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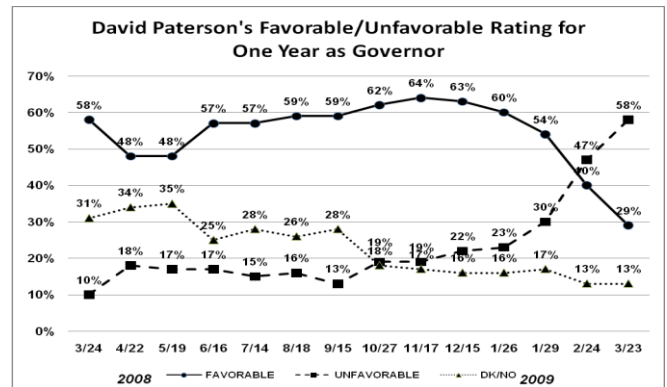
Siena New York Poll:

Paterson's Standing with Voters: from Bad to Worse

2/3 Prefer "Someone Else" in 2010; Gov Crushed by Cuomo, Giuliani
Pessimism on Direction of State, Fiscal Condition, Budget Resolution

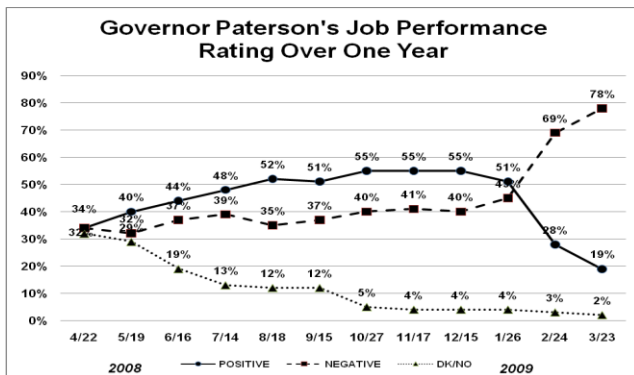
Loudonville, NY. David Paterson is now viewed unfavorably by twice as many New York voters as those who view him favorably, and four times as many voters rate the job he is doing as Governor as only fair or poor compared to those who say he is doing an excellent or good job as Governor, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters. If a Democratic primary for Governor were held today, Paterson would lose to Attorney General Andrew Cuomo by nearly four-to-one, and Paterson would be easily beaten in a general election by former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Paterson is viewed favorably by 29 percent of voters and unfavorably by 58 percent, down from last month's 40-47 percent rating. His job performance rating is 19 percent positive, 78 percent negative down from 28-69 percent last month. Only 14 percent of voters are prepared to elect Paterson as Governor in 2010, compared to 67 percent who prefer "someone else." That's down from 19-57 percent last month.



“Both in personal popularity and job performance, David

Paterson's standing with voters continues to slide,” said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman.



“The speed of his falling numbers is staggering. Two months ago, 60 percent of voters viewed Paterson favorably, and now it's less than half of that. Similarly, while more than half of voters said the Governor was doing an excellent or good job two months ago, now fewer than one-in-five believes that, with more than three-quarters saying he's doing only a fair or poor job. More

than two-thirds of voters prefer 'someone else' for Governor next year.”

In a hypothetical 2010 Democratic primary for Governor, Cuomo leads Paterson 67-17 percent, up from last month's 53-27 percent. In December Paterson led 49-26 percent. In a potential general election matchup, Giuliani beats Paterson 56-33 percent, up from 51-36 percent last month. Paterson led 51-38 percent in December. Cuomo leads Giuliani 51-41 percent, similar to last month's 51-38 percent.

"The Governor should be grateful he does not have to face the voters anytime soon," Greenberg said.

"Against Giuliani, Paterson only leads with African American voters, Democrats and barely with New York City voters. Against Cuomo, Paterson trails big with every demographic group, including African American voters, who give Cuomo a 55-22 percent lead. And by a similar 52-25 percent margin, African American voters prefer 'someone else' over Paterson."

Cuomo has a 68-17 percent favorable rating and a 67-26 percent job performance rating, his highest ever. Giuliani has 58-36 percent favorable rating.

Voters continue to believe the state is headed in the wrong direction (52 percent), rather than on the right track (30 percent). More than nine in ten voters say the state's fiscal condition is poor or fair, including 60 percent who say it's poor. By a 50-36 percent margin, voters say that the country is headed on the right track.

"New Yorkers, who give the President a 70-23 percent favorable rating, believe the country is headed on the right track, however, they say the Empire State is headed in the wrong direction," Greenberg said.

By an 88-10 percent margin, voters say an on-time budget is important. However, by a 62-36 percent margin, they do not believe it is likely to happen this year.

"Voters have little faith that state leaders will produce an on-time budget, although they think it is important to do so," Greenberg said. "But then again, only 18 percent of voters think the Legislature is doing an excellent or good job, while 77 percent believe the Legislature is doing a fair or poor job. And while 33 percent of voters think that having the Democrats control both houses of the Legislature and the Governor's office will make state government more effective, 22 percent say state government will be less effective and a plurality of 41 percent say it will be about as effective as it has been the last several years."

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand has a 26-20 percent favorable rating (down from 34-20 percent last month), with 54 percent of voters having no opinion. Former Governor George Pataki has a 49-41 percent favorable rating. While 23 percent of voters are prepared to elect Gillibrand in 2010, 37 percent prefer 'someone else.' In hypothetical match-ups, Gillibrand beats Rep. Peter King 47-23 percent (up from 40-27 percent last month) and is in a dead heat (41-41 percent) against Pataki.

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Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2009

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about David Paterson?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	29	58	13
February 2009	40	47	13
January 29, 2009	54	30	17
January 26, 2009	60	23	16
December 2008	63	22	16
November 2008	64	19	17
October 27, 2008	62	19	18
September 2008	59	13	28
August 2008	59	16	26
July 2008	57	15	28
June 2008	57	17	25
May 2008	48	17	35
April 2008	48	18	34
March 24, 2008	58	10	31
January 2007	17	8	76
HIGHEST EVER	64 (11/08)	58 (3/09)	76 (1/07)

How would you rate the job that David Paterson is doing as Governor – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	1	18	46	32	2
February 2009	2	26	46	23	3
January 26, 2009	8	43	35	10	4
December 2008	9	46	32	8	4
November 2008	9	46	34	7	4
October 27, 2008	7	48	35	5	5
September 2008	7	44	33	4	12
August 2008	7	45	30	5	12
July 2008	7	41	34	5	13
June 2008	6	38	31	6	19
May 2008	5	35	28	4	29
April 2008	4	30	30	4	32
HIGHEST EVER	9 (12/08)	48 (10/08)	46 (3/09, 2/09)	32(3/09)	32 (4/08)

If David Paterson runs for Governor in 2010, would you vote to elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	14	67	19
February 2009	19	57	24
January 26, 2009	32	36	32
December 2008	36	31	33
November 2008	42	32	26
October 27, 2008	40	29	31
September 2008	35	25	39
August 2008	35	26	40
July 2008	34	27	40
June 2008	30	30	40
May 2008	29	25	47
HIGHEST EVER	42 (11/08)	67 (3/09)	47 (5/08)

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2009

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(DEMS ONLY): Looking ahead to 2010 and the next election for Governor. If the Democratic primary for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson or Andrew Cuomo, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED) (NOTE: In April 2008, Tom Suozzi was included as a choice)

DATE	PATERSON	CUOMO	SUOZZI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	17	67	NA	17
February 2009	27	53	NA	20
January 26, 2009	35	33	NA	33
December 2008	49	26	NA	25
November 2008	53	25	NA	22
July 2008	51	21	NA	28
June 2008	43	31	NA	26
May 2008	42	29	NA	29
April 2008	35	30	7	28
HIGHEST EVER	53 (11/08)	67 (3/09)	7 (4/08)	33 (1/09)

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	33	56	11
February 2009	36	51	13
January 26, 2009	44	42	14
December 2008	51	38	11
November 2008	49	43	8
October 27, 2008	51	40	9
September 2008	50	40	10
August 2008	48	38	15
July 2008	47	40	13
HIGHEST EVER	51 (10/08, 12/08)	56 (3/09)	15 (8/08)

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CUOMO	GIULIANI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	51	41	9
February 2009	51	38	11
January 26, 2009	48	39	13
December 2008	50	37	13
November 2008	44	46	10
July 2008	47	42	11
HIGHEST EVER	51 (3/09, 2/09)	46 (11/08)	13 (12/08, 1/09)

If Kirsten Gillibrand runs for Senator in 2010, would you vote to elect her or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	23	37	39
January 29, 2009	21	29	50
HIGHEST EVER	23 (3/09)	37 (3/09)	50 (1/09)

If the 2010 election for United States Senator were held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and Peter King on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	KING	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	47	23	30
February 2009	40	27	33
January 29, 2009	46	23	31
HIGHEST EVER	47 (3/09)	27 (2/09)	33 (2/09)

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2009

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	68	17	15
February 2009	69	18	13
January 26, 2009	64	17	19
December 2008	59	24	17
November 2008	61	19	20
October 27, 2008	59	25	16
September 2008	54	24	22
August 2008	54	25	21
July 2008	57	23	21
June 2008	57	22	21
May 2008	56	25	20
April 2008	55	24	21
March 24, 2008	53	25	22
January 2008	51	29	20
December 2007	52	29	19
November 2007	56	27	17
October 2007	54	29	17
September 2007	51	26	24
July 2007	55	26	19
June 2007	49	31	20
May 2007	51	32	18
April 2007	52	31	18
March 2007	50	32	19
February 2007	45	35	20
January 2007	48	29	23
HIGHEST EVER	69 (2/09)	42 (10/06)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	17 (3/09, 1/09)	13 (2/09)

How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Attorney General – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	16	51	22	4	7
July 2008	13	42	30	6	10
June 2008	10	44	26	6	14
May 2008	7	44	29	6	13
April 2008	10	42	30	8	11
January 2008	8	39	32	6	14
October 2007	7	42	35	6	12
September 2007	8	41	28	7	17
July 2007	11	41	27	6	14
June 2007	7	39	27	9	18
May 2007	9	41	26	9	16
April 2007	8	39	29	9	15
March 2007	5	35	29	8	23
January 2007	11	37	15	4	33
HIGHEST EVER	16 (3/09)	51 (3/09)	35 (10/07)	9(6/07, 5/07)	33 (1/07)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	26	20	54
February 2009	34	20	46
January 29, 2009	30	14	56
HIGHEST EVER	34 (2/09)	20 (3/09, 2/09)	56 (1/09)

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2009

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rudy Giuliani?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	58	36	6
February 2009	58	35	7
January 29, 2009	60	35	5
January 26, 2009	59	33	8
December 2008	50	43	7
November 2008	57	39	4
August 2008	51	42	7
July 2008	51	39	10
January 2008	44	48	8
December 2007	48	46	6
November 2007	49	41	11
September 2007	53	39	9
July 2007	53	40	7
June 2007	50	42	8
May 2007	51	43	6
April 2007	56	38	6
March 2007	60	33	8
February 2007	59	34	7
January 2007	63	29	9
HIGHEST EVER	63 (4/05, 10/06, 1/07)	48 (1/08)	11 (2/05, 11/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (1/08)	26 (4/05)	4 (11/08)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about George Pataki?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	49	41	10
February 2009	36	57	7
HIGHEST EVER	53 (3/06)	57 (2/07)	16 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	36 (2/07)	39 (2/05, 11/05)	7 (many; most recently 2/07)

The budget crisis facing the state of New York is both large and complicated. Which of the following two ways the state could use to balance the budget comes closest to your point of view: Primarily with Federal stimulus money and budget cuts, or primarily with Federal stimulus money and increasing the personal income tax on New Yorkers making at least \$250,000 per year? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	STIMULUS & CUTS	STIMULUS & PIT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	38	56	6
February 2007	38	51	11
HIGHEST EVER	38(3/09, 2/09)	56 (3/09)	11 (2/09)

How confident are you that the Governor and State Legislature will be successful in solving New York's budget crisis?

DATE	VERY CONFIDENT	SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT	NOT VERY CONFIDENT	NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	6	35	38	19	1
February 2009	5	32	39	22	1
January 26, 2009	5	47	31	14	2
December 2008	8	39	33	17	3
HIGHEST EVER	8 (12/08)	47 (1/09)	39 (2/09)	22 (2/09)	3 (12/08)

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2009

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2009	70	23	7
February 2009	74	18	8
January 26, 2009	81	10	9
December 2008	76	16	7
November 2008	70	23	8
October 27, 2008	67	28	5
October 2, 2008	64	29	7
September 2008	56	32	12
August 2008	54	34	12
July 2008	57	32	12
June 2008	58	30	13
May 2008	55	34	11
April 2008	54	34	12
March 24, 2008	56	32	13
March 3, 2008	56	31	13
February 2008	60	30	10
January 2008	57	28	15
December 2007	55	30	15
September 2007	56	24	20
June 2007	53	24	23
May 2007	58	22	20
April 2007	55	23	22
March 2007	52	20	28
February 2007	52	21	28
January 2007	50	17	34
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	34 (4/08, 5/08, 8/08)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	5 (10/27/08)

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 2009	50	36	14
February 2009	48	39	13
January 26, 2009	61	24	15
December 2008	41	48	11
November 2008	44	44	13
October 27, 2008	19	69	12
September 2008	28	56	17
September 2007	23	64	13
HIGHEST EVER	61 (1/09)	69 (10/08)	17 (9/08)

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
March 2009	0	6	33	60	1
February 2009	0	7	28	65	0
January 26, 2009	0	7	26	65	1
December 2008	1	7	33	59	1
November 2008	0	7	31	62	1
October 27, 2008	0	12	43	43	2
September 2008	1	14	41	41	4
August 2008	0	13	37	48	1
HIGHEST EVER	1 (12/08)	14 (9/08)	43 (10/08)	65 (2/09, 1/09)	4 (9/08)

Siena New York Poll Trends – March 2009

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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 2009	30	52	19
February 2009	31	53	16
January 26, 2009	39	42	19
December 2008	37	44	19
November 2008	39	43	18
October 27, 2008	39	41	19
October 2, 2008	35	40	25
September 2008	35	37	28
August 2008	34	44	22
July 2008	36	39	25
June 2008	30	46	23
May 2008	32	43	26
April 2008	33	48	20
March 24, 2008	34	41	26
February 2008	33	43	24
January 2008	39	38	23
December 2007	35	45	21
November 2007	32	45	23
October 2007	42	36	22
September 2007	44	30	26
July 2007	37	38	25
June 2007	45	28	27
May 2007	46	29	25
April 2007	47	29	24
March 2007	37	37	26
February 2007	49	26	25
January 2007	45	26	30
HIGHEST EVER	52 (11/15/06)	53 (2/09)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/05)	26 (1/07)	16 (209)

Poll Trend Notes: Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena New York poll in February 2005. Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2007

“Highest Ever” is provided at the bottom of each question. “Lowest Ever” is presented at the bottom of each question that was asked prior to 2007.

All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of September 2008, October 2008, September 2006, and October 2006, which are polls of likely registered voters.