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For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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This Poll Must Be Cited As: The New York Times/Siena College Poll

Small Plurality of NYers Approve of Job de Blasio Is Doing as Mayor; Down from End of First Year in Office; Approval of Bratton & NYPD Performance Up Significantly

Crime Top Issue for Plurality; Majority Say NYC About as Safe as Before de Blasio Took Office; Far More Say NYC Is Less Safe Rather than Safer Now; Homelessness & Housing are Issues de Blasio Scores Worst with NYers

By Two-to-One, New Yorkers Call Big Apple Greatest City in the World

Loudonville, NY. As he approaches the end of his second year as mayor, New Yorkers are less supportive of the job Bill de Blasio is doing than they were a year ago. While 44 percent of New York City residents approve of the job de Blasio is doing as mayor, nearly as many, 38 percent, disapprove, down from 52-32 percent approval last December, according to The New York Times/Siena College poll of New York City residents released today. As compared to a year ago, in the aftermath of the Eric Garner grand jury decision, job approval for Police Commissioner Bill Bratton and support for the job members of the NYPD are doing are both up significantly.

One-third of City residents say keeping New York safe from crime is the issue they most want de Blasio to concentrate on, far ahead of improving public education, which finished second with 20 percent. While 52 percent say the City is about as safe today as it was before de Blasio became mayor, 33 percent say it's less safe and only 14 percent say it's safer. By two-to-one margins, residents disapprove of the job de Blasio is doing to both address the problem of homelessness and the ability of New Yorkers to obtain affordable housing.

“Nearly halfway into his term, Mayor de Blasio is getting mixed grades from New Yorkers. His job approval rating is down from last year, and is barely break even among registered voters. Only Democrats approve of the job he's doing, 51-36 percent, while independents *disapprove* 43-37 percent and Republicans overwhelmingly *disapprove*, 74-16 percent,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “His approval is highest in the Bronx, 53-32 percent, and lowest in Staten Island, 62-24 percent *disapproval*, with small pluralities approving in the other three boroughs. Black and Latino New Yorkers approve of the way de Blasio is handling his job better than two-to-one and white New Yorkers disapprove by a better than two-to-one margin.”

De Blasio Job Approval Ratings on Specific Issues			
Issue	Approve (strongly)	Disapprove (strongly)	Don't know No opinion
Job done by police to keep New Yorkers safe	60% (27%)	37% (21%)	4%
Ability of New Yorkers to obtain a good job	46% (15%)	44% (23%)	10%
Quality of the City's subway system	41% (13%)	48% (29%)	10%
Quality of our public schools	40% (13%)	49% (29%)	11%
Income inequality among New Yorkers	35% (12%)	55% (30%)	9%
Ability of NYers to obtain housing at a cost they can afford	31% (12%)	62% (40%)	7%
Problem of homelessness in the City	29% (10%)	62% (42%)	9%
The New York Time/Siena College Poll – November 17, 2015			

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ng the ability to obtain affordable housing and combatting the problem of homelessness, New Yorkers strongly disapprove of the job de Blasio is doing. At least 58 percent of Democrats and liberals, blacks, whites and Latinos, and residents of every borough disapprove of de Blasio job on both of these issues,” Greenberg said. “And while 47 percent say they see about the same number of homeless people now as compared to before de Blasio took office, 38 percent say they see more and only 10 percent see fewer.”

New Yorkers believe de Blasio cares about their problems 62-35 percent, little changed from 64-33 percent last December. By a 48-45 percent margin New Yorkers say de Blasio has strong leadership qualities, down from 54-37 percent in December. While a plurality, 46 percent, say de Blasio is focused enough on running the City, 40 percent say he’s too involved in matters outside New York, down significantly from 58-26 percent last year. Only 15 percent say the City is a better place to live since de Blasio became mayor, compared to 28 percent who say it’s worse and a majority, 54 percent, who say it’s about the same.

“New Yorkers don’t give de Blasio all bad news. A strong majority continues to believe the mayor cares about their problems. By a 59-39 percent margin, they have confidence in his ability to deal with a serious crisis. And by a nearly two-to-one margin, 59-33 percent, New Yorkers are optimistic about the next two years under Mayor de Blasio,” Greenberg said.

Bratton & NYPD See Ratings Improve Over the Last Year; Crime is Key Issue for New Yorkers

Bratton has a 52-31 percent job approval rating, up significantly from 43-40 percent in December. By a 54-46 percent margin, New Yorkers give the police a positive job performance rating, up significantly from a *negative* 55-44 percent job performance rating in December.

“Bratton’s job approval rating is up sharply from last December in the weeks following the grand jury’s decision not to indict the police officer after the tragic death of Eric Garner. Democrats and independents who gave Bratton break-even marks last year now give him strong job approval marks, as do Latinos, a plurality of whom disapproved of his job last year. And black New Yorkers, who disapproved of his job by a 23-point margin last December are now evenly divided,” Greenberg said.

“In the wake of the Garner grand jury decision last year, 26 percent of New Yorkers said the police were doing a poor job. Now, half that number, 13 percent, feel that way. Although blacks and Latinos continue to give the NYPD a negative job performance rating, it is considerably less negative than less year, and whites are largely unchanged, with about two-thirds giving the police a positive rating,” Greenberg said.

“Even as views of the NYPD and its commissioner have improved over the last year, one-third of New Yorkers think that crime is the most important issue for the mayor to address, more than any other issue. And one-third of New Yorkers think that the City is less safe now than it was before de Blasio took office, compared to less than half that number, 14 percent, who say New York is safer,” Greenberg said. “At the same time, 60 percent of New Yorkers say they approve of the job de Blasio is doing when it comes to the police keeping New Yorkers safe.”

City May Be Headed on the Wrong Track, But it Is the Greatest City in the World

A majority of New Yorkers, 52 percent, say the City is headed on the wrong track, compared to only 40 percent who say the City is headed in the right direction, virtually unchanged from last December’s 52-41 percent saying wrong track. When it comes to the condition of the City’s economy, 63 percent say it is good, compared to only 34 percent who say it’s bad. Is New York City the greatest city in the world? Yes, says 65 percent of residents.

“New Yorkers may not love the mayor. They may think the City is headed on the wrong track. They may not be satisfied with the quality of public schools or other facets of life in the City. And on many issues, there’s a wide difference of opinion between New Yorkers of different parties, boroughs and races. But on one issue none of those differences arise,” Greenberg said. “At least 60 percent of Democrats, Republicans and independents, blacks, whites and Latinos, Catholics, Jews and Protestants, men and women, young and old, and residents of every borough agree: The Big Apple is the greatest city on the planet.”

New Yorkers’ View on Race Relations in the City Improve a Little in Last Year

By a 50-45 percent margin, New Yorkers say race relations in the City are generally good, up from last December, when 45 percent said they were good and 48 percent said they were bad.

“There was some improvement in the way both white and black New Yorkers view race relations in the City over the last year. Whites now say good by seven points up from one point bad last year. Black are now evenly divided after saying bad by 11 points last year. And Latinos are largely unchanged saying bad by three points this year and five points last year,” Greenberg said.

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This New York Times/Siena College Poll was conducted October 29-November 11, 2015 by telephone calls in both English and Spanish to 1,961 New York City residents of whom 1,588 are registered voters. It has a margin of error of ± 2.5 percentage points for residents and ± 2.6 for registered voters. Data was statistically adjusted to correct for unequal probability of selection by household size and the overlap of land and cell phones and by age, education, borough, race/ethnicity and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing to landline and cell phones weighted to reflect known population patterns. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in New York State. 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](tel:5184699858). For survey cross-tabs and frequencies: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Siena College New York City Poll Trends – November 2015

Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill de Blasio is handling his job as Mayor?

DATE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	44	38	18
December 2014	52	32	15
April 2014	49	31	19

Q. 2 Do you feel things in New York City are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

DATE	RIGHT DIRECTION	WRONG TRACK	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	40	52	8
December 2014	41	52	7
April 2014	51	42	6
December 2013	50	42	8

Q. 5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Bratton is handling his job as police commissioner?

DATE	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	52	31	17
December 2014	43	40	17

Q. 8 Do you think race relations in New York City today are generally good, or generally bad?

DATE	GENERALLY GOOD	GENERALLY BAD	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	50	45	5
December 2014	45	48	7
December 2013	63	30	7

Q. 11 How much confidence do you have in Bill de Blasio's ability to deal with a serious crisis?

DATE	A LOT	SOME	NOT MUCH	NOT AT ALL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	16	43	22	17	3
December 2014	22	41	21	13	3

Q. 12 How much do you think Bill de Blasio cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself?

DATE	A LOT	SOME	NOT MUCH	NOT AT ALL	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	24	38	19	16	3
December 2014	28	36	21	12	3
April 2014	30	40	18	9	4

Q. 16 Do you think Bill de Blasio has strong qualities of leadership or not?

DATE	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	48	45	7
December 2014	54	37	9

Q. 17 Do you think Mayor de Blasio is too involved in matters outside New York, like national politics or international trips, or do you think he is focused enough on running the city and doing what a mayor of New York City should do?

DATE	TOO INVOLVED OUTSIDE NYC	FOCUSED ENOUGH	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	40	46	14
December 2014	26	58	16

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Q. 18 How would you rate the job the police in New York City are doing?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	15	39	33	13	1
December 2014	12	32	29	26	2

Q. 19 Mayor de Blasio said he wants to improve relations between the police and community. Do you think he has made relations between the police and the community better, worse, or hasn't had much effect?

DATE	BETTER	WORSE	NOT MUCH EFFECT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
November 2015	19	23	53	5
December 2014	16	22	56	6