



The Race for U.S. Senate in New York  
& Approval Rating Roundup  
\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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**This Marist Poll Reports:**

**Gillibrand and Pataki in Virtual Dead Heat**

If former New York Governor George Pataki chooses to challenge Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for her seat in the U.S. Senate this fall, he would prove to be her most formidable opponent.

If the race for U.S. Senate in New York were held today, Pataki would receive 47% of the New York electorate's vote to Gillibrand's 45%. 8% are unsure. Little has changed on this question since Marist last asked it in its March 2<sup>nd</sup> survey. At that time, Pataki led Gillibrand, 48% to 45%, respectively. 7% were unsure.

"Former Governor Pataki is the big unknown for Gillibrand," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, "With her approval rating at 27%, Gillibrand will almost certainly have her work cut out for her if Pataki enters the race."

And, then there were three. Take Pataki out of the equation, and Gillibrand's chances become a lot brighter. When matched up against Republican candidate Bruce Blakeman, Gillibrand bests Blakeman by more than two-to-one. The senator receives 54% of the vote to Blakeman's 25%. 21% are unsure.

Joining Blakeman in the field of Republicans who have announced their candidacy for U.S. Senate in New York are Joseph DioGuardi and David Malpass. How do they fare against Gillibrand? If November's election were held today, Gillibrand would be victorious.

She receives 54% of the vote when pitted against DioGuardi who garners 27%. 19% are unsure. Against Malpass, Gillibrand takes the same proportion – 54% -- to his 25%. 21%, here, are unsure.

**Pataki Makes the Difference Among NYS GOP**

When looking at the field of Republican candidates *without* Pataki, there is no clear frontrunner. A whopping 59% of GOP voters are unsure. 18% of GOP voters report they would support DioGuardi, 10% would back Blakeman, and 9% would back Malpass. Had

Dan Senor chosen to run, he would have gotten support from 4% of New York State Republicans.

When Pataki enters the picture, however, he leaves the competition in the dust. 62% of Republicans statewide say they would support Pataki in the primary. DioGuardi comes in a very distant second with 7%, Blakeman receives 4%, and Malpass takes home 2%. 23% are unsure. In this hypothetical contest, Senor would have garnered 2%.

### **Approval Rating Roundup: Gillibrand, Schumer, and Obama**

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is having a hard time impressing her constituents. 27% of registered voters in New York State report the senator is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 34% think she is doing a fair job, and 17% think she is performing poorly. 22% have either never heard of her or are unsure how to rate her. Little has changed on this question from when Marist last asked about Gillibrand's approval rating earlier this month.

Gillibrand does not even receive high marks from a majority of her own party. 34% of the state's Democrats believe she is doing either an excellent or good job in office. This compares with 19% of Republicans and 24% of non-enrolled voters. And, there is consensus across the state. 28% of voters in New York City give Gillibrand a thumbs-up while 27% upstate and 26% in the suburbs do the same.

### **Schumer With Slim Majority**

Senator Chuck Schumer's approval rating is largely unchanged. 51% of voters now say he is doing either an excellent or good job in office, 28% report he is doing a fair job, and 17% believe he is performing poorly. 4% are unsure.

When Marist last asked this question earlier this month, Schumer was praised by 53% of the statewide electorate, 28% said he was doing a fair job, and 15% gave him poor grades. 4%, at the time, were unsure.

Nearly two months ago, Schumer's approval rating fell to 47%.

### **No Bump for Obama Post Health Care Passage**

President Obama's signing of the House's health care bill has had little impact on his approval rating in New York State. 53% of voters believe the president is doing either an excellent or good job office. 21% think he is doing a so-so job, and 26% report he is performing at a subpar level.

Marist last asked the New York electorate about President Obama in early March. At that time, 52% gave the president a thumbs-up, 24% thought he was doing a fair job, and 23% said he was performing poorly.

### **Nature of the Sample: 775 New York State Registered Voters**

This survey of 775 New York State registered voters was conducted on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>, 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  $\pm 3.5\%$ . There are 217 Republicans. The results for this subset are statistically significant at  $\pm 7.0\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations

Marist Poll March 29, 2010  
NYS Tables

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	George Pataki, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		45%	47%	8%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	64%	26%	9%
	Republican	19%	74%	7%
	Non-enrolled	41%	51%	8%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	65%	27%	8%
	Moderate	49%	41%	10%
	Conservative	21%	74%	6%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	54%	36%	9%
	Suburbs	35%	56%	10%
	Upstate	44%	48%	8%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	46%	43%	11%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	47%	46%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	39%	56%	5%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	46%	43%	11%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	50%	6%
<b>Race</b>	White	40%	51%	8%
	Non White	61%	30%	9%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	48%	52%	0%
	30 to 44	46%	47%	7%
	45 to 59	38%	53%	9%
	60 or older	49%	39%	13%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	47%	49%	5%
	45 or older	43%	46%	11%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	42%	52%	6%
	Women	48%	42%	11%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=775 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		54%	25%	21%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	75%	8%	17%
	Republican	26%	53%	22%
	Non-enrolled	52%	23%	25%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	81%	8%	11%
	Moderate	60%	19%	21%
	Conservative	25%	47%	28%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	64%	11%	25%
	Suburbs	47%	31%	23%
	Upstate	53%	30%	17%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	53%	23%	24%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	56%	26%	18%
	\$100,000 or more	56%	28%	16%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	53%	23%	24%
	\$50,000 or more	56%	27%	17%
<b>Race</b>	White	53%	28%	19%
	Non White	61%	12%	26%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	68%	12%	19%
	30 to 44	57%	26%	18%
	45 to 59	46%	33%	21%
	60 or older	56%	20%	24%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	60%	21%	18%
	45 or older	51%	27%	22%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	51%	31%	18%
	Women	58%	19%	23%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=775 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	Joseph DioGuardi, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		54%	27%	19%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	74%	10%	16%
	Republican	24%	55%	21%
	Non-enrolled	53%	24%	23%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	75%	11%	14%
	Moderate	62%	20%	18%
	Conservative	25%	51%	24%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	62%	15%	23%
	Suburbs	47%	34%	19%
	Upstate	53%	30%	17%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	54%	23%	23%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	57%	27%	16%
	\$100,000 or more	52%	32%	16%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	54%	23%	23%
	\$50,000 or more	55%	29%	16%
<b>Race</b>	White	52%	30%	18%
	Non White	60%	14%	26%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	63%	13%	24%
	30 to 44	55%	26%	19%
	45 to 59	46%	36%	18%
	60 or older	57%	24%	19%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	58%	22%	20%
	45 or older	51%	30%	19%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	52%	32%	15%
	Women	55%	21%	24%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=775 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	David Malpass, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		54%	25%	21%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	74%	9%	17%
	Republican	27%	50%	23%
	Non-enrolled	50%	25%	25%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	77%	10%	12%
	Moderate	62%	17%	21%
	Conservative	25%	49%	25%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	64%	13%	23%
	Suburbs	49%	28%	24%
	Upstate	51%	30%	19%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	51%	23%	26%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	58%	24%	18%
	\$100,000 or more	56%	28%	16%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	51%	23%	26%
	\$50,000 or more	57%	26%	17%
<b>Race</b>	White	52%	28%	20%
	Non White	61%	13%	26%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	55%	21%	24%
	30 to 44	57%	25%	18%
	45 to 59	50%	31%	19%
	60 or older	56%	19%	25%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	56%	24%	20%
	45 or older	53%	25%	22%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	51%	31%	18%
	Women	57%	19%	24%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=775 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Republicans				
		If this year's Republican primary for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:				
		Bruce Blakeman	Joseph DioGuardi	David Malpass	Dan Senor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans		10%	18%	9%	4%	59%
Age	Under 45	9%	12%	8%	2%	69%
	45 or older	10%	20%	9%	6%	54%
Gender	Men	12%	12%	8%	6%	62%
	Women	6%	25%	10%	3%	56%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Republicans "N=217 MOE +/- 7%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Republicans					
		If this year's Republican primary for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:					
		Bruce Blakeman	Joseph DioGuardi	David Malpass	Dan Senor	George Pataki	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans		4%	7%	2%	2%	62%	23%
Age	Under 45	2%	5%	3%	0%	63%	28%
	45 or older	4%	8%	2%	3%	62%	21%
Gender	Men	2%	2%	2%	3%	71%	20%
	Women	5%	13%	2%	1%	51%	27%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Republicans "N=217 MOE +/- 7%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		2%	25%	34%	17%	22%
Party Registration	Democrat	4%	30%	33%	10%	23%
	Republican	0%	19%	31%	30%	19%
	Non-enrolled	2%	22%	39%	13%	25%
Political Ideology	Liberal	5%	37%	30%	6%	22%
	Moderate	1%	25%	39%	13%	21%
	Conservative	1%	14%	31%	32%	22%
Region	New York City	4%	24%	29%	12%	31%
	Suburbs	0%	26%	36%	17%	20%
	Upstate	2%	25%	35%	19%	18%
Income	Less \$50,000	2%	26%	39%	13%	21%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	3%	27%	29%	18%	22%
	\$100,000 or more	2%	21%	38%	19%	20%
Income	Less than \$50,000	2%	26%	39%	13%	21%
	\$50,000 or more	3%	24%	33%	19%	21%
Race	White	2%	26%	33%	18%	22%
	Non White	4%	25%	37%	10%	24%
Age	18 to 29	6%	17%	46%	3%	28%
	30 to 44	0%	28%	34%	20%	19%
	45 to 59	2%	21%	35%	19%	22%
	60 or older	3%	30%	28%	17%	22%
Age	Under 45	2%	24%	38%	14%	22%
	45 or older	3%	25%	32%	18%	22%
Gender	Men	3%	23%	33%	22%	19%
	Women	2%	27%	34%	11%	26%

March 29, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=775 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		13%	38%	28%	17%	4%
Party Registration	Democrat	21%	46%	23%	6%	4%
	Republican	5%	28%	29%	35%	4%
	Non-enrolled	7%	38%	34%	18%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	23%	44%	26%	3%	3%
	Moderate	11%	42%	31%	12%	4%
	Conservative	6%	28%	25%	38%	3%
Region	New York City	12%	44%	32%	8%	3%
	Suburbs	15%	38%	21%	23%	3%
	Upstate	12%	35%	28%	20%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	15%	37%	31%	12%	4%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	13%	33%	32%	19%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	13%	41%	21%	21%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	15%	37%	31%	12%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	13%	37%	27%	20%	3%
Race	White	13%	39%	25%	19%	4%
	Non White	12%	38%	37%	10%	3%
Age	18 to 29	12%	43%	37%	3%	4%
	30 to 44	7%	34%	35%	18%	6%
	45 to 59	9%	40%	27%	21%	4%
	60 or older	22%	38%	19%	19%	2%
Age	Under 45	9%	37%	36%	13%	5%
	45 or older	15%	39%	23%	20%	3%
Gender	Men	12%	39%	25%	22%	1%
	Women	14%	37%	30%	13%	6%

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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 %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		21%	32%	21%	26%	<1%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	36%	39%	15%	10%	0%
	Republican	4%	21%	24%	51%	0%
	Non-enrolled	13%	33%	28%	26%	0%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	40%	38%	16%	5%	0%
	Moderate	19%	40%	21%	19%	0%
	Conservative	5%	17%	22%	55%	0%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	34%	35%	15%	15%	1%
	Suburbs	14%	28%	22%	36%	0%
	Upstate	16%	33%	23%	28%	0%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	19%	30%	22%	29%	0%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	24%	33%	22%	21%	0%
	\$100,000 or more	20%	34%	17%	28%	0%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	19%	30%	22%	29%	0%
	\$50,000 or more	23%	33%	20%	24%	0%
<b>Race</b>	White	16%	32%	22%	30%	0%
	Non White	41%	34%	15%	9%	0%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	23%	32%	13%	32%	0%
	30 to 44	20%	38%	18%	24%	0%
	45 to 59	16%	30%	28%	26%	0%
	60 or older	25%	30%	19%	26%	0%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	21%	36%	16%	27%	0%
	45 or older	20%	30%	24%	26%	0%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	17%	31%	22%	29%	0%
	Women	24%	33%	19%	23%	0%

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