



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

New York State Voters Rate Governor Pataki

- **Approval rating:** 49% of New York State's registered voters rate the job Governor George Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. 49% rate the job the governor is doing as fair or poor. His approval rating has declined since last December when he received a 57% positive rating.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Governor George Pataki is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2003	49%	7%	42%	31%	18%	2%
December 2002	57%	12%	45%	31%	10%	2%
October 30, 2002	57%	14%	43%	33%	9%	1%
October 1, 2002	61%	14%	47%	30%	8%	1%
September 2002	60%	12%	48%	31%	7%	2%
May 2002	72%	14%	58%	23%	5%	0%
April 2002	64%	15%	49%	28%	6%	2%
December 2001	65%	15%	50%	27%	4%	4%
April 2001	53%	10%	43%	34%	8%	5%
December 2000	55%	11%	44%	30%	10%	5%
March 2000	51%	9%	42%	35%	11%	3%
September 1999	51%	10%	41%	38%	9%	2%
July 1999	55%	15%	40%	31%	11%	3%
March 1999	61%	12%	49%	28%	10%	1%
October 1998	60%	14%	46%	31%	8%	1%
September 1998	62%	16%	46%	31%	6%	1%
April 1998	59%	11%	48%	33%	7%	1%
February 1998	60%	11%	49%	32%	6%	2%
October 1997	49%	7%	42%	39%	10%	2%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
March 1997	47%	6%	41%	38%	12%	3%
November 1996	47%	8%	39%	36%	14%	3%
March 1996	39%	6%	33%	40%	17%	4%
September 1995	39%	5%	34%	38%	17%	6%
March 1995	36%	8%	28%	28%	16%	20%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2003	49%	7%	42%	31%	18%	2%
December 2002	57%	12%	45%	31%	10%	2%
Upstate						
April 2003	47%	7%	40%	36%	16%	1%
December 2002	60%	16%	44%	29%	8%	3%
New York City						
April 2003	45%	8%	37%	28%	24%	3%
December 2002	50%	9%	41%	34%	15%	1%
Suburbs						
April 2003	58%	6%	52%	28%	13%	1%
December 2002	61%	10%	51%	29%	9%	1%
Democrats						
April 2003	39%	3%	36%	37%	22%	2%
December 2002	43%	6%	37%	40%	16%	1%
Republicans						
April 2003	63%	11%	52%	27%	8%	2%
December 2002	77%	21%	56%	18%	4%	1%
Non-enrolled						
April 2003	43%	7%	36%	32%	24%	1%
December 2002	51%	10%	41%	34%	11%	4%

- **Handling of the state budget:** A majority of New York State voters disapprove of how Governor George Pataki is handling the state budget in Albany.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Pataki's handling of the state budget in Albany?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	34%	52%	14%
Upstate	29%	60%	11%
New York City	35%	48%	17%
Suburbs	42%	43%	15%
Democrats	26%	60%	14%
Republicans	45%	42%	13%
Non-enrolled	30%	54%	16%

- **Aid for homeland security:** By more than 2:1 voters think Governor George Pataki should be doing more to get federal aid from Washington to pay for homeland security in New York State.

Question Wording: Do you think Governor Pataki is doing enough or should he be doing more to get federal aid from Washington to pay for homeland security in New York State?

Registered Voters	Doing Enough	Should Be Doing More	Unsure
April 2003	29%	62%	9%
Upstate	33%	56%	11%
New York City	22%	72%	6%
Suburbs	31%	60%	9%
Democrats	22%	69%	9%
Republicans	42%	49%	9%
Non-enrolled	20%	73%	7%

- **Political ideology:** Fewer New York State voters view Governor George Pataki as middle of the road politically than did one year ago.

Question Wording: Politically speaking, do you think Governor Pataki is a liberal, moderate, or a conservative?

Registered Voters	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
April 2003	13%	49%	38%
April 2002	11%	56%	33%
March 1995	13%	38%	49%

Direction of New York State

- **Wrong direction:** Only 40% of registered voters express a positive outlook about the direction of New York State. 53% currently think things are headed in the wrong direction. These findings are statistically unchanged since December.

Question Wording: In general, thinking about the way things are going in New York State, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
April 2003	40%	53%	7%
December 2002	39%	52%	9%

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
October 30, 2002	51%	40%	9%
October 1, 2002	55%	37%	8%
September 2002	56%	38%	6%
May 2002	65%	28%	7%
April 2002	66%	28%	6%
December 2001	65%	25%	10%
December 2000	64%	30%	6%
September 1999	65%	25%	10%
October 1998	68%	23%	9%
October 1997	58%	33%	9%
November 1996	51%	37%	12%
September 1995	35%	48%	17%
November 1994	25%	62%	13%
November 1993	26%	59%	15%
September 1990	28%	56%	16%

- **Economic recession:** 74% of registered voters think New York State is currently in a recession.

Question Wording: Do you think that New York State is currently in a recession, or not?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2003	74%	22%	4%
December 2002	71%	26%	3%
October 1, 2002	71%	26%	3%
September 2002	71%	25%	4%
May 2002	62%	33%	5%
April 2002	68%	28%	4%
December 2001	76%	19%	5%
September 1998	23%	71%	6%
October 1997	36%	58%	6%
November 1996	48%	45%	7%
September 1995	56%	34%	10%
October 1994	67%	27%	6%
March 1991	84%	13%	3%

- **How long will it last:** 58% of state voters who think New York is in a recession believe the recession is likely to last more than a year. This is a decline from 71% last December.

Question Wording: How long do you think the recession will last? (Asked of those who think New York State is in a recession)

Registered Voters	Less than Six Months	Six Months to a Year	More than a Year	Unsure
April 2003	4%	29%	58%	9%
December 2002	3%	24%	71%	2%

- **The state budget deficit:** Cutting programs and services is the least popular option to address the state budget deficit among New York State’s registered voters.

Question Wording: New York State is currently facing a multi-billion dollar budget deficit. In order to reduce the deficit, do you prefer to:

Registered Voters	Cut Programs and Services	Eliminate State Jobs	Increase State Taxes	Unsure
April 2003	20%	35%	38%	7%

New York State Voters Rate Their U.S. Senators

- **Senator Clinton:** Senator Hillary Clinton’s approval rating is 47% among New York State’s registered voters. 49% do not rate her job performance positively.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2003	47%	13%	34%	27%	22%	4%
December 2002	44%	10%	34%	28%	20%	8%
April 2002	47%	11%	36%	27%	20%	6%
December 2001	45%	11%	34%	23%	23%	9%
April 2001	35%	9%	26%	26%	22%	17%
February 2001	30%	10%	20%	22%	20%	28%

- **Senator Schumer:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 52% among New York State’s registered voters. 35% do not rate his job performance positively.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2003	52%	10%	42%	27%	8%	13%
December 2002	53%	11%	42%	28%	8%	11%
April 2002	55%	11%	44%	26%	6%	13%
December 2001	54%	12%	42%	24%	7%	15%
April 2001	49%	12%	37%	26%	8%	17%
December 2000	51%	13%	38%	22%	9%	18%
March 2000	39%	9%	30%	27%	7%	27%
September 1999	44%	9%	35%	31%	8%	17%
March 1999	41%	7%	34%	23%	10%	26%

Nature of the Sample: 686 New York State Registered Voters

This survey was conducted on April 2nd and 3rd, 2003. 686 registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.