EVER	28 (4/26)	29 (4/26, 3/26)	41 (3/26)

Q. 28 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
April 2026	19	15	9	55	2
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
HIGHEST EVER	31 (2/25)	18 (8/25)	11 (6/25)	55 (4/26)	3 (2/26, 1/26, 12/25, 2/25)
LOWEST EVER	19 (4/26, 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 May 2025.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.