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Siena College Poll:

By Two-to-One, Voters Say Top of Tickets – Trump & Clinton – Will Help Dems in Battle for State Senate Control

Popular Chuck Schumer Continues to Rout Unknown Wendy Long *Cuomo Up a Little on Job Performance, Down a Little on Favorability*

Loudonville, NY. Only 31 percent of voters believe Donald Trump at the top of the ticket will help Republicans maintain control of the State Senate while 62 percent believe Trump will not help Republicans. By a slightly bigger margin, 64-29 percent, voters say Hillary Clinton at the top of the ticket will help Democrats regain control of the State Senate, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Senator Chuck Schumer continues to coast in his bid for a fourth six-year term. With a 58-31 percent favorability rating (down a little from 60-28 percent in June), Schumer crushes Wendy Long, 63-24 percent (down slightly from 66-23 percent in June), who remains unknown to more than three-quarters of voters.

“In their quest to maintain control of the New York State Senate, Republicans who continue to face a two-to-one enrollment disadvantage to Democrats in New York have the added burden of following Donald Trump on the ballot. Voters overwhelmingly say both that Trump will not help Republicans hold the Senate and that Clinton will help Democrats regain control,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

“Three-quarters of Democrats say that Trump hurts the Republicans and Clinton helps the Democrats, as do strong majorities of independents. Only half of Republicans think Trump helps them and they are evenly divided on whether Clinton helps the Democrats,” Greenberg said. “Upstaters and downstaters agree that Trump hurts Republican chances of holding the Senate while Clinton helps Democrats retake the Legislature’s upper house.

“Of course, the equation of Senate control is more likely than not going to be decided by whether the Independent Democratic Conference decides to continue its partnership with Senate Republicans or reunites with its Democratic colleagues,” Greenberg said. “Siena will once again be looking more closely at key State Senate races across the state as we move into the fall election season.”

The State Senate has a 41-45 percent favorability rating, little changed from 41-47 percent in June, and 46 percent are prepared to re-elect their incumbent State Senator, while 39 percent would prefer “someone else.” The Assembly has a 41-40 percent favorability rating, up from 39-46 percent in June, and a 42-36 percent re-elect.

“Despite all the scandals, indictments, trials, and convictions, New Yorkers are closely divided about each house of the State Legislature, and with 12 weeks till election day – four weeks for those facing primaries – voters show no tendency to be in a “vote the bums out” mentality. Pluralities are prepared to re-elect incumbent legislators in both houses,” Greenberg said.

Popular Chuck Cruising in Bid for Re-election Against Unknown Wendy

“Schumer – on the cusp of becoming Democratic leader of the United State Senate if he can clear the hurdle of a re-election by New York voters – is about as far ahead as one can be 83 days before an election,” Greenberg said.

“With a nearly 40-point lead against an opponent who is unknown to 77 percent of voters, the popular incumbent seems to be cruising to a fourth term.

“Schumer has the support of 82 percent of Democrats and 57 percent of independents. Long only leads Schumer among Republicans 52-33 percent. Schumer has at least 57 percent support against Long in every region of the state,” Greenberg said. “The real question may be how well Long does compared to four years ago, when she lost to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 72-26 percent.”

Cuomo: Up a Little; Down a Little

Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 53-40 percent favorability rating, down a little from 56-38 percent in June, and his job performance rating is a negative 43-55 percent, up from negative 40-59 percent in June. If he runs for re-election in 2018, 46 percent say they’re prepared to re-elect him, compared to 47 percent who would prefer “someone else,” largely unchanged from 46-48 in June.

“When it comes to the Governor, voters give a little and take a little back – both in this month’s poll and over the last two years. This month, Cuomo’s job performance rating is up but his favorability rating is down almost as much,” Greenberg said. “However, this is a pattern we’ve seen over the last two years as his favorability and job performance ratings rise or fall a few points but stay relatively consistent. Two years ago, in August 2014, Cuomo’s job performance rating was 44-55 percent, virtually identical to today’s and his favorability rating was a little higher at 57-36 percent, although it was down to 49-44 percent in July 2015, a little lower than today.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted August 7-10, 2016 by telephone calls conducted in English to 717 New York State registered voters. Respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest male in the household. It has an overall margin of error of ± 4.3 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers (landline sample: ASDE Survey Sampling; cell sample: Survey Sampling International) from within New York State weighted to reflect known population patterns. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, region and gender to ensure representativeness. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., 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 cross-tabs: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – August 2016

Q. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	53	40	7
June 2016	56	38	6
May 31, 2016	54	40	6
May 3, 2016	54	41	5
February 2016	52	43	5
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	44 (7/15, 5/15)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/20/10)

Q. 20 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	6	37	39	16	3
June 2016	7	33	40	19	1
May 31, 2016	8	34	39	19	1
May 3, 2016	7	36	37	19	2
February 2016	8	34	34	24	0
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	25 (10/14)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	6 (several)	32 (12/15, etc.)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 19 If Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor in two years, as things stand now, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	46	47	7
June 2016	46	48	6
May 31, 2016	42	49	9
HIGHEST EVER	46 (8/16, 6/16)	49 (5/31/16)	9 (5/31/16)
LOWEST EVER	42 (5/31/16)	47 (8/16)	6 (6/16)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	41	40	19
June 2016	39	46	15
May 31, 2016	32	49	19
May 3, 2016	39	47	14
February 2016	37	49	15
HIGHEST EVER	45 (1/13)	61 (7/10)	20 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	40 (8/16, 12/12)	10 (5/15)

Q. 18 As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect your State Assemblymember if he or she is running for re-election, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	42	36	22
June 2016	43	38	20
HIGHEST EVER	43 (6/16)	38 (6/16)	22 (8/16)
LOWEST EVER	42 (8/16)	36 (8/16)	20 (6/16)

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Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	41	45	14
June 2016	41	47	12
May 31, 2016	34	52	14
May 3, 2016	42	48	9
February 2016	38	49	13
HIGHEST EVER	46 (1/14, 5/12)	74 (7/09)	16 (12/15, 10/15)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	41 (12/12)	6 (7/09)

Q. 17 As things stand now, would you vote to re-elect your State Senator if he or she is running for re-election, or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT	SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	46	39	15
June 2016	48	37	14
HIGHEST EVER	48 (6/16)	39 (8/16)	15 (8/16)
LOWEST EVER	46 (8/16)	37 (6/16)	14 (6/16)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	58	31	11
June 2016	60	28	12
May 31, 2016	59	30	10
May 3, 2016	57	32	11
February 2016	60	29	10
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	32 (5/3/16, 10/31/10, 9/10, 6/10)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	54 (6/10)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Wendy Long?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	11	12	77
June 2016	11	11	78
May 31, 2016	12	11	77
May 3, 2016	13	10	78
October 2012	17	16	67
HIGHEST EVER	17 (10/12)	16 (10/12)	82 (4/12)
LOWEST EVER	8 (4/12)	9 (5/12)	67 (10/12)

Q.13 If the election for United States Senator was being held today and the candidates were Chuck Schumer on the Democratic line and Wendy Long on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	SCHUMER	LONG	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
August 2016	63	24	13
June 2016	66	23	11
May 31, 2016	64	22	14
May 3, 2016	64	24	12
HIGHEST EVER	66 (6/16)	24 (8/16, 5/3/16)	14 (5/31/16)
LOWEST EVER	63 (8/16)	22 (5/31/16)	11 (6/16)

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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 2016	47	40	13
June 2016	44	43	13
May 31, 2016	43	46	12
May 3, 2016	43	46	10
February 2016	47	43	10
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (5/13)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of 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 College Poll in February 2005. Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since February 2016. “Highest Ever” and “Lowest Ever” are provided at the bottom of each question.
^ Inconsequential wording change.