



## NY1/YNN-Marist Poll

The New York State Budget:  
Cutting Deficit Voters' Main Concern  
Confidence in Governor Andrew Cuomo's Fiscal Ability  
\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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### **This NY1/YNN-Marist Poll Reports:**

#### **NYS Budget: Down the Deficit, Say Voters**

Facing an estimated \$10 billion dollar budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo will detail his plans to close the gap when he presents his budget tomorrow. And, according to this NY1/YNN-Marist Poll, many New York State voters think addressing the deficit is the state's top priority and have confidence in the governor's ability to do so.

A plurality of voters -- 41% -- say reducing the state's deficit should be the top concern. More than three in ten -- 31% -- report cutting taxes should be the focus while 27% think maintaining services and benefits should be the priority. Fewer than 1% are unsure.

"New York State voters recognize the importance of addressing the state's deficit and are confident in Governor Cuomo's ability to do just that," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

Highlights from this NY1/YNN-Marist Poll:

- While **reducing the deficit** is the top priority for many voters statewide, party makes a difference. Democrats closely divide. 41% of Democrats see reducing the deficit as priority number one, and 36% place maintaining services and benefits at the top of their list. Among Republicans, although 44% believe the first thing to do is drive down the state's deficit, 45% of the state's GOP believe cutting taxes should be the state's highest priority. 42% of non-enrolled voters want the deficit slashed with

nearly 3 in 10 placing either cutting taxes or maintaining services and benefits at the top of their list.

- There are regional differences, as well. While 46% of upstate voters say cutting the deficit should be the state's focus, 45% of those in the suburbs want cutting taxes to be the first item on the agenda, and 43% of voters in New York City want to maintain services and benefits.
- Nearly six in ten voters -- 58% -- are confident that Governor Cuomo will be able **to solve the state's fiscal crisis**. Included here are 9% who have a great deal of confidence in his ability and 49% who have a good amount of trust. Almost three in ten -- 28% -- don't have very much confidence in the governor on this issue, and 10% have no confidence at all in his fiscal prowess. Just 4% are unsure.
- More than two-thirds of Democrats statewide -- 67% -- are confident in the new governor's ability to tackle the state's fiscal problems, and even a majority of Republicans -- 52% -- have, at least, a good amount of confidence in Cuomo. 54% of non-enrolled voters agree.
- Most voters -- 68% -- do not have confidence in **the New York State Legislature to solve the state's fiscal crisis**. Included here are 41% of voters who report they do not have much confidence in it and more than one in four -- 27% -- who do not have any confidence at all. On the other hand, 23% have a good amount of confidence in the legislature's ability, and 3% have a great deal of confidence in it. Six percent are unsure.
- 64% of voters want the "**millionaire's tax**" to be extended beyond the end of the year to prevent increasing the budget deficit. 33% do not want to extend the surcharge on those who earn an income of a million dollars or more, and only 3% are unsure.
- When it comes to **property taxes**, nearly seven in ten -- 68% -- want them capped so they do not rise more than two percent per year. However, 28% do not want them limited because they believe a cap will force local governments to cut services or raise other taxes. Just 3% are unsure.
- Many voters support the tax cap regardless of region. 70% of upstate voters, 67% in the suburbs of New York City, and 66% in New York City would like to see an annual cap on property tax.
- Voters want to make changes to **union workers' pay increases**. 42% would like raises based on merit or performance put in place when union contracts come due, and 27% think union workers should receive cost of living increases and nothing more. At opposite extremes, 15% say no raises should be authorized compared with 13% who think union workers should receive the same type of increases they have had in the past.

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: New York State Poll of 751 Registered Voters**

This survey of 751 New York State registered voters was conducted on January 24<sup>th</sup> through January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. 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 turnout in comparable elections. 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 within  $\pm 4.0$  percentage points.

## Nature of the Sample: Registered Voters

Nature of the Sample - NYS Registered Voters		
		NYS Registered Voters
		Col %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Party ID</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>47%</b>
	<b>Republican</b>	<b>27%</b>
	<b>Non-enrolled</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Support Tea Party</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Political Ideology</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>28%</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>40%</b>
	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	<b>28%</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>24%</b>
	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>80%</b>
	<b>African American</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Latino</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>80%</b>
	<b>Non White</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Generation</b>	<b>Millennials (18-30)</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>Gen X (31-46)</b>	<b>27%</b>
	<b>Baby Boomers (47-65)</b>	<b>40%</b>
	<b>Silent-Greatest (Over 65)</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>38%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>50%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Union Member in Household</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Own or Rent Home</b>	<b>Own</b>	<b>75%</b>
	<b>Rent</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>78%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>22%</b>

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 24th through 26th, 2011, N=751 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Top Priority for NYS

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

**Question Wording:** If you had to choose, which one of the following do you think should be the top priority for New York State:

		NYS Registered Voters			
		If you had to choose, which one of the following do you think should be the top priority for New York State:			
		Reduce the deficit	Cut taxes	Maintain services and benefits	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Registered Voters		41%	31%	27%	<1%
Party Registration	Democrat	41%	23%	36%	<1%
	Republican	44%	45%	10%	1%
	Non-enrolled	42%	29%	29%	<1%
Tea Party Supporters		43%	48%	8%	1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	34%	18%	48%	<1%
	Moderate	47%	30%	23%	<1%
	Conservative	40%	44%	15%	<1%
Region	New York City	38%	19%	43%	<1%
	Suburbs	37%	45%	18%	<1%
	Upstate	46%	32%	22%	1%
Income	Less \$50,000	35%	33%	33%	<1%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	44%	33%	22%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	45%	25%	30%	1%
Income	Less than \$50,000	35%	33%	33%	<1%
	\$50,000 or more	44%	29%	26%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	39%	38%	22%	1%
	College graduate	44%	25%	30%	<1%
Age	Under 45	41%	28%	31%	<1%
	45 or older	41%	33%	25%	1%
Age	18 to 29	41%	26%	34%	<1%
	30 to 44	41%	30%	30%	<1%
	45 to 59	39%	37%	23%	1%
	60 or older	44%	29%	27%	<1%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	42%	26%	31%	<1%
	Gen X (31-46)	40%	28%	32%	<1%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	41%	36%	22%	1%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	41%	30%	29%	1%
Race	White	43%	32%	25%	1%
	Non White	35%	30%	35%	<1%
Gender	Men	41%	31%	27%	1%
	Women	42%	32%	26%	<1%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	39%	33%	27%	1%
	No children in household	44%	30%	26%	<1%
Union Member in Household		45%	26%	28%	<1%
Interview Type	Landline	41%	31%	28%	<1%
	Cell Phone	45%	31%	23%	1%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 24th through 26th, 2011, N=751 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Confidence in Governor Andrew Cuomo: NYS Fiscal Crisis

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

**Question Wording:** Do you have a great deal of confidence, a good amount, not very much or no confidence at all that Governor Andrew Cuomo will be able to solve New York State's fiscal crisis?

		NYS Registered Voters				
		Do you have a great deal of confidence, a good amount, not very much or no confidence at all that Governor Andrew Cuomo will be able to solve New York State's fiscal crisis?				
		A great deal of confidence	A good amount	Not very much	No confidence at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		9%	49%	28%	10%	4%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	13%	54%	22%	7%	5%
	Republican	5%	47%	37%	7%	4%
	Non-enrolled	8%	46%	31%	15%	1%
<b>Tea Party Supporters</b>		7%	37%	37%	16%	2%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	11%	54%	21%	10%	3%
	Moderate	11%	54%	26%	6%	3%
	Conservative	6%	40%	39%	12%	2%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	14%	50%	24%	7%	5%
	Suburbs	8%	49%	26%	13%	3%
	Upstate	7%	49%	31%	9%	3%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	14%	54%	21%	8%	3%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	8%	49%	31%	10%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	6%	48%	33%	8%	4%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	14%	54%	21%	8%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	7%	49%	32%	9%	3%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	15%	46%	26%	10%	4%
	College graduate	5%	53%	30%	9%	3%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	6%	52%	29%	9%	5%
	45 or older	12%	49%	27%	9%	3%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	7%	47%	30%	11%	5%
	30 to 44	5%	54%	28%	8%	5%
	45 to 59	11%	51%	28%	9%	2%
	60 or older	13%	46%	27%	10%	4%
<b>Generation</b>	Millennials (18-30)	6%	47%	30%	10%	6%
	Gen X (31-46)	6%	54%	28%	9%	4%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	12%	47%	29%	10%	2%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	13%	51%	22%	8%	5%
<b>Race</b>	White	8%	51%	28%	10%	3%
	Non White	14%	45%	26%	8%	7%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	9%	47%	30%	10%	4%
	Women	10%	52%	26%	9%	3%
<b>Households with children under 18</b>	Household with children	6%	51%	30%	9%	4%
	No children in household	12%	48%	27%	10%	3%
<b>Union Member in Household</b>		9%	49%	28%	12%	1%
<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	10%	46%	30%	10%	4%
	Cell Phone	7%	61%	21%	9%	2%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 24th through 26th, 2011, N=751 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Confidence in State Legislature: NYS Fiscal Crisis

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

**Question Wording:** Do you have a great deal of confidence, a good amount, not very much or no confidence at all that the New York State Legislature will be able to solve New York State's fiscal crisis?

		NYS Registered Voters				
		Do you have a great deal of confidence, a good amount, not very much or no confidence at all that the New York State Legislature will be able to solve New York State's fiscal crisis?				
		A great deal of confidence	A good amount	Not very much	No confidence at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		3%	23%	41%	27%	6%
<b>Party Registration</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	3%	26%	40%	22%	9%
	<b>Republican</b>	1%	25%	40%	29%	4%
	<b>Non-enrolled</b>	4%	21%	42%	31%	2%
<b>Tea Party Supporters</b>		2%	23%	39%	30%	6%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	3%	26%	44%	19%	8%
	<b>Moderate</b>	3%	24%	41%	29%	4%
	<b>Conservative</b>	3%	21%	41%	31%	5%
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	3%	22%	42%	24%	9%
	<b>Suburbs</b>	3%	31%	37%	27%	3%
	<b>Upstate</b>	3%	21%	42%	28%	6%
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less \$50,000</b>	4%	31%	37%	22%	6%
	<b>\$50,000 to just under \$100,000</b>	4%	23%	46%	25%	3%
	<b>\$100,000 or more</b>	1%	20%	41%	31%	7%
<b>Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	4%	31%	37%	22%	6%
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	2%	21%	44%	28%	5%
<b>Education</b>	<b>Not college graduate</b>	4%	27%	40%	20%	9%
	<b>College graduate</b>	1%	20%	41%	33%	4%
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	4%	29%	39%	22%	6%
	<b>45 or older</b>	2%	21%	42%	29%	6%
<b>Age</b>	<b>18 to 29</b>	7%	30%	40%	17%	6%
	<b>30 to 44</b>	3%	28%	39%	25%	5%
	<b>45 to 59</b>	2%	24%	45%	25%	4%
	<b>60 or older</b>	2%	18%	38%	33%	8%
<b>Generation</b>	<b>Millennials (18-30)</b>	6%	28%	39%	19%	7%
	<b>Gen X (31-46)</b>	3%	29%	40%	23%	5%
	<b>Baby Boomers (47-65)</b>	2%	21%	44%	29%	4%
	<b>Silent-Greatest (Over 65)</b>	3%	21%	36%	31%	10%
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	3%	21%	42%	29%	5%
	<b>Non White</b>	4%	33%	39%	15%	9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	3%	20%	40%	33%	5%
	<b>Women</b>	3%	27%	42%	21%	8%
<b>Households with children under 18</b>	<b>Household with children</b>	3%	25%	43%	23%	5%
	<b>No children in household</b>	3%	22%	40%	29%	6%
<b>Union Member in Household</b>		2%	22%	47%	25%	4%
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	3%	22%	38%	30%	7%
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	4%	30%	50%	14%	2%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 24th through 26th, 2011, N=751 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Millionaire's Tax

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

**Question Wording:** A New York State surcharge on income of a million dollars or more, referred to as the millionaire's tax, will expire at the end of this year. Which statement comes closer to your opinion:

		NYS Registered Voters		
		A New York State surcharge on income of a million dollars or more, referred to as the millionaire's tax, will expire at the end of this year. Which statement comes closer to your opinion:		
		This surcharge on high income should be extended so as not to add to the state budget deficit	This surcharge on high income should not be extended because any added taxes even those on high income hurt New York State	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Registered Voters		64%	33%	3%
Party Registration	Democrat	74%	23%	3%
	Republican	50%	47%	3%
	Non-enrolled	65%	33%	2%
Tea Party Supporters		46%	51%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	83%	15%	2%
	Moderate	67%	30%	3%
	Conservative	46%	50%	4%
Region	New York City	65%	33%	2%
	Suburbs	66%	31%	3%
	Upstate	63%	33%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	61%	34%	5%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	64%	34%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	70%	29%	1%
Income	Less than \$50,000	61%	34%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	67%	32%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	60%	36%	5%
	College graduate	69%	29%	2%
Age	Under 45	63%	35%	2%
	45 or older	65%	31%	4%
Age	18 to 29	65%	32%	3%
	30 to 44	62%	37%	1%
	45 to 59	66%	31%	4%
	60 or older	65%	31%	4%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	63%	32%	4%
	Gen X (31-46)	62%	37%	1%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	66%	31%	3%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	64%	31%	5%
Race	White	66%	31%	3%
	Non White	59%	37%	5%
Gender	Men	64%	35%	2%
	Women	64%	31%	5%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	62%	35%	3%
	No children in household	66%	31%	3%
Union Member in Household		70%	28%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	63%	33%	4%
	Cell Phone	67%	31%	2%

NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 24th through 26th, 2011, N=751 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.



## Property Tax Cap

Asked of NYS Registered Voters:

**Question Wording:** Which statement comes closer to your opinion:

		NYS Registered Voters		
		Which statement comes closer to your opinion:		
		Increases to property taxes should be capped so they may not rise more than 2% per year	Increases to property taxes should not be capped because it may force local government to cut services or raise other taxes	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Registered Voters		68%	28%	3%
Party Registration	Democrat	67%	30%	3%
	Republican	72%	25%	3%
	Non-enrolled	68%	29%	3%
Tea Party Supporters		78%	21%	1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	62%	34%	4%
	Moderate	70%	27%	3%
	Conservative	73%	24%	3%
Region	New York City	66%	32%	2%
	Suburbs	67%	30%	3%
	Upstate	70%	26%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	68%	29%	3%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	76%	22%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	62%	34%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	68%	29%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	70%	27%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	71%	26%	3%
	College graduate	67%	30%	4%
Age	Under 45	62%	34%	3%
	45 or older	72%	25%	3%
Age	18 to 29	59%	38%	3%
	30 to 44	64%	33%	3%
	45 to 59	72%	25%	2%
	60 or older	72%	24%	4%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	58%	39%	3%
	Gen X (31-46)	65%	32%	3%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	74%	24%	3%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	70%	26%	5%
Race	White	69%	27%	4%
	Non White	66%	33%	1%
Gender	Men	66%	31%	3%
	Women	71%	26%	3%
Households with children under 18	Household with children	68%	28%	4%
	No children in household	69%	28%	3%
Union Member in Household		70%	28%	2%
Own or Rent Home	Own	72%	24%	3%
	Rent	59%	38%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	69%	28%	4%
	Cell Phone	67%	32%	1%

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## Pay Increases for Union Workers

*Asked of NYS Registered Voters:*

**Question Wording:** What about union workers such as teachers or health care workers. When their contracts come due should they get:

		NYS Registered Voters				
		What about union workers such as teachers or health care workers. When their contracts come due should they get:				
		No increase in wages	A cost of living increase, but no more	Wage increases only based on merit and performance	Increases that are about the same as what they've gotten in the past	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>NYS Registered Voters</b>		15%	27%	42%	13%	2%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	12%	32%	38%	16%	2%
	Republican	17%	25%	45%	10%	2%
	Non-enrolled	16%	23%	48%	11%	1%
<b>Tea Party Supporters</b>		21%	22%	44%	11%	2%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	8%	30%	44%	17%	2%
	Moderate	15%	28%	43%	13%	1%
	Conservative	20%	25%	41%	12%	2%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	11%	29%	44%	15%	1%
	Suburbs	15%	26%	44%	14%	1%
	Upstate	17%	27%	41%	12%	3%
<b>Income</b>	Less \$50,000	19%	28%	34%	16%	2%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	12%	28%	46%	12%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	11%	28%	48%	12%	<1%
<b>Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	19%	28%	34%	16%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	12%	28%	47%	12%	2%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	15%	21%	44%	17%	3%
	College graduate	15%	32%	41%	11%	1%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	7%	20%	53%	18%	2%
	45 or older	18%	33%	37%	10%	2%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	8%	7%	55%	29%	1%
	30 to 44	7%	27%	52%	13%	2%
	45 to 59	16%	36%	39%	9%	<1%
	60 or older	21%	30%	34%	12%	3%
<b>Generation</b>	Millennials (18-30)	10%	9%	51%	29%	1%
	Gen X (31-46)	7%	24%	53%	14%	2%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	17%	36%	36%	10%	1%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	21%	30%	36%	8%	5%
<b>Race</b>	White	17%	29%	40%	12%	2%
	Non White	5%	22%	51%	20%	2%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	17%	27%	41%	13%	2%
	Women	13%	28%	44%	13%	2%
<b>Households with children under 18</b>	Household with children	11%	28%	47%	13%	1%
	No children in household	17%	27%	39%	14%	2%
<b>Union Member in Household</b>		9%	35%	32%	23%	1%
<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	17%	28%	41%	12%	2%
	Cell Phone	8%	25%	48%	19%	1%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Registered Voters: Interviews conducted January 24th through 26th, 2011, N=751 MOE +/- 4%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.