



**Marist College Institute for Public Opinion**  
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## NY1/YNN-Marist Poll

### **Hydrofracking in NYS:**

### **No Consensus Among Residents...About One in Five Unsure**

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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

Hydraulic fracturing, more commonly known as hydrofracking, is the process of extracting natural gas from underground rock formations. And, it's increasingly becoming a topic for debate in New York State. Where do New Yorkers stand on the issue?

According to this NY1/YNN-Marist Poll, New Yorkers divide on the issue. 41% oppose hydrofracking while 38% support it. A notable 21% are unsure. Similar proportions of registered voters statewide share these views.

Regionally, there's no majority on either side of the ledger. 47% of those upstate are against hydrofracking while 37% support it. 39% in New York City oppose the process while 35% favor it. However, in the suburbs of New York City, 46% are for hydrofracking while 36% are against it.

There are partisan differences on this question. While pluralities of Democrats -- 47% -- and non-enrolled voters -- 46% -- *oppose* the process, nearly half of Republicans -- 49%-- *support* it.

"Many New Yorkers have yet to weigh in on this issue," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "The question is what will happen to the public's opinion about hydrofracking as both sides make their case."

### **The Nitty-Gritty of Hydrofracking: Environmental Concerns Trump Oil Independence...Jobs**

There are compelling arguments, both, for and against hydrofracking. Those who support it say it will make us more independent from foreign oil. Those who oppose it argue it will contaminate the community water supply and the environment. Which do New Yorkers think is more important?

A majority statewide -- 56% -- choose preserving the water supply as a priority. However, almost four in ten residents -- 39% -- select oil independence. Five percent are unsure.

Although the desire to preserve the community water supply is the choice of a majority of New Yorkers regardless of region, those in New York City -- 60% -- and in its suburbs -- 57% -- are more likely to say so. This compares with 51% upstate.

More than six in ten Democrats -- 62% -- and a majority of those not enrolled in any party -- 57% -- report environmental concerns top that of foreign oil dependence. Republicans divide. 49% believe preserving the water supply is more important compared with 47% who say independence from foreign oil should be the higher concern.

When stacked up against creating jobs, environmental concerns still outweigh economic ones. A majority -- 52% -- believe preserving the water supply should be of the utmost importance while 41% say creating jobs should be the top priority. Six percent are unsure.

Once again, majorities of Democrats -- 59% -- and New York State voters not belonging to a party -- 58% -- place more importance on the environment while Republicans divide. 47% of Republicans choose preserving the water supply. An additional 47%, though, say creating jobs trumps environmental concerns.

Residents in the New York City suburbs -- 58% -- are most likely to place importance on preserving the water supply from contamination. 52% of those upstate and half -- 50% -- of those in New York City agree with this view.

### **One in Four New York City Residents Don't Know Source of Their Water**

While 75% of those living in New York City correctly identify upstate reservoirs as their primary source of water, 25% do not. Included in this 25% are 11% who think they get their water mostly from the Hudson River, 1% who report it comes from the Long Island Sound, and 13% who are unsure.

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: New York State Poll of 941 Adults**

This survey of 941 New York State adults was conducted on April 25<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in New York State were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each county was represented in proportion to its population. 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  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points. There are 405 New York City adults. Results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 5.0$  percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

## Nature of the Sample: NYS Adults

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Nature of the Sample - NYS Adults		
		NYS Adults
		Col %
NYS Adults		100%
Registered Voters		81%
Region	New York City	43%
	Suburbs	21%
	Upstate	36%
Income	Less than \$50,000	48%
	\$50,000 or more	52%
Race	White	57%
	African American	14%
	Latino	14%
	Other	16%
Race	White	57%
	Non White	43%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	23%
	Gen X (31-46)	25%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	34%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	19%
Age	Under 45	43%
	45 or older	57%
Gender	Men	48%
	Women	52%
Employment Status	Employed	56%
	Not employed	32%
Union Member in Household	Yes	34%
Own or Rent Home	Own	63%
	Rent	35%
Interview Type	Landline	73%
	Cell Phone	27%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted April 25th through 29th, 2011, N=941 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Support for Hydrofracking in New York State

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Hydraulic fracturing, often referred to as hydrofracking, is a process of splitting rocks underground to remove natural gas. From what you have read or heard, do you generally support or oppose hydrofracking?

		NYS Adults		
		Hydraulic fracturing, often referred to as hydrofracking, is a process of splitting rocks underground to remove natural gas. From what you have read or heard, do you generally support or oppose hydrofracking?		
		Support	Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Adults		38%	41%	21%
NYS Registered Voters		39%	42%	19%
Party Registration	Democrat	34%	47%	18%
	Republican	49%	27%	24%
	Non-enrolled	36%	46%	18%
Tea Party Supporters		55%	31%	14%
Political Ideology	Liberal	31%	51%	18%
	Moderate	39%	44%	16%
	Conservative	49%	29%	23%
Region	New York City	35%	39%	26%
	Suburbs	46%	36%	18%
	Upstate	37%	47%	16%
Income	Less \$50,000	33%	43%	24%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	44%	40%	15%
	\$100,000 or more	42%	40%	18%
Income	Less than \$50,000	33%	43%	24%
	\$50,000 or more	44%	40%	16%
Education	Not college graduate	38%	41%	22%
	College graduate	39%	43%	17%
Age	Under 45	41%	41%	18%
	45 or older	36%	41%	22%
Age	18 to 29	40%	46%	13%
	30 to 44	42%	35%	23%
	45 to 59	37%	40%	23%
	60 or older	35%	43%	22%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	40%	46%	14%
	Gen X (31-46)	41%	37%	22%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	37%	41%	22%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	35%	41%	24%
Race	White	42%	39%	19%
	Non White	34%	45%	22%
Gender	Men	48%	41%	11%
	Women	29%	42%	30%
Interview Type	Landline	37%	42%	21%
	Cell Phone	42%	39%	19%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted April 25th through 29th, 2011, N=941 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## Importance of Oil Independence vs. Preserving the Water Supply

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Those who support this process say it makes us more independent from foreign oil and creates jobs. Those who oppose this process say it contaminates community water supplies and the environment. Which do you think is more important: *Making us more independent from foreign oil or preserving water supplies and the environment?*

		NYS Adults		
		Those who support this process say it makes us more independent from foreign oil and creates jobs. Those who oppose this process say it contaminates community water supplies and the environment. Which do you think is more important:		
		Making us more independent from foreign oil	Preserving water supplies and the environment	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Adults		39%	56%	5%
NYS Registered Voters		39%	57%	5%
Party Registration	Democrat	34%	62%	4%
	Republican	47%	49%	3%
	Non-enrolled	37%	57%	6%
Tea Party Supporters		49%	46%	5%
Political Ideology	Liberal	23%	70%	7%
	Moderate	39%	58%	3%
	Conservative	51%	45%	4%
Region	New York City	34%	60%	6%
	Suburbs	41%	57%	2%
	Upstate	45%	51%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	41%	55%	4%
	\$50,000 to just under \$100,000	36%	59%	4%
	\$100,000 or more	41%	55%	4%
Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	55%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	38%	58%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	43%	54%	3%
	College graduate	36%	59%	5%
Age	Under 45	42%	56%	2%
	45 or older	38%	56%	7%
Age	18 to 29	45%	53%	2%
	30 to 44	39%	59%	2%
	45 to 59	35%	57%	8%
	60 or older	41%	54%	5%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	43%	55%	2%
	Gen X (31-46)	39%	58%	3%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	35%	58%	7%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	44%	50%	6%
Race	White	41%	54%	5%
	Non White	37%	59%	4%
Gender	Men	43%	54%	3%
	Women	36%	58%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	42%	52%	6%
	Cell Phone	33%	66%	1%

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## Creating Jobs vs. Preserving the Water Supply

*Asked of NYS Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Those who support this process say it makes us more independent from foreign oil and creates jobs. Those who oppose this process say it contaminates community water supplies and the environment. Which do you think is more important: *Creating jobs or preserving water supplies and the environment?*

		NYS Adults		
		Those who support this process say it makes us more independent from foreign oil and creates jobs. Those who oppose this process say it contaminates community water supplies and the environment. Which do you think is more important:		
		Creating jobs	Preserving water supplies and the environment	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Adults		41%	52%	6%
NYS Registered Voters		39%	55%	6%
Party Registration	Democrat	35%	59%	6%
	Republican	47%	47%	6%
	Non-enrolled	35%	58%	7%
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	\$100,000 or more	36%	59%	5%
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Education	Not college graduate	49%	46%	6%
	College graduate	33%	62%	5%
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Age	18 to 29	55%	41%	4%
	30 to 44	44%	52%	4%
	45 to 59	30%	62%	7%
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Generation	Millennials (18-30)	53%	43%	4%
	Gen X (31-46)	42%	54%	4%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	32%	61%	7%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	45%	47%	8%
Race	White	38%	58%	5%
	Non White	47%	45%	8%
Gender	Men	42%	53%	5%
	Women	41%	52%	7%
Interview Type	Landline	40%	53%	7%
	Cell Phone	46%	51%	4%

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## Primary Source of New York City Water

*Asked of NYC Adults:*

**Question Wording:** Where does the water in New York City primarily come from:

		NYC Adults			
		Where does the water in New York City primarily come from:			
		The Hudson River	Upstate reservoirs	The Long Island Sound	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
NYC Adults		11%	75%	1%	13%
NYC Registered Voters		8%	79%	1%	11%
Income	Less than \$50,000	15%	63%	2%	19%
	\$50,000 or more	8%	85%	<1%	7%
Education	Not college graduate	15%	67%	1%	17%
	College graduate	7%	85%	1%	7%
Age	Under 45	18%	59%	1%	21%
	45 or older	5%	88%	1%	6%
Race	White	1%	32%	<1%	3%
	Non White	10%	43%	1%	10%
Gender	Men	11%	83%	<1%	6%
	Women	11%	69%	2%	18%
Interview Type	Landline	9%	82%	1%	8%
	Cell Phone	17%	54%	1%	28%

NY1-Marist Poll NYC Adults: Interviews conducted April 25th through 29th, 2011, N=405 MOE +/- 5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.