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Siena College Poll:

2/3 of Voters Say Amazon Cancelling Queens HQ Bad for NY; 2-to-1 Support for Deal if Amazon Reconsiders

Huge Support: Requiring Parents to Have Children Vaccinated; Strong Support: Property Tax Cap; Support: Eliminating Monetary Bail & Legalizing Pot; Strong Opposition: Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants
Cuomo & Legislature Favorability Up a Little; NYS Under Democratic Control: Getting Harder for Businesses, Moving Too Far Left & Upstate Being Ignored

Loudonville, NY. By a 67-21 percent margin, New Yorkers say that Amazon cancelling its planned second headquarters in Queens was bad for New York. By as nearly as large a margin, 61-30 percent, they support the deal in which Amazon would receive up to \$3 billion in state and city incentives and create up to 25,000 jobs if Amazon reconsiders, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

An overwhelming 79 percent of voters say parents should be required to have their children vaccinated before attending school, regardless of the parents' religious beliefs. Voters continue to support making the two-percent property tax cap permanent, legalizing recreational use of marijuana, and eliminating monetary bail for misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. They are split on congestion pricing, and by a nearly two-to-one margin, they oppose allowing undocumented immigrants to get a New York driver's license.

"At least 63 percent of Democrats, Republicans and independents, upstaters and downstaters, men and women, young and old, black and white New Yorkers agree: Amazon pulling out of Queens was bad for New York. Even 56 percent of self-described liberals think it was bad for New York," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. "While some may have celebrated Amazon's announcement to pull the plug, the vast majority of New Yorkers of every stripe thought it was bad for the Empire State.

"Who do New Yorkers blame? Well, there's certainly blame enough to go around. More people think that Amazon, Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio, the State Senate, and local Queens activists were villains in this saga than they were heroes. However, voters say the biggest villain was Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Only 12 percent call her hero, while 38 percent label her a villain," Greenberg said. "Amazon itself was seen as the biggest villain among Democrats, but Republicans and independents had Ocasio-Cortez as far and away the largest villain, followed by the local Queens activists."

“By a wide margin, New Yorkers would support the deal coming back together if Cuomo and others can convince Amazon to reconsider,” Greenberg said. “The Amazon deal was seen as very contentious, however, there was strong support for it last month, before it got cancelled. There is an overwhelming feeling that its cancellation was bad for the state. And there is strong support – among all demographic groups – for Amazon to reconsider and move forward. Clearly, jobs outweigh the cost of government incentives in the minds of most voters.”

Thumbs Up: Vaccinations, Property Tax Cap, Pot, Bail; Thumbs Down: Licenses for ‘Undocumented’s

“Four out of five voters say that parents – regardless of their religious beliefs – should be required to have their children vaccinated for measles and other diseases before they can attend school. The ‘weakest’ support is among independents, who support it 70-28 percent,” Greenberg said.

“Making permanent the property tax cap has strong support from every party and every region,” Greenberg said.

“Eliminating monetary bail and legalizing recreational marijuana are both strongly supported by Democrats, opposed by Republicans and receive tepid independent support. Congestion pricing, which was strongly supported in January, is now break-even.

Support or Oppose Proposed New Laws					
		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
Requiring parents to have their children vaccinated for certain diseases	Support	79%	86%	76%	70%
	Oppose	18%	12%	20%	28%
Making NY’s two percent property tax cap permanent	Support	59%	58%	60%	60%
	Oppose	25%	22%	29%	26%
Legalizing the recreational use of marijuana	Support	53%	64%	36%	50%
	Oppose	43%	34%	61%	44%
Eliminating monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor & non-violent felony charges	Support	53%	63%	39%	49%
	Oppose	39%	30%	52%	43%
Instituting congestion pricing for parts of Manhattan to fund the MTA	Support	43%	47%	31%	48%
	Oppose	42%	42%	50%	35%
Allowing undocumented immigrants to get a NY driver’s license	Support	34%	49%	15%	25%
	Oppose	61%	45%	84%	71%

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“Overwhelmingly, Republicans and independents, upstaters and downstate suburbanites oppose allowing undocumented immigrants to get driver’s licenses. Democrats and New York City voters are closely divided on the issue,” Greenberg said. “White voters strongly oppose; black and Latino voters support it by small margins.”

Cuomo, Legislature, Schumer All See Favorability Bounce Up a Little from Last Month

Cuomo has a negative 46-48 percent favorability rating, up a little from negative 43-50 percent in February. The Assembly has a 44-35 percent favorability rating, up a little from 43-38 percent last month. The Senate is 46-38 percent, up a little from 43-41 percent. Senator Chuck Schumer is 51-41 percent, up from 47-46 percent.

Favorability Ratings				
	Fav	Unfav	DK/NO	Net
Chuck Schumer	51%	41%	8%	+10
Kirsten Gillibrand	43%	33%	23%	+10
NYS Assembly	44%	35%	21%	+9
NYS Senate	46%	38%	16%	+8
Andrea Stewart-Cousins	14%	13%	73%	+1
Carl Heastie	13%	12%	76%	+1
Andrew Cuomo	46%	48%	6%	-2
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	31%	44%	26%	-13
Bill de Blasio	34%	50%	16%	-16
Donald Trump	36%	60%	5%	-24

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“Cuomo saw his favorability rating tick up to near break-even, up from the lowest favorability rating he ever had. His job performance rating, negative 38-61 percent, also moved up a little, although it remains significantly below water,” Greenberg said. “Both houses of the Legislature also saw small jumps in their favorability ratings and both are in positive territory by high single digits.

“Schumer’s favorability rating moved back into positive territory after being break-even last month. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand’s favorability rating is unchanged from last month, and nearly one-quarter of voters do not know enough about her – despite her presidential campaign – to have an opinion,” Greenberg said. “Ocasio-Cortez, with a negative 31-44 percent favorability rating, is as well known to statewide voters after three months in office as Gillibrand is after ten years as senator. While Democrats view Ocasio-Cortez favorably, independents view her unfavorably more than two-to-one and Republicans view her unfavorably, 68-6 percent. She is viewed slightly favorably in New York City but strongly unfavorably upstate and in the downstate suburbs.”

Dems in Control: Moving Too Far to the Left; Making it Harder for Businesses; Ignoring Upstate

With NYS Govt. Controlled by the Democrats: Agree/Disagree		Total	Dem	Rep	Ind
It’s getting harder for businesses to be successful in New York	Agree	67%	53%	87%	79%
	Disagree	26%	40%	10%	16%
New York State is moving too far to the political left	Agree	51%	33%	82%	61%
	Disagree	36%	53%	12%	29%
The interests of upstate New York are being ignored in Albany	Agree	51%	37%	77%	59%
	Disagree	28%	37%	10%	24%
New York City and the downstate suburbs now have too much power	Agree	45%	29%	69%	56%
	Disagree	44%	60%	24%	32%
After 3 months of Dem. control, NY is heading in the right direction	Agree	42%	64%	15%	26%
	Disagree	48%	26%	79%	65%
Government worked better when Reps. controlled the State Senate	Agree	32%	16%	66%	35%
	Disagree	54%	74%	19%	46%
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“While Democrats disagree, a strong majority of independents and an overwhelming majority of Republicans say that Democratic control of the Governor’s mansion and both houses of the Legislature are moving the state too far to the left,” Greenberg said. “Two-thirds of voters – including a

majority of Democrats – say that Democratic control of the state makes it harder for businesses to be successful.

“While voters are evenly divided on whether downstate has too much power, by 51-28 percent voters say the interests of upstate are being ignored. Not surprisingly, nearly three-quarters of upstaters believe this, but New York City voters are closely divided,” Greenberg said. “That said, a clear majority, 54-32 percent, disagree with the view that state government worked better when Republicans controlled the State Senate.”

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This Siena College Poll was conducted March 10-14, 2019 by telephone calls conducted in English to 700 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 + 4.2 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 (both from Survey Sampling International) from within New York State. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party by 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. 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 – March 2019

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
March 2019	43	46	11
February 2019	44	45	11
January 2019	49	40	11
November 2018*	40	47	13
October 2018*	42	44	14
June 2018*	45	41	14
April 2018	44	44	12
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
March 2019	34	57	9
February 2019	35	57	8
January 2019	32	62	6
November 2018*	39	56	5
October 2018*	38	56	7
June 2018*	39	54	7
April 2018	30	63	6
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
March 2019	46	48	6
February 2019	43	50	7
January 2019	51	43	6
November 2018*	45	49	5
October 2018*	50	46	4
June 2018*	51	44	5
April 2018	49	44	6
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	50 (2/19)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	43 (2/19)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/16, 10/20/10)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	44	35	21
February 2019	43	38	18
January 2019	48	32	20
June 2018*	40	43	17
April 2018	41	41	18
HIGHEST EVER	48 (1/19)	61 (7/10)	21 (3/19, 2/18, 5/17)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	32 (1/19)	10 (5/15)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	46	38	16
February 2019	43	41	17
January 2019	49	38	13
June 2018*	41	45	14
April 2018	41	45	15
HIGHEST EVER	50 (2/17)	74 (7/09)	17 (2/19, 1/18, 5/17, 3/17)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	35 (5/17)	6 (7/09)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Carl Heastie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	13	12	76
February 2019	13	14	73
January 2019	14	15	71
April 2018	10	12	77
HIGHEST EVER	14 (1/19)	20 (10/15)	78 (1/17, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	8 (9/15)	11 (1/18)	69 (4/15)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrea Stewart-Cousins?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	14	13	73
February 2019	17	11	72
January 2019	20	12	69
April 2018	12	9	79
HIGHEST EVER	20 (1/19)	13 (3/19)	79 (4/18)
LOWEST EVER	12 (4/18)	9 (4/18)	69 (1/19)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	36	60	5
February 2019	35	59	6
January 2019	32	64	4
November 2018*	39	58	3
October 2018*	37	59	4
June 2018*	38	59	3
April 2018	31	65	4
HIGHEST EVER	41 (12/16)	72 (8/16)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	24 (8/16)	53 (12/16)	2 (9/15)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chuck Schumer?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	51	41	8
February 2019	47	46	7
January 2019	53	39	8
June 2018*	56	37	6
April 2018	53	38	10
HIGHEST EVER	70 (7/05)	46 (2/19)	17 (2/05)
LOWEST EVER	47 (2/19)	20 (2/05, 11/06)	4 (10/31/10)

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Kirsten Gillibrand?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	43	33	23
February 2019	44	34	21
January 2019	48	31	21
November 2018*	46	34	20
October 2018*	49	33	19
June 2018*	53	28	19
April 2018	48	29	23
HIGHEST EVER	61 (12/12)	34 (2/19, 11/18, 10/31/10)	56 (1/09)
LOWEST EVER	26 (3/09)	14 (1/09)	14 (10/31/10)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bill de Blasio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	34	50	16
January 2019	38	46	16
January 2018	44	37	19
HIGHEST EVER	44 (1/18)	50 (3/19)	32 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	32 (7/17)	27 (11/13)	15 (2/16)

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Q. 13 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
March 2019	7	31	32	29	1
February 2019	8	27	33	31	2
January 2019	9	34	31	25	1
June 2018*	7	33	34	25	1
April 2018	7	34	33	24	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	40 (6/16, 7/15, 12/14)	31 (2/19)	28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	5 (9/16)	27 (2/19)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/11, 1/11)	0 (2/16, 5/15, 10/14)

Q. 14 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
March 2019	14	17	19	49	2
February 2019	14	19	16	50	1
June 2018*	19	17	12	51	1
April 2018	14	13	17	54	1
HIGHEST EVER	19 (6/18)	19 (2/19, 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)

Q. 21 Do you support or oppose legalizing the recreational use of marijuana? ^

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	53	43	4
February 2019	52	42	7
January 2019	56	41	3
April 2018	52	44	4
HIGHEST EVER	56 (1/19, 2/18)	44 (4/18)	7 (2/19)
LOWEST EVER	52 (2/19, 4/18)	40 (2/18)	3 (1/19)

Q. 22 Do you support or oppose eliminating monetary bail for people facing misdemeanor and non-violent felony charges?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	53	39	8
January 2019	59	32	9
April 2018	56	35	9
HIGHEST EVER	59 (1/19)	39 (3/19)	10 (2/18)
LOWEST EVER	53 (3/19)	32 (1/19)	8 (3/19)

Q. 23 Do you support or oppose instituting congestion pricing for parts of Manhattan to help fund the MTA, which operates New York City Subways, downstate suburban railroads and many downstate bridges and tunnels?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	43	42	15
January 2019	52	39	10
HIGHEST EVER	52 (1/19)	42 (3/19)	15 (3/19)
LOWEST EVER	43 (3/19)	39 (1/19)	10 (1/19)

Q. 26 Do you support or oppose making New York's two percent property tax cap permanent?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2019	59	25	16
January 2019	65	21	14
HIGHEST EVER	65 (1/19)	25 (3/19)	16 (3/19)
LOWEST EVER	59 (3/19)	21 (1/19)	14 (1/19)

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

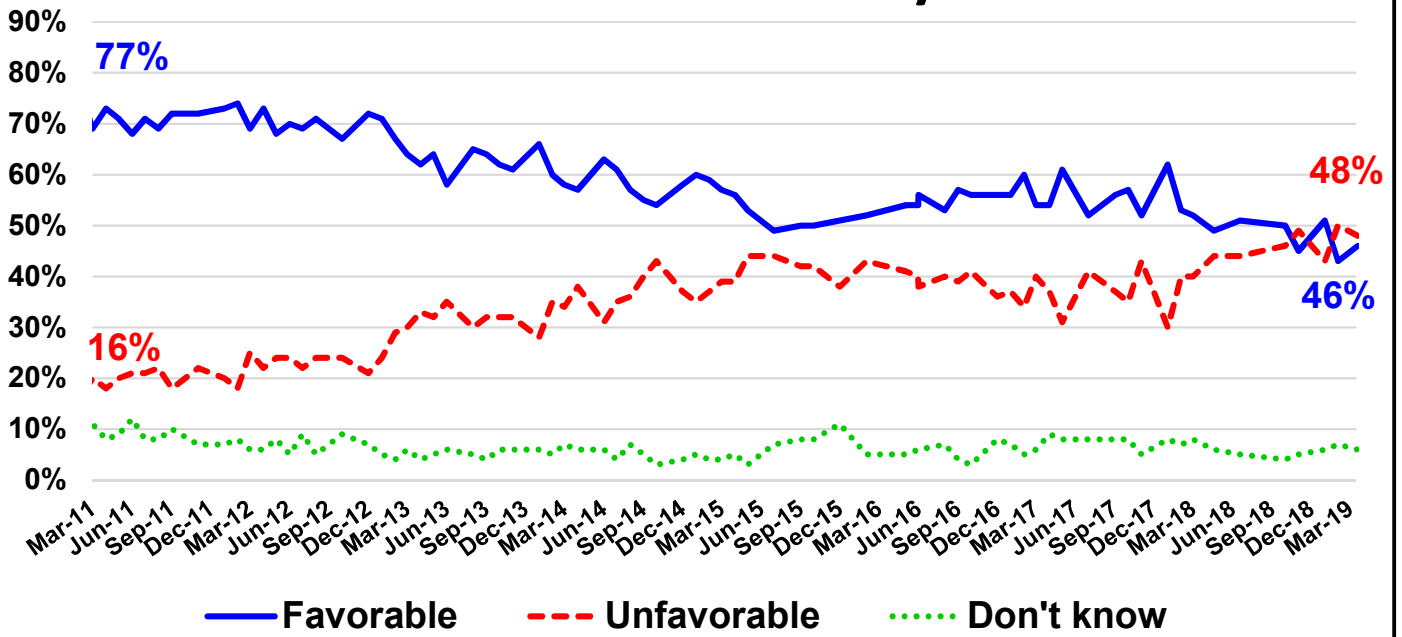
Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since April 2018.

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

^ Inconsequential wording change.

Andrew Cuomo Favorability 2011-2019



Siena College Polls 2011-2019