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Siena College Poll:

Clinton Expands Lead Over Trump to 30 Points, 57%-27%; She Leads By 25 Points in 4-Way Matchup

Voters Overwhelmingly See Clinton as More Qualified to Be Commander in Chief & More Effective Working with Congress; Rate Her More Honest/Trustworthy Than Trump, Even as 60% Say She is Not Honest

Clinton's Positions on Six Key Issues Closer to Voters Than Trump's

***NYers Divided: America is Great Now, 49% vs. It's Time to Make It Great Again, 44%;
More than Two-Thirds Say Bill Will Be Better First Spouse than Melania***

Loudonville, NY. Hillary Clinton now holds a 30-point lead over Donald Trump, 57-27 percent (up from 54-31 percent in June), and a 25-point lead in a four-way matchup, 50-25 percent, with 16 percent for other candidates, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today. By a 40-point margin, voters say Clinton is more qualified to be commander in chief than Trump. By 32 points she bests Trump on being more effective working with Congress to move America forward. By a 16-point margin, voters say Clinton is more honest and trustworthy than Trump, as 60 percent say she is not honest and 69 percent say Trump is not.

On a series of six issues, between 47 and 58 percent of voters say their views are closer to Clinton's, while only between 23 and 35 percent say Trump's views are closer to theirs. By a narrow 49-45 percent margin, New Yorkers say America is great now, rather than it's time to make America great again. Overwhelmingly, however, New Yorkers see Bill Clinton doing a better job as first spouse than Melania Trump, 71-21 percent.

Despite Trump's claims to carry New York, the Empire State seems firmly planted on the blue side of the map, as Clinton holds a commanding 30-point lead in a head-to-head matchup and a similarly strong 25-point, two-to-one lead in a four-way matchup, said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. New Yorkers have voted Democratic in the last seven presidential elections and there does not appear to be a real threat to end that streak.

While Clinton has 81 percent of Democrats in the head-to-head, and 75 percent in the four-way contest, Trump only garners the support of 55 and 52 percent of Republicans, while independents side with Clinton by 10 points in the two-way race and a narrow four points in the four-way race, Greenberg said. There is a wide gender contrast: women give Clinton leads of 40 and 36 points and men support Clinton but closer, 17 and 10 points.

Clinton's favorability rating inched up to 51-46 percent from 50-47 percent in June and Trump's continued to slide hitting his all-time low favorability rating, a negative 24-72 percent, Greenberg said. "A bare majority of Republicans view Trump favorably."

Sixty percent of voters say Clinton is not honest and trustworthy and only 55 percent of Democrats say she is and an even larger 69 percent say Trump is not honest and trustworthy, and only 51 percent of Republicans say he is, Greenberg said. "Who's more honest and trustworthy? Voters say Clinton 54-38 percent, although a majority of Republicans and independents say Trump."

Candidate Characteristics					
Do you think Trump/Clinton is...?					
Candidate		Honest & Trustworthy	Qualified / Commander in Chief	Effective with Congress	
Hillary Clinton	Yes	37%	62%	60%	
	No	60%	35%	36%	
Donald Trump	Yes	28%	25%	31%	
	No	69%	73%	64%	
Who do you think is more...?					
	Candidate	Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Honest & Trustworthy	Clinton	54%	78%	26%	36%
	Trump	38%	16%	63%	55%
Qualified / Commander in Chief	Clinton	66%	84%	37%	59%
	Trump	26%	10%	53%	32%
Effective Working with Congress to Move America Forward	Clinton	63%	83%	35%	53%
	Trump	31%	12%	56%	40%
Siena College Poll – August 15, 2016					

By far larger margins, voters say Clinton is more qualified to be commander in chief than Trump, 66-26 percent, and will be more effective in working with Congress to move America forward, 63-31 percent, Greenberg said. "On both, a strong majority of independents and more than one-third of Republicans side with Clinton."

Voters Say Their Positions on Six Key Issues Are Closer to Clinton's Than They Are to Trump's

Voters side with Clinton over Trump on:

- Addressing tensions between the police and communities of color and 56-23 percent
- Improving health care in America and 58-28 percent
- Developing a comprehensive immigration policy and 55-31 percent
- Keeping America safe from terrorism and 53-35 percent
- Creating jobs and 51-35 percent
- Addressing global trade and 47-33 percent

Overall, New Yorkers say that their positions on some of the most important issues in this election are closer to Clinton than Trump by wide margins, Greenberg said. "Between 70 and 81 percent of Democrats say Clinton is better on each of the six issues. Between 50 and 65 percent of Republicans side with Trump on each issue. However, independents side with Trump on jobs, trade and keeping the U.S. safe from terrorism, while they side with Clinton on health care, immigration policy and tensions between police and communities of color."

Is America Great Now? Yes, Says Dems; No, Says Reps; Maybe, Says Independents

By a narrow 49-44 percent margin, voters say, "America is great now," rather than, "it is time to make America great again." Democrats say great now 60-32 percent. Republicans say time to make it great again 66-31 percent. Independents are closely divided with 45 percent saying great now and 47 percent saying make it great again.

“It appears that a fundamental question about this country – are we great or do we need to be made great again – has been overtaken by the heated campaign rhetoric from both sides and is now viewed largely through a partisan prism,” Greenberg said. “By a nearly two-to-one margin, Democrats say America is great now and by a slightly larger margin Republicans say it’s time to make America great again. Independents are nearly evenly divided on this question. There is little gender gap, as 49 percent of both men and women say America is great now.”

Voters: Bill Clinton, Viewed More Favorably Than Melania Trump, Would Be Better First Spouse

Bill Clinton has a 60-36 percent favorability rating and Melania Trump’s is a negative 28-54 percent.

“Bill Clinton, with a nearly two-to-one positive favorability rating, is viewed far more favorably than Melania Trump, with a nearly two-to-one negative favorability rating,” Greenberg said. “New Yorkers overwhelmingly say that the former President would be a better first spouse than Ms. Trump, a view held by 87 percent of Democrats, 65 percent of independents and even a small plurality of Republicans. Two-thirds of men and three-quarters of women also say Bill would be the better first spouse, as do two-thirds of voters from outside New York City and more than three-quarters of City voters.”

The Obama Factor

President Obama has a 62-37 percent favorability rating, up slightly from 59-36 percent in March. It’s his best favorability rating since February 2013, the second month of his second term, when it was 66-32 percent. Voters are divided: 45 percent say the next president should largely continue Obama policies, while 48 percent, a small plurality, say the next president should largely change Obama policies

“The good news for Hillary Clinton is that President Obama is more well liked now – as he campaigns for her – than at any time since the start of his second term. The good news for Donald Trump is that even in blue New York, more New Yorkers, by a small margin, would rather see the next president change rather than continue the policies of the Obama Administration,” Greenberg said.

“While a small majority of Democrats think the country is on the right track, Republicans and independents – and a majority of all New Yorkers – say the country is headed in the wrong direction,” Greenberg said. “Clinton has a popular president supporting her and a majority of voters siding with her on key issues, however, Trump has the voters’ mood regarding the direction of the country and their not wanting to continue Obama’s policies on his side. They both have a fine rhetorical line to walk.”

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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. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	51	46	3
June 2016	50	47	3
May 31, 2016	46	51	2
May 3, 2016	48	50	2
March 2016	48	48	4
February 2016	50	47	3
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	51 (5/31/16, 9/15)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	46 (5/31/16, 9/15)	23 (12/12)	2 (many)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	24	72	4
June 2016	28	68	4
May 31, 2016	27	68	4
May 3, 2016	26	70	4
March 2016	29	67	4
February 2016	25	71	4
HIGHEST EVER	38 (1/14)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	57 (1/14)	2 (9/15)

Q.14 If the election for President was being held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Donald Trump on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CLINTON	TRUMP	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
August 2016	57	27	16
June 2016	54	31	16
May 31, 2016	52	31	17
May 3, 2016	56	30	15
March 2016	57	34	10
February 2016	57	32	11
HIGHEST EVER	57 (8/16, 3/16, 2/16)	36 (9/15)	17 (5/31/16)
LOWEST EVER	52 (5/31/16)	27 (8/16)	10 (3/16, 9/15)

Q. 21 Of the following five issues, which one do you think is the most important for the next President to work on? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

ISSUE	AUGUST 2016	FEBRUARY 2016	SEPTEMBER 2015	HIGHEST EVER	LOWEST EVER
Jobs and economy	35	42	40	42 (2/16)	35 (8/16)
Keeping America safe	31	30	30	31 (8/16)	30 (2/16, 9/15)
Selecting judges	15	7	6	15 (8/16)	6 (9/15)
Health Care	11	12	10	12 (2/16)	10 (9/15)
Immigration	6	7	11	11 (9/15)	6 (8/16)
Other/No Opinion	2	1	2	2 (8/16, 9/15)	1 (2/16)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
August 2016	62	37	1
March 2016	59	36	4
February 2016	59	38	3
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (9/14, 10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	1 (several)

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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 2016	36	54	10
June 2016	33	58	9
May 31, 2016	34	57	9
March 2016	35	52	13
February 2016	36	52	11
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

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.