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Siena Poll of Likely New York State Voters:

Hochul 49% Blakeman 39%

Voters Say Hochul Better on Increasing Affordable Housing By 16 Points & Making Prices More Affordable by 7 Points; She Narrowly Leads on Keeping NYers Safe, Developing NY's Energy Future & Addressing Undocumented Immigrants Living in NY
On Each of 4 Character Traits, Blakeman's Net Score Beats Hochul's Net Score: 'Tough,' 'In Touch with Average NYers,' 'Honest,' and 'Gets Things Done'

NYS Attorney General: James 54% Komatireddy 36%

State Comptroller: DiNapoli 55% Hernandez 32%

Congressional Generic Ballot: Democrat 54% Republican 38%

Loudonville, NY. Democratic Governor Kathy Hochul leads Republican Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman 49-39%, according to a new Siena Poll of likely New York State gubernatorial voters released today (Siena's first poll of likely voters this cycle). In June, among registered voters, Hochul led Blakeman 52-32%. In other statewide races, Attorney General Letitia James (D) leads her challenger, Saritha Komatireddy (R), 54-36%, and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (D) leads Joseph Hernandez (R) 55-32%.

Likely voters say Hochul will do a better job than Blakeman increasing the supply of affordable housing, 51-35%. They say she will do a better job making prices more affordable for average New Yorkers, 48-41% and developing New York's energy future, 47-42%. They are closely divided on keeping New Yorkers safe, Hochul 47-44%, and addressing undocumented immigrants living in New York, 45-44% Hochul.

Asked whether four character traits do or do not describe Blakeman and Hochul, likely voters say Blakeman is 'tough' by 25 points and Hochul by two points. They say Blakeman is 'honest' by five points and Hochul is not by two points, and Blakeman 'gets things done' by eight points and Hochul by five points. On being 'in touch with average New Yorkers,' Blakeman is underwater by four points and Hochul is underwater by 12 points.

"With less than three months till Election Day, Hochul holds a 10-point lead over Blakeman, 49-39%, not crossing the magic 50% mark. In June, among registered voters, Hochul's lead was twice as large, 52-32%," Siena pollster Steven Greenberg said. "At this point four years ago, August 2022, when Hochul was just finishing her first year as governor, she led her opponent, former Republican Congressman (and current EPA Administrator) Lee Zeldin by 14 points, 53-39%, before going on to ultimately win the election by six points, 53-47%."

Hochul has a 46-49% favorability rating and a 48-49% job approval rating, while Blakeman has a 33-26% favorability rating, with 40% not knowing enough to have an opinion. By comparison, in August 2022, Hochul had a 46-41% favorability rating among likely voters.

“Not surprisingly, both candidates are holding on to their partisan bases, as Hochul leads among Democrats 80-8% and Blakeman leads among Republicans 84-9%. Likely independent voters favor Blakeman by a narrow five-point margin, 45-40%,” Greenberg said. “Hochul holds a commanding 64-19% lead in New York City, but trails Blakeman in the downstate suburbs by eight points, 49-41%. They are running virtually even in upstate, as well as among men and with white voters; Hochul has large leads with women, Latinos and Black voters.

“While Hochul has a 10-point lead, likely voters think she’ll do a better job than Blakeman on increasing affordable housing by 16 points. That’s the good news for Hochul. The bad news is that voters think she’s better than Blakeman on four other issues – affordability, energy, safety, and immigrants – by between only one and seven points,” Greenberg said. “Holding to form, Democrats overwhelmingly think Hochul will be better on all issues than Blakeman, and Republicans overwhelmingly think Blakeman will be better. Independents favor Hochul by nine points on housing, but favor Blakeman by between eight and 15 points on the other four issues.

“Yet again we see Democrats giving Hochul high marks and Blakeman low marks on all four character traits, and Republicans doing the opposite, giving Blakeman high marks and Hochul low marks,” Greenberg said. “While independents give Hochul negative ratings on all four traits, they overwhelmingly say Blakeman is tough and also say he gets things done. Independents are divided on whether Blakeman is honest or in touch; they score him better on both than they do Hochul.”

James Holds 18-Point, 54-36%, Lead Over Komatireddy in Race for AG

James has a 52-38% favorability rating, compared to 17-12% for Komatireddy. More than two-thirds of likely voters have either never heard of Komatireddy or don’t know enough to have an opinion. (In Siena’s surveys of registered voters, respondents are not given information about individuals before they are asked whether they view that person favorably or unfavorably. In this survey of likely voters, respondents were asked about the three statewide races – including candidates and their party affiliation – prior to the favorable/unfavorable questions.)

“James starts this election against a largely unknown challenger with a strong 18-point lead, garnering support from 87% of Democrats, while Komatireddy has the support of 79% of Republicans, and independents are virtually evenly divided. James has a better than three-to-one lead in New York City, to go along with an 8-point lead upstate; the downstate suburbs are closely divided,” Greenberg said. “James’ 52% favorable rating is the highest it’s ever been. Komatireddy has her work cut out for her in trying to become known to voters and then convincing them to support her.”

In Race for State Comptroller, DiNapoli Leads Hernandez by 23 Points, 55-32%

DiNapoli has a 42-18% favorability rating, with 40% not knowing enough to have an opinion. Hernandez's favorability rating is 20-11, with 70% not knowing enough about him to have an opinion.

“As he nears 20 years as comptroller, and seeking election to a fifth full term, DiNapoli is in a commanding position with a 23-point, 55-32% lead over Hernandez. DiNapoli leads 83-5% among Democrats, picks up support from 23% of Republicans, and independents are nearly evenly divided,” Greenberg said. “DiNapoli adds to his 42-point lead in New York City with a 20-point lead upstate, and a seven-point lead in the downstate suburbs. Like in the AG's race, DiNapoli has his highest ever favorability rating, while Hernandez is struggling to become known to the voters of the state.”

Odds & Ends

- By two-to-one, 52-25%, voters say New York's one-year moratorium on new large data centers is the right decision, including 61% of Democrats, 51% of independents, and a plurality of Republicans, 40-27%. A majority of upstaters and downstaters say the ban is the right decision.
- Voters say the country's best days are still ahead of us 48-39%. Republicans say the best days are ahead 55-34% and independents say so, 44-35%, while Democrats are closely divided, with 45% saying best days are ahead and 43% saying best days are behind. When it comes to New York's best days, voters say 48-35% the state's best days are ahead of us, but there is a wide partisan divide. Democrats say the state's best days are ahead 63-18% but Republicans (54-34%) and independents (43-33%) say state's best days are behind us.
- New Yorkers continue to say the country is headed in the wrong direction, rather than on the right track, 62-31%. Democrats and independents strongly believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, while Republicans strongly believe it is on the right track. Voters are more divided on the direction of the state, with 47% saying wrong direction and 43% saying right track. Democrats say the state is on the right track, 67-18%, however, 86% of Republicans and 55% of independents say the state is headed in the wrong direction.
- On the generic Congressional ballot, New York likely voters favor Democrats 54-38%. Not surprisingly, Democrats favor Democrats 88-6% and Republicans favor Republicans 83-11%, while by a small plurality, independents favor Republicans 45-40%.
- Likely voters give the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) a negative 30-47% favorability rating in the first time Siena has asked about the DSA. Democrats view the DSA favorably, 50-21%, while 82% of Republicans and 57% of independents have an unfavorable view of the DSA.
- In another first for Siena, voters were asked whether they have a favorable or unfavorable view of artificial intelligence (AI). Overall, voters give AI a negative 29-52% favorability rating. A majority of Democrats, joined by pluralities of Republicans and independents, share that negative view of AI.



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Siena Poll Trends – August 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
August 2026*	43	47	10
June 2026	44	41	15
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
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 2026*	31	62	7
June 2026	28	63	8
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
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 If the 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
August 2026*	49	39	1	11
June 2026	52	32	1	15
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)	39 (8/26)	4 (12/25)	21 (12/25)
LOWEST EVER	47 (3/26)	25 (12/25)	1 (8/26, 6/26, 1/26)	11 (8/26)

Q. 6 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
August 2026*	54	38	0	8
June 2026	52	32	5	10
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)	38 (8/26)	6 (4/26)	12 (11/25)
LOWEST EVER	52 (6/26, 4/26, 3/26)	29 (1/26)	0 (8/26)	8 (8/26)

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Q. 7 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 2026*	18	30	13	36	4
June 2026	19	34	17	25	6
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
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. 8 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 2026*	23	14	5	55	3
June 2026	19	15	10	55	1
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
HIGHEST EVER	31 (2/25)	18 (8/25)	11 (6/25)	55 (8/26, 6/26, 4/26)	3 (Many)
LOWEST EVER	19 (Several)	12 (1/26)	5 (8/26)	44 (2/25)	1 (6/26, 9/25)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kathy Hochul?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	46	49	5
June 2026	43	44	13
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
HIGHEST EVER	49 (1/26)	54 (9/24)	69 (4/21)
LOWEST EVER	18 (4/21)	13 (4/21)	5 (8/26)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bruce Blakeman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	33	26	40
June 2026	25	21	54
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
HIGHEST EVER	33 (8/26)	26 (8/26)	90 (12/09)
LOWEST EVER	4 (12/09)	6 (5/10, 4/10, 2/09)	40 (8/26)

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Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	38	60	2
June 2026	32	63	5
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
HIGHEST EVER	41 (2/25, 12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (8/26, 8/24, 2/23, 4/20, 9/15)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Zohran Mamdani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	47	44	9
June 2026	45	34	21
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)	44 (8/26)	34 (8/25)
LOWEST EVER	28 (8/25)	31 (12/25)	9 (8/26)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Letitia James?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	52	38	11
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	52 (8/26)	38 (8/26)	70 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (6/18)	10 (10/18, 6/18)	11 (8/26)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Tom DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	42	18	40
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	42 (8/26)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	9 (10/18)	37 (10/31/10)

Q. 32 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
August 2026*	36	60	3	1
March 2026	27	62	9	2
February 2026	30	57	10	3
January 2026	29	61	8	2
HIGHEST EVER	36 (8/26)	62 (3/26)	10 (2/26)	3 (2/26)
LOWEST EVER	27 (3/26)	57 (2/26)	3 (8/26)	1 (8/26)

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Q. 33 Thinking about the tactics used by ICE, do you think they have gone too far, not gone far enough, or that they have been about right?

DATE	GONE TOO FAR	NOT FAR ENOUGH	ABOUT RIGHT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2026*	63	12	24	1
February 2026	63	9	21	6
January 2026	67	10	20	3
HIGHEST EVER	67 (1/26)	12 (8/26)	24 (8/26)	6 (2/26)
LOWEST EVER	63 (8/26, 2/26)	9 (2/26)	20 (1/26)	1 (8/26)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: August 2026, 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 August 2025.

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

[^] Inconsequential wording change.

Methodology

This Siena University Poll was conducted August 3-6, 2026, among 811 New York Likely Voters. Of the 811 respondents, 523 were contacted through a dual frame (landline and cell phone) mode (288 completed via text to web). Telephone calls were conducted in English and respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the voter listed on the voter file by name. 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 L2 Voter Database. Coding of open-ended responses was done by a single human coder. Data from collection modes were weighted to balance sample demographics to match estimates for New York’s population using data from the state voter file, on age, region, race/ethnicity, education, party identification, a combined measure of stated and derived vote likelihood, and gender to ensure representativeness. **For the sample that answered the entire survey (n=691), it has an overall margin of error of +/- 4.6 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. For the sample that answered the core questions (n=811), 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.

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