

### The Race for New York City Mayor Bloomberg's Approval Rating

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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This Marist Poll Reports:

#### Bloomberg Leads Thompson By 16 Percentage Points Among Likely Voters

As Election Day nears, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has widened the gap between himself and his Democratic challenger Comptroller Bill Thompson to 16 percentage points in the race for New York City mayor. Among likely voters including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate, Bloomberg has 52% to Thompson's 36%. Last month, Bloomberg led Thompson among this group of voters by 9 percentage points -- 52% to 43%, respectively. Although Bloomberg's support is unchanged, Thompson has lost ground.

Support among likely Democratic voters has shifted in Bloomberg's direction. Nearly half of Democrats -- 47% -- are planning to cast their ballot for Bloomberg while 39% are backing Thompson. Last month in a Marist survey conducted during the week of the Democratic primary, 51% supported *Thompson*, and 43% were behind *Bloomberg*. Among Republicans, 82% of likely GOP voters including leaners now support Bloomberg while 14% are behind Thompson. This is relatively unchanged since last month.

But, likely non-enrolled voters have moved toward Thompson. 48% would prefer to see Thompson in City Hall while 41% of these voters back Bloomberg. This is a big shift since last month when 65% said they supported *Bloomberg*, and 31% were behind *Thompson*.

Looking at race, Bloomberg has the support of nearly seven in ten white likely voters compared with 27% for Thompson. Among African American voters, 62% say they plan to vote for Thompson while 22% report they are going to cast their ballot for Bloomberg. When it comes to Latino likely voters, the mayor receives support from 42% while Thompson garners 35%.

Among registered voters citywide, Bloomberg's lead is 9 percentage points. He nets 47% of the electorate's support to Thompson's 38%. When Marist last asked voters about the mayor's race in New York City in September, Bloomberg received 50% of registered voters' support compared with 39% for Thompson.

## Majorities Shower Candidates with Strong Support...Bloomberg Voters More Committed

What are the odds voters will change their minds before Election Day? For 65% of the city's electorate that plans to show up on Election Day, the answer is, slim. This is the proportion of likely voters who, regardless of whom they support, say they strongly back their choice of candidate. 26% are somewhat behind their pick, and just 8% of likely voters report they could change their minds before casting their ballot.

71% of Bloomberg supporters are solidly in his camp while 57% of Thompson backers are strongly committed to their candidate.

When it comes to selecting a candidate, 71% of likely voters in New York City say they are backing their pick, because they are *for* that candidate while about one in four report they are *against* his opponent. But, Bloomberg and Thompson supporters differ about *why* they are choosing to back their candidate. 88% of Bloomberg's supporters are *for* Bloomberg, and 10% are *against* Thompson. A slim majority of Thompson's supporters, though, aren't necessarily voting *for* him. 51% plan to cast their ballot for Thompson, because they *oppose* Bloomberg. 43% say they support Thompson, because they are *for* him.

#### Most Think Bloomberg Will Win...Majority of Thompson Backers Predict Mike

All in all, do voters think their ballots really matter? 79% of registered voters, regardless of whom they plan to support, think Mayor Bloomberg will be re-elected. Even 62% of Thompson supporters believe Bloomberg is a shoo-in. Similar proportions of both the overall electorate and voters for Thompson shared this view last month.

#### Thompson's Unfavorable Rating Up...Bloomberg Remains Steady

The good news for Thompson is more voters know who he is. The bad news is more people have a negative impression of him. Currently, 47% of voters citywide think favorably of Comptroller Thompson. This is comparable to the favorability rating he received in Marist's September survey.

However, there has been a change in Thompson's unfavorable rating. Currently, 33% of voters citywide have a negative view of the comptroller while 20% have either never heard of him or are unsure how to rate him. In September, 22% did not think highly of him, and 29% were unsure how to rate him.

On the flip side, Mayor Bloomberg's favorability ratings are steady. 63% of voters have a positive view of the mayor while 33% have a negative impression of him. Those proportions are relatively unchanged from last month.

#### Money Makes No Difference, But Term Limits Do

The amount of money Mayor Bloomberg is spending on his re-election campaign doesn't matter to New York City voters. 72% report the funds will not impact their vote. 20% say the mayor's spending will make them less likely to vote for Bloomberg, and 8% are more likely to vote for him because of it. These numbers are consistent with Marist's September findings.

However, the mayor's decision to extend term limits from two to three terms does impact voters' preferences. 42% say they are *less* likely to vote for the mayor because of his move to extend term limits compared with only 8% who are *more* likely to cast their ballot for Bloomberg because of it. 49% say the decision makes no difference to them. There is a silver lining, though, for the mayor. Dislike of the mayor's action has not grown during the past eight months. When Marist last asked this question in February, 44% said his move would make them less likely to vote for the mayor, and 12% reported it would make them more likely to vote for him. 44% revealed his decision made no difference to them.

#### **Bloomberg Approval Rating at 58%**

A majority of registered voters in New York City -- 58% -- think Mayor Michael Bloomberg is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 41% rate him as below average. Bloomberg received a similar rating -- 59% -- when Marist last asked about the mayor's job performance in September.

Both Republicans and Democrats give the mayor high marks. 69% of New York City's GOP say the mayor is doing an above average job as mayor. 60% of Democrats agree. Similar proportions within the two parties thought this way last month.

However, the mayor has continued to slide among non-enrolled voters. Currently, 50% believe the mayor is doing either an excellent or good job in office. In September, that proportion was at 56%. Two months prior to that, 65% of non-enrolled voters thought Bloomberg was doing an above average job in office.

Voters also believe the overall direction of the city is on track. 58% report the Big Apple is headed in the right direction while 33% think it needs to be redirected. These findings have slightly improved since Marist last gauged this question in September. At that time, 54% of the electorate described the city as being on the right course, and 38% saw it heading down the wrong road.

#### Nature of the Sample: 885 New York City Residents

This telephone survey of 885 New York City residents was conducted from October 19th through October 21st, 2009. It included 744 New York City registered voters, as well as, 390 likely voters. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the city. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each borough was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish. Results for residents are statistically significant at  $\pm 3.5\%$ ; registered voters are statistically significant at  $\pm 3.5\%$ ; likely voters are statistically significant at  $\pm 5\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

# Marist Poll October 2009 NYC Registered Voter Tables

			Likely Voters		
		Matchup NYC Mayor Ra	ce 2009 including Absent	tee and	Leaners
		Michael Bloomberg, the Republican candidate	Bill Thompson, the Democratic candidate	Other	Undecideo
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Likely Voters		52%	36%	7%	5%
Party	Democrat	47%	39%	9%	5%
Registration	Republican	82%	14%	4%	1%
	Non-enrolled	41%	48%	5%	7%
Political	Liberal	40%	50%	5%	5%
deology	Moderate	59%	25%	11%	5%
	Conservative	70%	29%	1%	1%
Gender	Men	50%	36%	7%	6%
	Women	53%	36%	6%	4%
Race	White	67%	27%	4%	2%
	African American	22%	62%	8%	8%
	Latino	42%	35%	14%	10%
Religion	Protestant	30%	47%	12%	11%
	Catholic	57%	32%	8%	3%
	Jewish	67%	24%	8%	1%
White Catholics	White Catholics	75%	20%	2%	3%
Age	Under 45	54%	33%	6%	6%
	45 or older	50%	38%	7%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	49%	34%	9%	8%
	College graduate	53%	38%	6%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	52%	32%	8%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	50%	42%	6%	2%
Region	Bronx	40%	43%	11%	6%
	Kings	51%	37%	5%	7%
	New York	57%	32%	6%	5%
	Queens	54%	33%	9%	4%
	Richmond	56%	41%	3%	0%

			Registered Voters		
		Matchu	p NYC Mayor Race 20	09	1
		Michael Bloomberg, the Republican candidate	Bill Thompson, the Democratic candidate	Other	Undecided
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Vo	oters	47%	38%	3%	12%
Party	Democrat	41%	44%	4%	11%
Registration	Republican	76%	14%	3%	7%
	Non-enrolled	47%	38%	2%	13%
Political	Liberal	40%	45%	4%	10%
Ideology	Moderate	50%	35%	4%	12%
	Conservative	59%	31%	2%	8%
Gender	Men	48%	37%	5%	10%
	Women	46%	38%	3%	13%
Race	White	63%	26%	3%	8%
	African American	22%	61%	1%	15%
	Latino	44%	37%	7%	12%
Religion	Protestant	25%	53%	4%	18%
	Catholic	53%	33%	3%	11%
	Jewish	66%	25%	3%	6%
White Catholics	White Catholics	67%	21%	1%	11%
Age	Under 45	46%	41%	1%	12%
	45 or older	48%	36%	5%	11%
Education	Not college graduate	44% 39%		4%	13%
	College graduate	51%	38%	3%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	42%	40%	4%	15%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	37%	3%	8%
Region	Bronx	38%	45%	1%	15%
	Kings	42%	40%	3%	15%
	New York	58%	30%	5%	7%
	Queens	45%	39%	5%	11%
	Richmond	61%	31%	2%	6%

Marist Poll New York City Registered Voters "N=744 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 10 due to rounding.

		\A/	Likely Vo					
			Would you say that you strongly support <candidate> somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on Electic Day?</candidate>					
		Strongly support	Somewhat support	Might vote differently	Unsure			
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %			
Likely Voters		65%	26%	8%	1%			
Bloomberg Vo	oters	71%	21%	8%	<1%			
Thompson Vo	oters	57%	33%	8%	2%			
Party	Democrat	63%	28%	8%	1%			
Registration	Republican	68%	18%	14%	0%			
	Non-enrolled	71%	29%	0%	0%			
Political	Liberal	62%	26%	10%	1%			
deology	Moderate	61%	31%	7%	1%			
	Conservative	72%	23%	5%	0%			
Gender	Men	64%	26%	10%	1%			
	Women	67%	26%	7%	0%			
Race	White	69%	23%	7%	1%			
	African American	61%	31%	8%	0%			
	Latino	74%	18%	8%	0%			
Religion	Protestant	69%	25%	7%	0%			
	Catholic	74%	21%	5%	0%			
	Jewish	60%	28%	10%	1%			
White Catholics	White Catholics	75%	19%	6%	0%			
Age	Under 45	49%	37%	14%	1%			
	45 or older	73%	21%	6%	0%			
Education	Not college graduate	73%	21%	5%	1%			
	College graduate	60%	29%	10%	0%			
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	68%	24%	8%	0%			
	\$50,000 or more	67%	24%	8%	1%			
Region	Bronx	66%	21%	11%	2%			
	Kings	58%	31%	12%	0%			
	New York	66%	22%	10%	2%			
	Queens	73%	24%	4%	0%			
	Richmond	68%	32%	0%	0%			

		Did vou choos	Likely Voters se <candidate> because you</candidate>	are for hin
			you are against the other ca	
		For choice	Against other candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Likely Voters		71%	26%	3%
Bloomberg Vo	Bloomberg Voters		10%	2%
Thompson Vo	ters	43%	51%	6%
Party	Democrat	72%	25%	3%
Registration	Republican	81%	17%	3%
	Non-enrolled	55%	38%	7%
Political	Liberal	64%	31%	5%
ldeology	Moderate	76%	23%	1%
	Conservative	75%	23%	2%
Gender	Men	72%	26%	1%
	Women	70%	25%	5%
Race	White	76%	22%	2%
	African American	55%	45%	1%
	Latino	82%	13%	5%
Religion	Protestant	72%	26%	2%
	Catholic	78%	19%	3%
	Jewish	77%	19%	4%
White Catholics	White Catholics	81%	18%	2%
Age	Under 45	67%	31%	2%
	45 or older	73%	23%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	77%	18%	4%
	College graduate	67%	31%	3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	71%	24%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	71%	27%	2%
Region	Bronx	67%	28%	5%
	Kings	73%	26%	2%
	New York	70%	26%	4%
	Queens	70%	25%	5%
	Richmond	76%	24%	0%

		Regardless of	Registered Voters	
			mberg will be re-ele	
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Vo	ers	79%	13%	8%
Bloomberg Vo	ters	94%	3%	3%
Thompson Vot	ers	62%	26%	12%
Party	Democrat	77%	15%	8%
Registration	Republican	93%	2%	5%
	Non-enrolled	82%	12%	6%
Political	Liberal	78%	13%	8%
ldeology	Moderate	83%	13%	4%
	Conservative	86%	7%	7%
Gender	Men	82%	11%	7%
	Women	77%	15%	8%
Race	White	90%	4%	6%
	African American	59%	22%	19%
	Latino	81%	19%	0%
Religion	Protestant	69%	19%	12%
	Catholic	83%	12%	5%
	Jewish	91%	5%	4%
White Catholics	White Catholics	91%	4%	5%
Age	Under 45	78%	17%	5%
	45 or older	82%	10%	8%
Education	Not college graduate	77%	14%	9%
	College graduate	84%	10%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	76%	16%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	84%	11%	5%
Region	Bronx	73%	15%	12%
	Kings	72%	17%	11%
	New York	88%	7%	5%
	Queens	82%	13%	5%
	Richmond	93%	7%	0%

			Registered Vo	ters
			you have a favora pression of Bill Th	able or an unfavorable nompson?
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Vo	ters	47%	33%	20%
Party	Democrat	52%	30%	18%
Registration	Republican	22%	53%	24%
	Non-enrolled	45%	34%	21%
Political	Liberal	59%	26%	15%
ldeology	Moderate	44%	36%	20%
	Conservative	36%	41%	23%
Gender	Men	52%	33%	15%
	Women	43%	34%	24%
Race	White	37%	41%	22%
	African American	63%	23%	15%
	Latino	46%	33%	21%
Religion	Protestant	64%	24%	12%
	Catholic	43%	38%	18%
	Jewish	37%	38%	25%
White Catholics	White Catholics	34%	47%	19%
Age	Under 45	48%	33%	19%
	45 or older	46%	33%	20%
Education	Not college graduate	45%	34%	21%
	College graduate	50%	33%	17%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	30%	21%
	\$50,000 or more	47%	37%	16%
Region	Bronx	60%	27%	14%
	Kings	45%	29%	26%
	New York	41%	41%	18%
	Queens	51%	33%	16%
	Richmond	24%	51%	25%

Marist Poll New York City Registered Voters "N=744 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

			Registered Vo	ters
			you have a favora ession of Michael	able or an unfavorable Bloomberg?
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Vo	ters	63%	33%	4%
Party	Democrat	62%	35%	3%
Registration	Republican	83%	15%	2%
	Non-enrolled	60%	35%	4%
Political	Liberal	62%	35%	4%
ldeology	Moderate	67%	30%	3%
	Conservative	70%	26%	4%
Gender	Men	64%	34%	2%
	Women	63%	32%	4%
Race	White	70%	27%	3%
	African American	48%	46%	6%
	Latino	64%	36%	1%
Religion	Protestant	57%	38%	5%
	Catholic	67%	29%	4%
	Jewish	73%	26%	2%
White Catholics	White Catholics	72%	25%	3%
Age	Under 45	61%	34%	4%
	45 or older	65%	32%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	62%	34%	4%
	College graduate	66%	31%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	58%	37%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	69%	29%	3%
Region	Bronx	51%	42%	7%
	Kings	63%	33%	4%
	New York	64%	32%	4%
	Queens	70%	29%	1%
	Richmond	66%	32%	2%

Marist Poll New York City Registered Voters "N=744 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

			Registered V	oters			
		own money o	n his past campa	nillions of dollars of his ligns for mayor and he e-elected this November. le you:			
		More likely to vote for himLess likely to vote for himNot make any difference to your vote					
		Row %	Row %	Row %			
Registered Vo	oters	8%	20%	72%			
Bloomberg V	oters	13%	4%	83%			
Thompson Vo	oters	4%	40%	56%			
Party	Democrat	8%	21%	71%			
Registration	Republican	10%	17%	73%			
	Non-enrolled	8%	18%	74%			
Political	Liberal	6%	29%	65%			
deology	Moderate	6%	20%	74%			
	Conservative	17%	7%	77%			
Gender	Men	7%	21%	71%			
	Women	9%	18%	73%			
Race	White	6%	21%	72%			
	African American	7%	25%	69%			
	Latino	12%	15%	74%			
Religion	Protestant	9%	20%	71%			
	Catholic	9%	14%	76%			
	Jewish	3%	22%	75%			
White Catholics	White Catholics	6%	13%	81%			
Age	Under 45	8%	16%	77%			
	45 or older	9%	23%	68%			
Education	Not college graduate	10%	14%	75%			
	College graduate	6%	27%	68%			
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	13%	16%	71%			
	\$50,000 or more	4%	23%	73%			
Region	Bronx	5%	19%	76%			
	Kings	5%	22%	72%			
	New York	8%	23%	70%			
	Queens	13%	17%	70%			
	Richmond	13%	11%	76%			

Marist Poll New York City Registered Voters "N=744 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

				red Voters				
		Overall, did Mayor Bloomberg's decision to change term limits from tw to three terms make you more likely or less likely to support him for mayor this year? If this issue doesn't make any difference to your vote please say so.						
		More likely	More likely Less likely No difference Unsure					
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %			
Registered Vo	oters	8%	42%	49%	1%			
Party	Democrat	8%	45%	46%	1%			
Registration	Republican	8%	35%	55%	2%			
	Non-enrolled	10%	38%	52%	0%			
Political	Liberal	11%	49%	40%	0%			
ldeology	Moderate	3%	45%	51%	1%			
	Conservative	14%	31%	53%	2%			
Gender	Men	7%	44%	49%	1%			
	Women	10%	40%	49%	1%			
Race	White	6%	44%	49%	0%			
	African American	4%	49%	45%	2%			
	Latino	18%	32%	49%	0%			
Religion	Protestant	7%	47%	45%	1%			
	Catholic	12%	38%	48%	1%			
	Jewish	4%	42%	54%	0%			
White Catholics	White Catholics	6%	44%	49%	0%			
Age	Under 45	10%	38%	52%	0%			
	45 or older	7%	44%	47%	1%			
Education	Not college graduate	10%	32%	56%	1%			
	College graduate	6%	54%	39%	0%			
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	10%	33%	55%	1%			
	\$50,000 or more	6%	50%	44%	0%			
Region	Bronx	11%	42%	46%	1%			
	Kings	7%	41%	51%	1%			
	New York	10%	45%	45%	0%			
	Queens	7%	37%	54%	1%			
	Richmond	7%	46%	46%	0%			

			Reg	istered Voters		
		Would you rat	e the job Mayor excellent,	Michael Bloon good, fair, or		in office as
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voter	'S	17%	41%	30%	11%	1%
Party	Democrat	16%	44%	31%	9%	0%
Registration	Republican	29%	40%	22%	9%	0%
	Non-enrolled	17%	33%	29%	20%	0%
Political	Liberal	16%	40%	30%	14%	0%
Ideology	Moderate	18%	43%	32%	7%	0%
	Conservative	21%	39%	28%	11%	1%
Gender	Men	17%	40%	29%	14%	0%
	Women	18%	42%	31%	9%	1%
Race	White	25%	42%	23%	10%	0%
	African American	6%	40%	40%	13%	0%
	Latino	17%	39%	33%	11%	0%
Religion	Protestant	12%	34%	40%	14%	0%
	Catholic	17%	47%	26%	9%	0%
	Jewish	25%	42%	25%	8%	0%
White Catholics	White Catholics	19%	52%	21%	7%	1%
Age	Under 45	14%	39%	37%	10%	1%
	45 or older	19%	44%	26%	12%	0%
Education	Not college graduate	16%	41%	30%	12%	1%
	College graduate	19%	42%	28%	10%	0%
Household	Less than \$50,000	16%	34%	37%	12%	1%
Income	\$50,000 or more	17%	48%	25%	11%	0%
Region	Bronx	7%	51%	28%	12%	2%
	Kings	19%	38%	33%	9%	0%
	New York	23%	33%	34%	10%	0%
	Queens	15%	45%	28%	12%	0%
	Richmond	25%	40%	15%	20%	0%

		In general, thinking New York City, do y	egistered Voters about the way things a ou feel things are going gs are going in the wro	g in the right
		Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Vo	oters	58%	33%	9%
Party	Democrat	60%	33%	7%
Registration	Republican	65%	28%	7%
	Non-enrolled	48%	41%	11%
Political	Liberal	57%	36%	7%
ldeology	Moderate	62%	30%	8%
	Conservative	58%	37%	5%
Gender	Men	58%	34%	8%
	Women	59%	32%	9%
Race	White	61%	31%	8%
	African American	47%	40%	13%
	Latino	62%	37%	1%
Religion	Protestant	43%	43%	13%
	Catholic	64%	33%	3%
	Jewish	62%	27%	11%
White Catholics	White Catholics	62%	34%	4%
Age	Under 45	62%	33%	5%
	45 or older	55%	34%	11%
Education	Not college graduate	56%	36%	8%
	College graduate	59%	33%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	58%	33%	9%
	\$50,000 or more	58%	35%	7%
Region	Bronx	54%	38%	8%
	Kings	61%	27%	12%
	New York	59%	33%	9%
	Queens	59%	34%	7%
	Richmond	54%	42%	4%