



Nearly Half of NYS Voters Think Economy Is Worsening

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

Pessimism about New York State's economy continues to grow. Almost half of registered voters statewide -- 49% -- believe the economy is getting worse while 11% say it is improving. 40% think the economy is staying about the same.

Compared with Marist's November 2009 survey, more voters now say the state's economic situation is on the decline. At that time, 39% thought the economy was deteriorating while 15% said it was improving. 46% thought the economy was still in a steady state. In September, 29% thought the economy was taking a turn for the worse, 19% reported it was improving, and a majority -- 52% -- said it was status quo.

The lack of confidence in the future of the economy spans the state. A majority upstate -- 53% -- believes New York's economy needs to be resuscitated. 50% in the suburbs and 42% in New York City agree. These proportions have all increased since Marist last asked about the state of the economy. Last November, 47% of upstate voters, 37% of suburban voters, and 29% of those in the city held that view.

"While some experts see the possible end to the recession and the beginning of an economic recovery, this is not the direction New Yorkers believe captures the economy here," says Lee M. Miringoff, Director of the Marist Institute for Public Opinion.

When it comes to money matters at home, however, voters are more optimistic about their personal finances than they are about the economy in the state. 56% of the electorate believes their family finances will remain the same in the upcoming year, 26% think they will get better, and only 18% report they will get worse. But, there has been little change on this question since Marist last asked voters about their financial prospects in November. In that survey, 56% thought their family finances would remain unchanged, 24% reported they would get better, and 20% believed they would get worse.

New York City residents have a slightly brighter view of their personal finances than they did three months ago. Currently, 37% of voters in the city say their family finances will improve, 16% think it will get worse, and 48% report they will stay the same. In The Marist Poll's November survey, 31% said their money matters would improve, 15% believed they would get worse, and a majority -- 54% -- reported they would toe the line.

There has been little change among voters in New York's suburbs and upstate on this question. In the suburbs, a quarter of voters in this region think it will get better, 17% believe it will get worse, and 58% say it will remain the same. Upstate, 21% report their personal finances will improve, 19% think it will worsen, and 59% believe it will remain the same. Proportions in both of these regions are similar to those found in Marist's November survey.

Nature of the Sample: 838 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 838 New York State registered voters was conducted on January 25th through January 27th, 2010. Registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. In an effort 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. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Marist Poll February 2010 NYS Tables

		Registered Voters		
		Right now, do you think the New York State economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?		
		Getting better	Getting worse	Staying about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		11%	49%	40%
Party Registration	Democrat	15%	43%	42%
	Republican	7%	61%	31%
	Non-enrolled	11%	45%	44%
Political Ideology	Liberal	18%	41%	42%
	Moderate	7%	51%	43%
	Conservative	10%	55%	35%
Region	New York City	13%	42%	46%
	Suburbs	13%	50%	37%
	Upstate	10%	53%	38%
Income	Less \$50,000	9%	48%	44%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	9%	53%	38%
	\$100,000 or more	16%	44%	40%
Income	Less than \$50,000	9%	48%	44%
	\$50,000 or more	12%	49%	39%
Race	White	11%	51%	38%
	Non White	14%	40%	46%
Age	18 to 29	22%	37%	40%
	30 to 44	13%	51%	35%
	45 to 59	8%	50%	42%
	60 or older	9%	51%	40%
Age	Under 45	16%	47%	37%
	45 or older	8%	50%	41%
Gender	Men	13%	49%	38%
	Women	10%	49%	41%

February 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=838 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?		
		Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		26%	18%	56%
Party Registration	Democrat	32%	16%	52%
	Republican	17%	23%	61%
	Non-enrolled	27%	15%	58%
Political Ideology	Liberal	34%	13%	53%
	Moderate	24%	21%	55%
	Conservative	23%	18%	59%
Region	New York City	37%	16%	48%
	Suburbs	25%	17%	58%
	Upstate	21%	19%	59%
Income	Less \$50,000	27%	21%	52%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	27%	18%	55%
	\$100,000 or more	21%	17%	62%
Income	Less than \$50,000	27%	21%	52%
	\$50,000 or more	24%	17%	58%
Race	White	21%	19%	60%
	Non White	47%	13%	40%
Age	18 to 29	54%	11%	35%
	30 to 44	35%	19%	46%
	45 to 59	22%	21%	57%
	60 or older	13%	17%	71%
Age	Under 45	41%	16%	42%
	45 or older	17%	19%	64%
Gender	Men	28%	18%	53%
	Women	24%	17%	58%

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