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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo Leads Molinaro by 19 Points Among Likely Voters; Expands Lead Over Nixon to 35 Points with Democrats

Gillibrand & DiNapoli Have Large Early Leads vs. Unknown Challengers

***Dem AG Primary Wide Open with Three Candidates Unknown to
Majority of Democrats; Little Known Rep Waits to Learn Opponent
Trump Ratings (Still Underwater) Jump to Best Since Becoming President***

Loudonville, NY. Governor Andrew Cuomo has a 51-44 percent favorability rating among likely general election voters, compared to 49-44 percent in April among registered voters. He leads Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro – who is essentially unknown to more than two-thirds of likely voters – 56-37 percent, according to a new Siena College poll of likely New York State general election voters.

Among Democrats polled, Cuomo leads Cynthia Nixon 61-26 percent (up from 58-27 percent in Siena's April poll of registered voters). Nixon, too, leads Molinaro but by a narrower 46-35 percent margin.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand holds a 61-28 percent lead over her little-known Republican opponent, Chele Chiavacci Farley, and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli leads Republican Jonathan Trichter 56-22 percent. The race for Attorney General appears wide open as none of the candidates tested has significant name recognition.

“With the Democratic primary three months away, Democrats strongly view Cuomo favorably, 67-28 percent, while they view Nixon favorably by a smaller 40-26 percent. He has a 72-23 percent favorability rating among self-described liberals, while liberals view Nixon favorably 51-18 percent,” said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. “Nixon has a lot of catching up to do to make this race competitive. Cuomo is well known and well liked by New York Democrats. Although similar percentages of Democrats view Cuomo and Nixon unfavorably, Cuomo has a significantly larger percentage of Democrats viewing him favorably.

“Cuomo has the support of almost two-thirds of Democrats in New York City and more than three-quarters in the downstate suburbs. While he has a narrower 47-39 percent lead upstate, upstate accounted for only about one-third of the 2014 primary vote,” Greenberg said. “There is no gender gap to favor Nixon, as Cuomo leads with men by 31 points and with women by 37 points. He also leads among black voters 74-17 percent.”

“Looking ahead to the general election, Molinaro also has a lot of work to do if he wants to be the first Republican to win statewide in 16 years. Molinaro has an 18-11 percent favorability rating, with 71 percent of likely voters unable to offer an opinion about him,” Greenberg said.

“Cuomo has nearly twice the support of Republicans, 25 percent, as Molinaro has support among Democrats, 13 percent, with independents giving Cuomo a narrow four-point edge,” Greenberg said. “While Molinaro has a six-point lead upstate, Cuomo has a huge 65-point lead in New York City and a 17-point lead in the downstate suburbs, where Republicans have to win – or at least keep it close – to win statewide.

“In June 2014, Cuomo led then-Republican candidate Rob Astorino 57-21 percent in a Siena College poll, before going on to beat Astorino 54-40 percent in November 2014,” Greenberg said.

Gillibrand Holds 33-Point Lead Over Little-Known Farley

“With a nearly two-to-one, 53-28 percent, favorability rating, Gillibrand has a commanding 61-28 percent lead over Farley, who is unknown to nine out of ten likely New York voters,” Greenberg said. “Gillibrand leads by more than 70 points with Democrats, 83-9 percent, and 27 points with independents, 56-29 percent. Farley’s lead among Republicans, 56-31 percent, is slightly smaller than Gillibrand’s lead with independents.”

DiNapoli in Strong Position to Win Re-Election

“After more than 11 years as State Comptroller, DiNapoli remains unknown to more than half the electorate. He has a 32-15 percent favorability rating. Of course, that compares to 5-5 percent favorability rating for Trichter. DiNapoli leads Trichter 56-22 percent and only trails him among Republicans, 45-35 percent,” Greenberg said.

James Has Early Lead (Prior to Maloney’s Entry) in Dem. AG Primary

New York City Public Advocate Letitia James has a 20-10 percent favorability rating, including 32-9 percent with Democrats. Zephyr Teachout has a comparable 17-12 percent favorability rating, including 26-8 percent with Democrats. Leecia Eve has a 5-4 percent favorability rating. Keith Wofford has a 5-5 percent favorability rating. This poll commenced prior to Representative Sean Patrick Maloney announcing his candidacy.

“While none of the three Democratic women running for Attorney General is widely known among likely general election voters, James and Teachout have the strongest favorability ratings among Democratic voters,” Greenberg said. “Due to her strength in New York City where she has a large lead, garnering 45 percent support, James has the early lead among Democrats with 28 percent support, compared to Teachout’s 18 percent and Eve’s four percent. Nearly half of Democrats say they are still undecided. And that’s before Maloney enters the mix.

“Former Attorney General Eric Schneiderman – who had a 37-17 percent favorability rating in April – is viewed favorably by 21 percent and unfavorably by 44 percent of voters, a net drop of 43 points,” Greenberg said.

Trump Sees Rating Improve but Remains Significantly Underwater with New York Voters

President Donald Trump has a negative 38-59 percent favorability rating among likely voters, up from negative 31-65 percent among registered voters in April. His job performance is negative 36-63 percent, up from negative 27-71 percent in April.

“Although he remains significantly underwater with voters in his home state, Trump has the best favorability and job performance ratings he’s had since assuming office,” Greenberg said. “He is viewed favorably by 68 percent of Republicans – almost two-thirds of whom also give him a positive job performance rating – while being viewed unfavorably by 82 percent of Democrats and 54 percent of independents.

“Similarly, the view of voters about the direction of the country has improved dramatically, while still remaining significantly negative. By a 54-39 percent margin, voters say the country is headed in the wrong direction, however, that’s down from 63-30 percent feeling the country was headed in the wrong direction in April,” Greenberg said. “Nearly three-quarters of Democrats say the country is headed in the wrong direction, while nearly two-thirds of Republicans say the country is on the right track. Independents are closely divided.”

Dems Want Dems in November; Reps Want Reps; Independents are Closely Divided

Overall, 43 percent of likely voters say they plan to vote for the Democrat for Representative in Congress compared to 28 percent who say they’ll vote Republican. Similarly, by a 40-31 percent margin, voters say they’ll vote for the Democrat for State Senate, and by a 42-27 percent margin, support the Democrat for State Assembly. By 55-39 percent, voters say they want to see the House of Representatives controlled by the Democrats next year and by 52-42 percent, they want Democrats to control the State Senate.

“Not surprisingly, approximately 70 percent of Democrats say they will vote for the Democratic candidate in races for Congress, State Senate and Assembly, and at least 61 percent of Republicans say they will vote for the Republican candidate in each of those races. Independents are closely divided between candidates in each party in each of those elections,” Greenberg said. “Similarly, Democrats overwhelmingly want Democrats in charge of the House of Representatives and the State Senate, while Republicans overwhelmingly want the GOP to control both. Independents are closely divided when it comes to House and State Senate control, although they favor the Republicans in each by narrow margins.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted June 4-7, 2018 by telephone calls conducted in English to 745 New York State likely 2018 general election voters. Calls were made to a sample of registered voter households and initiated by asking for the youngest person in the household. It has an overall margin of error of ± 3.6 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame sample of landline and cell phone telephone numbers from the L-2 Voter list. A likely-to-vote probability was computed for each respondent based on both their stated likelihood to vote as well as by virtue of the imputation of a turnout probability score based on past household voting behavior. This probability to vote was applied as a weight along with a weight that considered historic party by region turnout, age and gender. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in NYS. SCRI, 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/SCRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – June 2018

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
June 2018*	45	41	14
April 2018	44	44	12
March 2018	46	42	12
February 2018	48	39	13
January 2018	50	35	15
November 2017*	48	40	12
October 2017	50	37	13
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (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
June 2018*	39	54	7
April 2018	30	63	6
March 2018	33	58	9
February 2018	34	59	7
January 2018	33	58	9
October 2017	26	65	9
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)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	51	44	5
April 2018	49	44	6
March 2018	52	40	8
February 2018	53	40	7
January 2018	62	30	8
November 2017*	52	43	5
October 2017	57	35	8
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	44 (6/18, 4/18, 7/15, 5/15)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/16, 10/20/10)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Marc Molinaro?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	18	11	71
April 2018	13	11	75
March 2018	10	13	77
HIGHEST EVER	18 (6/18)	13 (3/18)	77 (3/18)
LOWEST EVER	10 (3/18)	11 (6/18, 4/18)	71 (6/18)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Cynthia Nixon?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	31	31	38
April 2018	27	28	45
March 2018	20	19	60
HIGHEST EVER	31 (6/18)	31 (6/18)	60 (3/18)
LOWEST EVER	20 (3/18)	19 (3/18)	38 (6/18)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	40	43	17
April 2018	41	41	18
March 2018	41	38	20
February 2018	44	35	21
January 2018	42	36	22
November 2017*	39	44	18
October 2017	43	37	20
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/17, 2/17)	61 (7/10)	21 (2/18, 5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	34 (5/17)	10 (5/15)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	41	45	14
April 2018	41	45	15
March 2018	39	44	16
February 2018	44	40	16
January 2018	44	39	17
November 2017*	37	48	15
October 2017	47	37	15
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (1/18, 5/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	35 (5/17)	6 (7/09)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	53	28	19
April 2018	48	29	23
March 2018	49	25	25
February 2018	48	27	25
January 2018	51	23	26
November 2017*	58	26	17
October 2017	50	23	28
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	34 (10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chele Chiavacci Farley?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	5	4	91
April 2018	5	7	88
March 2018	5	9	86
February 2018	6	6	89
HIGHEST EVER	6 (2/18)	9 (3/18)	91 (6/18)
LOWEST EVER	5 (6/18, 4/18, 3/18)	4 (6/18)	86 (3/18)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	56	37	6
April 2018	53	38	10
March 2018	54	36	11
February 2018	52	39	9
January 2018	59	32	9
October 2017	58	31	11
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	39 (2/18)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	52 (2/18)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

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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
June 2018*	38	59	3
April 2018	31	65	4
March 2018	33	63	4
February 2018	33	62	4
January 2018	32	63	4
November 2017*	31	65	3
October 2017	28	68	4
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	32	15	53
April 2018	26	15	58
March 2018	28	14	58
January 2018	27	12	62
HIGHEST EVER	35 (10/14)	36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/07)	10 (12/09, 11/08)	37 (10/31/10)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	21	44	36
April 2018	37	17	46
March 2018	34	21	45
January 2018	33	16	51
HIGHEST EVER	41 (10/14)	44 (6/18)	86 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	8 (11/09)	6 (5/10, 11/09)	36 (6/18)

Q. 18 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Zephyr Teachout?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	17	12	71
July 2014	6	8	86
HIGHEST EVER	17 (6/18)	12 (6/18)	86 (7/14)
LOWEST EVER	6 (7/14)	8 (7/14)	71 (6/18)

Q. 20 DEMS ONLY: If the Democratic primary for Governor was held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo and Cynthia Nixon, who would you vote for? (Candidate names were rotated. This is *not* likely Democratic primary voters.)

DATE	CUOMO	NIXON	OTHER/NOBODY/DK/NO
June 2018*	61	26	13
April 2018	58	27	16
March 2018	66	19	15
HIGHEST EVER	66 (3/18)	27 (4/18)	16 (4/18)
LOWEST EVER	58 (4/18)	19 (3/18)	13 (6/18)

Q. 22 If the election for Governor was held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Marc Molinaro on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	CUOMO	MOLINARO	OTHER/NOBODY/DK/NO
June 2018*	56	37	7
April 2018	57	31	12
March 2018	57	29	14
HIGHEST EVER	57 (4/18, 3/18)	37 (6/18)	14 (3/18)
LOWEST EVER	56 (6/18)	29 (3/18)	7 (6/18)

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Q. 24 If the election for United States Senator was held today and the candidates were Kirsten Gillibrand on the Democratic line and Chele Chiavacci Farley on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Candidate names were rotated.)

DATE	GILLIBRAND	FARLEY	OTHER/NOBODY/DK/NO
June 2018*	61	28	10
April 2018	58	27	15
March 2018	60	24	16
HIGHEST EVER	61 (6/18)	28 (6/18)	16 (3/18)
LOWEST EVER	58 (4/18)	24 (3/18)	10 (6/18)

Q. 26 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
June 2018*	7	33	34	25	1
April 2018	7	34	33	24	1
March 2018	8	34	32	25	1
February 2018	7	38	32	21	2
January 2018	11	39	33	15	2
November 2017*	8	37	31	23	1
October 2017	11	37	33	17	2
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	25 (6/18, 3/18, 10/14)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	32 (12/15, etc.)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 27 Based on what you've seen of him as Governor, would you describe Andrew Cuomo as a liberal, a moderate or a conservative?

DATE	LIBERAL	MODERATE	CONSERVATIVE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	44	40	7	8
April 2018	41	41	9	10
March 2018	46	41	6	8
January 2018	41	40	10	9
December 2016	39	44	9	9
February 2016	39	42	12	7
July 2015	33	45	13	10
HIGHEST EVER	46 (3/18)	60 (3/11)	15 (4/11, 2/11)	10 (4/18, 7/15, 4/11, 1/11)
LOWEST EVER	21 (2/11)	40 (6/18, 1/18)	6 (3/18)	6 (9/13)

Q. 30 How would you rate the job that Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
June 2018*	19	17	12	51	1
April 2018	14	13	17	54	1
March 2018	14	15	15	54	1
February 2018	12	17	14	56	1
October 2017	8	15	14	63	0
HIGHEST EVER	19 (6/18)	19 (7/17)	20 (2/17)	63 (10/17)	3 (4/17)
LOWEST EVER	8 (10/17, 9/17)	13 (4/18)	12 (6/18)	48 (2/17)	0 (10/17)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the following polls: June 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.

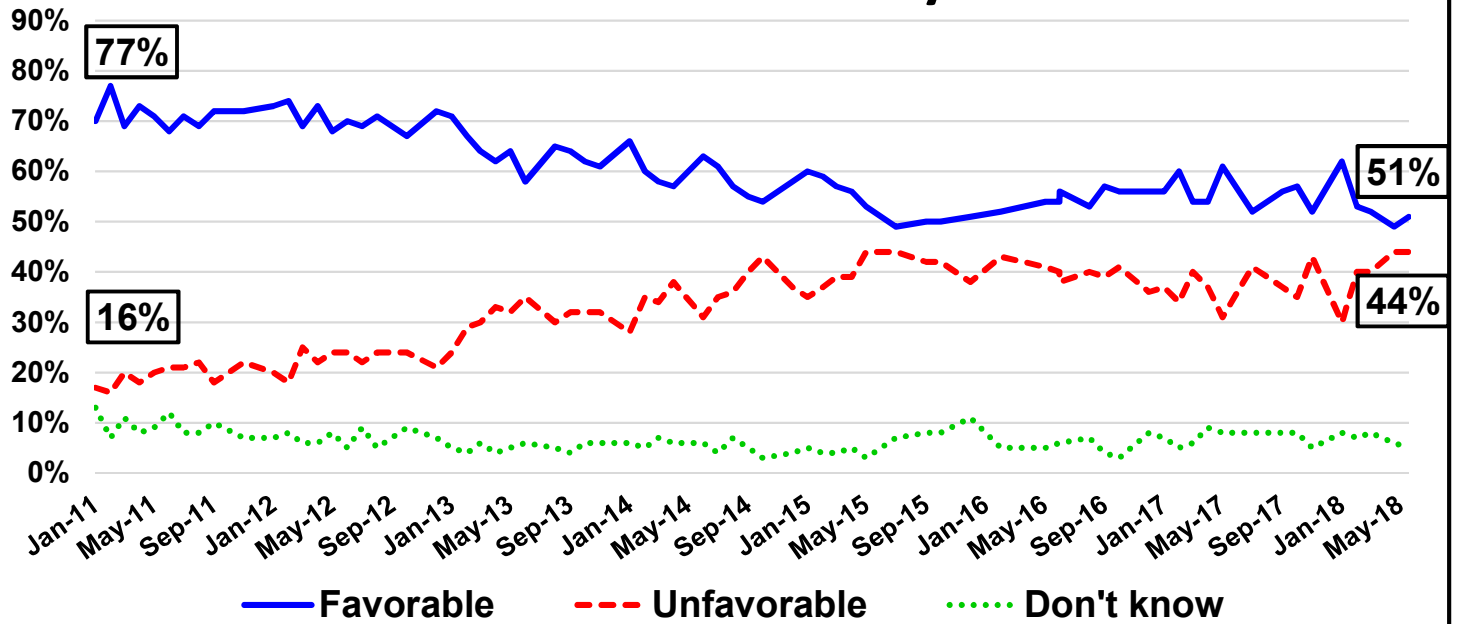
Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since October 2017.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.

Andrew Cuomo Favorability 2011-2018



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