



**Taking the Temperature of Albany:
Voters' Views on New York State Politics**
*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

GOP Voters More Eager for 2010 Elections...Incumbents Without Majority Support

Nearly seven in ten registered voters in New York State -- 68% -- are enthusiastic about voting in this fall's statewide elections. This includes 27% of voters who report they are very enthusiastic and 41% who are somewhat enthusiastic about casting their ballot. 20%, however, are not too enthusiastic, and 11% report they are not enthusiastic at all.

This eager sentiment is more prevalent among Republican voters than Democrats. 75% of the state's GOP express some degree of enthusiasm. Included here are 34% who are very enthusiastic and 41% who are somewhat enthusiastic. Looking at Democrats, 68% are eager. This includes 25% who are very enthusiastic and 43% who are somewhat enthusiastic. 57% of non-enrolled voters are energized about the elections with 20% reporting they are very enthusiastic and 37% saying they are somewhat enthusiastic.

What does this enthusiasm mean for November's elections? Currently, state senators and members of the Assembly fail to achieve majority support from voters. 48% report they plan to vote for their current state senator while 37% are looking to another candidate. 15% are unsure. Little has changed from when Marist last asked this question in early February when 46% said they would support their current state senator, and 41% wanted a change. 13% were unsure.

"This is shaping up as a 'send the message' electorate, and Republicans are screaming louder than Democrats at the moment," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Incumbents beware."

But, what a difference a decade or two makes! In 1994, Marist asked New York State voters this question, and at that time, 51% wanted to re-elect their state senator while 27% did not. 22% were unsure. Four years earlier, 56% of the electorate told The Marist Poll they planned to support their current senator. 18% wanted a change, and 26% were unsure.

Members of the Assembly facing re-election don't fare any better. 47% of voters plan to vote for their incumbent. 37% say they are going to vote for someone else. 16% are

unsure. In Marist's February survey, 44% reported they were going to cast their ballot for their current member of the Assembly. 41% said they would vote for someone else. And, 15%, at that time, were not sure.

And, when looking at those who are the *most* eager to vote, the picture for incumbents becomes even more troublesome. This mobilized electorate divides about whether current state senators should remain in office, and nearly half of these voters -- 48% -- prefer a new representative in the Assembly.

So, when entering the voting booth, how much does a candidate's party affiliation matter? If the elections for New York State Senate were held today, 53% of registered voters say they would vote for the Democratic candidate while 37% would support the Republican. 4% would back neither, and 6% are unsure. When it comes to the Assembly, the proportions are similar with 53% reporting they would cast their ballot for the Democrat and 37% backing the Republican. 3% say neither party's candidate, and 7% are unsure.

Nearly Half of Voters Think Poorly of Job Done By State Senate and Assembly

49% of voters think the New York State Senate is performing poorly while just 16% think it is doing either an excellent or good job. One-third say it is doing fairly well. The State Senate has failed to improve people's perception of its job performance. In Marist's early February poll, similar proportions of the electorate held these views.

As for the Assembly, the news isn't better. 45% of the electorate thinks the Assembly is failing in its duties while 17% believe it is doing a stand-up job. More than one-third -- 35% -- say it is performing fairly well, and 3% are unsure. Here, too, little has changed since Marist's February survey.

DiNapoli Who?

New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli can't seem to connect with the state's electorate. When asked about DiNapoli's job approval rating, 27% of the electorate does not know how to rate him or has never heard of him. When Marist last asked this question in early February, the same proportion was unclear how to rate DiNapoli. Currently, 34% of voters report the comptroller is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 30% think he is doing a fair job, and 9% say he is performing poorly.

In Marist's previous survey, 31% gave DiNapoli a thumbs-up. 36% thought his performance was mediocre, and 6% believed he was doing a below average job.

Obama Regains Majority in NYS

52% of registered voters in New York State think President Barack Obama is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 24% believe he is performing fairly well while 23% say he is doing a poor job.

The president's job approval rating has rebounded. When The Marist Poll last asked about President Obama's job performance in early February, Mr. Obama's rating stood at 46% -- his lowest approval rating in the state since taking office. At that time, 27% thought the president was doing a fair job, and the same proportion reported he was performing poorly.

Whereas Mr. Obama's rating slipped across the electorate in Marist's previous poll, the improvement now occurs among non-enrolled voters. 56% currently approve of the president's job performance. This compares with 45% who thought that way early last month. President Obama has also gotten a bump from his base. 72% of Democrats give the president above average grades while 65% did so in Marist's February survey. There has been little change, though, among Republicans. 22% report Mr. Obama is excelling while 21% said the same in February.

Nature of the Sample: 646 New York State Registered Voters

The first survey of 646 New York State registered voters was conducted on February 22nd and, due to snow, February 24th, 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 land-line and cell phone samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 4.0\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Marist Poll March 2010 NYS Tables

		Registered Voters				
		Overall, would you say you are very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all about voting in the elections this year?				
		Very enthusiastic	Somewhat enthusiastic	Not too enthusiastic	Not enthusiastic at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		27%	41%	20%	11%	1%
Party Registration	Democrat	25%	43%	22%	9%	0%
	Republican	34%	41%	16%	8%	2%
	Non-enrolled	20%	37%	23%	19%	1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	18%	47%	21%	13%	1%
	Moderate	23%	44%	23%	10%	0%
	Conservative	38%	35%	16%	10%	1%
Region	New York City	27%	42%	17%	13%	1%
	Suburbs	22%	45%	20%	13%	0%
	Upstate	29%	38%	22%	9%	1%
Income	Less \$50,000	23%	37%	25%	12%	2%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	25%	47%	18%	10%	0%
	\$100,000 or more	27%	40%	20%	14%	0%
Income	Less than \$50,000	23%	37%	25%	12%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	26%	44%	19%	11%	0%
Race	White	27%	39%	22%	11%	1%
	Non White	24%	52%	13%	11%	0%
Age	18 to 29	17%	45%	22%	16%	0%
	30 to 44	26%	42%	24%	7%	1%
	45 to 59	25%	41%	20%	13%	1%
	60 or older	32%	38%	16%	12%	1%
Age	Under 45	23%	43%	23%	10%	1%
	45 or older	29%	40%	18%	12%	1%
Gender	Men	31%	41%	16%	12%	1%
	Women	22%	42%	24%	11%	1%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for New York State Senate were held today, would you support your current state senator who represents your district in Albany or would you vote for someone else?		
		Vote for current state senator	Vote for someone else	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		48%	37%	15%
Very Enthusiastic About Voting in 2010 Elections		43%	43%	14%
Party Registration	Democrat	57%	30%	14%
	Republican	40%	44%	15%
	Non-enrolled	46%	40%	13%
Political Ideology	Liberal	56%	25%	20%
	Moderate	52%	36%	12%
	Conservative	38%	52%	10%
Region	New York City	64%	28%	8%
	Suburbs	50%	30%	20%
	Upstate	39%	46%	16%
Income	Less \$50,000	53%	38%	9%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	48%	34%	17%
	\$100,000 or more	50%	41%	9%
Income	Less than \$50,000	53%	38%	9%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	37%	14%
Race	White	44%	41%	15%
	Non White	65%	23%	12%
Age	18 to 29	57%	38%	5%
	30 to 44	49%	34%	18%
	45 to 59	48%	38%	15%
	60 or older	47%	40%	14%
Age	Under 45	51%	35%	14%
	45 or older	47%	39%	14%
Gender	Men	45%	43%	12%
	Women	52%	31%	17%
February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.				

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for New York State Assembly were held today, would you support your current state assembly person who represents your district in Albany or would you vote for someone else?		
		Vote for current state assembly person	Vote for someone else	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		47%	37%	16%
Very Enthusiastic About Voting in 2010 Elections		37%	48%	15%
Party Registration	Democrat	57%	28%	15%
	Republican	41%	45%	14%
	Non-enrolled	36%	45%	19%
Political Ideology	Liberal	50%	29%	21%
	Moderate	49%	35%	16%
	Conservative	43%	46%	12%
Region	New York City	59%	30%	11%
	Suburbs	48%	29%	24%
	Upstate	38%	46%	16%
Income	Less \$50,000	50%	35%	14%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	44%	39%	17%
	\$100,000 or more	50%	37%	13%
Income	Less than \$50,000	50%	35%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	47%	38%	15%
Race	White	43%	41%	16%
	Non White	60%	24%	15%
Age	18 to 29	57%	34%	8%
	30 to 44	53%	34%	13%
	45 to 59	40%	41%	18%
	60 or older	44%	39%	17%
Age	Under 45	54%	34%	12%
	45 or older	42%	40%	18%
Gender	Men	45%	43%	12%
	Women	48%	31%	21%
February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.				

		Registered Voters			
		If the election for your New York State Senator were held today, which party's candidate are you more likely to vote for in your state senate district?			
		Democrat	Republican	Neither	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		53%	37%	4%	6%
Party Registration	Democrat	88%	9%	2%	2%
	Republican	11%	78%	4%	7%
	Non-enrolled	44%	39%	8%	9%
Political Ideology	Liberal	84%	9%	3%	4%
	Moderate	58%	34%	4%	4%
	Conservative	25%	66%	3%	5%
Region	New York City	70%	26%	3%	1%
	Suburbs	51%	41%	4%	5%
	Upstate	45%	42%	5%	8%
Income	Less \$50,000	59%	31%	4%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	50%	40%	5%	5%
	\$100,000 or more	57%	38%	2%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	59%	31%	4%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	53%	39%	4%	4%
Race	White	46%	44%	4%	5%
	Non White	80%	12%	2%	5%
Age	18 to 29	65%	28%	3%	4%
	30 to 44	54%	41%	2%	2%
	45 to 59	52%	36%	6%	6%
	60 or older	50%	38%	4%	8%
Age	Under 45	58%	37%	3%	3%
	45 or older	51%	37%	5%	7%
Gender	Men	45%	46%	3%	5%
	Women	61%	28%	5%	6%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters			
		If the election for your New York State Assembly person were held today, which party's candidate are you more likely to vote for in your state assembly district?			
		Democrat	Republican	Neither	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		53%	37%	3%	7%
Party Registration	Democrat	88%	9%	2%	2%
	Republican	11%	78%	3%	9%
	Non-enrolled	42%	39%	7%	11%
Political Ideology	Liberal	82%	11%	2%	5%
	Moderate	57%	33%	4%	7%
	Conservative	26%	64%	2%	7%
Region	New York City	70%	24%	3%	3%
	Suburbs	47%	42%	3%	7%
	Upstate	46%	42%	3%	9%
Income	Less \$50,000	59%	30%	2%	8%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	50%	41%	3%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	56%	38%	3%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	59%	30%	2%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	39%	3%	5%
Race	White	46%	43%	3%	7%
	Non White	78%	13%	2%	6%
Age	18 to 29	63%	30%	3%	4%
	30 to 44	54%	40%	2%	4%
	45 to 59	52%	35%	5%	8%
	60 or older	49%	39%	2%	9%
Age	Under 45	57%	37%	3%	4%
	45 or older	51%	37%	4%	9%
Gender	Men	45%	46%	2%	7%
	Women	61%	28%	4%	7%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job the New York State Senate in Albany is doing as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		2%	14%	33%	49%	2%
Party Registration	Democrat	1%	18%	34%	45%	2%
	Republican	1%	9%	35%	53%	3%
	Non-enrolled	4%	14%	29%	50%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	0%	18%	32%	47%	3%
	Moderate	1%	12%	37%	49%	1%
	Conservative	4%	14%	29%	52%	2%
Region	New York City	3%	20%	33%	43%	1%
	Suburbs	3%	9%	36%	48%	3%
	Upstate	0%	12%	32%	53%	3%
Income	Less \$50,000	3%	19%	40%	35%	2%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	1%	11%	34%	53%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	2%	11%	30%	55%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	3%	19%	40%	35%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	1%	11%	32%	54%	2%
Race	White	1%	10%	33%	53%	2%
	Non White	3%	28%	35%	31%	3%
Age	18 to 29	7%	30%	44%	19%	0%
	30 to 44	1%	14%	43%	39%	3%
	45 to 59	1%	12%	30%	55%	2%
	60 or older	0%	10%	24%	63%	3%
Age	Under 45	3%	19%	43%	32%	2%
	45 or older	1%	11%	27%	59%	2%
Gender	Men	3%	10%	30%	56%	1%
	Women	0%	17%	37%	42%	4%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job the New York State Assembly in Albany is doing as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		1%	16%	35%	45%	3%
Party Registration	Democrat	1%	19%	36%	42%	2%
	Republican	0%	9%	35%	51%	4%
	Non-enrolled	2%	20%	32%	43%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	1%	17%	39%	41%	3%
	Moderate	0%	13%	40%	45%	2%
	Conservative	2%	18%	26%	52%	3%
Region	New York City	3%	19%	41%	36%	2%
	Suburbs	0%	13%	35%	45%	6%
	Upstate	0%	15%	32%	50%	3%
Income	Less \$50,000	2%	21%	40%	34%	2%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	0%	14%	33%	51%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	1%	15%	33%	47%	4%
Income	Less than \$50,000	2%	21%	40%	34%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	0%	14%	33%	49%	3%
Race	White	1%	13%	34%	49%	3%
	Non White	2%	27%	38%	28%	4%
Age	18 to 29	4%	38%	42%	17%	0%
	30 to 44	0%	16%	42%	36%	6%
	45 to 59	1%	13%	32%	52%	2%
	60 or older	0%	9%	30%	57%	3%
Age	Under 45	1%	23%	42%	30%	4%
	45 or older	1%	11%	31%	54%	2%
Gender	Men	2%	14%	29%	52%	3%
	Women	0%	17%	41%	38%	4%

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		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		5%	29%	30%	9%	27%
Party Registration	Democrat	4%	34%	25%	8%	29%
	Republican	4%	26%	31%	13%	26%
	Non-enrolled	6%	23%	36%	6%	28%
Political Ideology	Liberal	5%	29%	23%	7%	35%
	Moderate	4%	32%	34%	6%	24%
	Conservative	5%	27%	33%	14%	21%
Region	New York City	4%	31%	29%	5%	32%
	Suburbs	5%	27%	33%	9%	27%
	Upstate	5%	28%	30%	12%	26%
Income	Less \$50,000	5%	30%	29%	8%	28%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	5%	30%	32%	8%	25%
	\$100,000 or more	5%	30%	32%	8%	26%
Income	Less than \$50,000	5%	30%	29%	8%	28%
	\$50,000 or more	5%	30%	32%	8%	25%
Race	White	4%	29%	29%	8%	30%
	Non White	7%	31%	32%	11%	19%
Age	18 to 29	4%	23%	46%	9%	18%
	30 to 44	0%	36%	27%	10%	26%
	45 to 59	5%	26%	32%	11%	25%
	60 or older	8%	28%	24%	7%	33%
Age	Under 45	1%	32%	33%	10%	24%
	45 or older	7%	27%	28%	9%	29%
Gender	Men	6%	28%	33%	10%	23%
	Women	3%	30%	27%	8%	32%

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		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job President Barack Obama is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		16%	36%	24%	23%	1%
Party Registration	Democrat	25%	47%	21%	6%	0%
	Republican	2%	20%	31%	46%	0%
	Non-enrolled	19%	37%	20%	24%	0%
Political Ideology	Liberal	25%	48%	18%	8%	1%
	Moderate	13%	39%	29%	18%	0%
	Conservative	11%	22%	26%	41%	0%
Region	New York City	23%	41%	17%	18%	1%
	Suburbs	10%	37%	22%	30%	0%
	Upstate	15%	33%	30%	23%	0%
Income	Less \$50,000	25%	35%	20%	20%	0%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	12%	37%	31%	20%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	14%	39%	21%	26%	0%
Income	Less than \$50,000	25%	35%	20%	20%	0%
	\$50,000 or more	13%	38%	26%	23%	0%
Race	White	12%	36%	25%	26%	0%
	Non White	32%	40%	17%	10%	1%
Age	18 to 29	33%	23%	20%	24%	0%
	30 to 44	10%	39%	25%	26%	0%
	45 to 59	13%	42%	24%	20%	1%
	60 or older	17%	36%	24%	23%	0%
Age	Under 45	18%	34%	23%	25%	0%
	45 or older	15%	39%	24%	22%	0%
Gender	Men	17%	31%	24%	26%	0%
	Women	15%	41%	24%	20%	0%

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