



# WNBC/Marist Poll

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## New York State: Campaign 2006

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**All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll**

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

- **Governor Pataki’s job performance rating hits an all time low:** Only 30% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. This is his lowest point since he assumed office and the lowest approval rating for a governor since the Marist Poll began measuring statewide officeholders twenty-three years ago.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Governor George Pataki is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
May 2006	<b>30%</b>	3%	27%	47%	20%	3%
<b>Region</b>						
Upstate	<b>27%</b>	3%	24%	50%	19%	4%
New York City	<b>26%</b>	3%	23%	49%	23%	2%
Suburbs	<b>41%</b>	3%	38%	36%	22%	1%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrats	<b>22%</b>	2%	20%	47%	28%	3%
Republicans	<b>43%</b>	5%	38%	44%	11%	2%
Non-enrolled	<b>32%</b>	2%	30%	49%	17%	2%
<b>Gov. Cuomo’s Lowest</b>						
September 1994	<b>32%</b>	5%	27%	42%	26%	<1%
<b>Gov. Pataki’s Ratings</b>						
January 2006	<b>43%</b>	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
September 2005	<b>38%</b>	5%	33%	42%	17%	3%
April 2005	<b>34%</b>	5%	29%	39%	25%	2%
October 2004	<b>41%</b>	7%	34%	38%	19%	2%
September 2004	<b>43%</b>	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2004	<b>41%</b>	4%	37%	40%	18%	1%
January 2004	<b>46%</b>	7%	39%	35%	14%	5%
September 2003	<b>40%</b>	6%	34%	41%	17%	2%
May 2003	<b>37%</b>	4%	33%	34%	25%	4%
April 2003	<b>49%</b>	7%	42%	31%	18%	2%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	12%	45%	31%	10%	2%
October 30, 2002	<b>57%</b>	14%	43%	33%	9%	1%
October 1, 2002	<b>61%</b>	14%	47%	30%	8%	1%
September 2002	<b>60%</b>	12%	48%	31%	7%	2%
May 2002	<b>72%</b>	14%	58%	23%	5%	0%
April 2002	<b>64%</b>	15%	49%	28%	6%	2%
December 2001	<b>65%</b>	15%	50%	27%	4%	4%
April 2001	<b>53%</b>	10%	43%	34%	8%	5%
December 2000	<b>55%</b>	11%	44%	30%	10%	5%
March 2000	<b>51%</b>	9%	42%	35%	11%	3%
September 1999	<b>51%</b>	10%	41%	38%	9%	2%
July 1999	<b>55%</b>	15%	40%	31%	11%	3%
March 1999	<b>61%</b>	12%	49%	28%	10%	1%
October 1998	<b>60%</b>	14%	46%	31%	8%	1%
September 1998	<b>62%</b>	16%	46%	31%	6%	1%
April 1998	<b>59%</b>	11%	48%	33%	7%	1%
February 1998	<b>60%</b>	11%	49%	32%	6%	2%
October 1997	<b>49%</b>	7%	42%	39%	10%	2%
March 1997	<b>47%</b>	6%	41%	38%	12%	3%
November 1996	<b>47%</b>	8%	39%	36%	14%	3%
March 1996	<b>39%</b>	6%	33%	40%	17%	4%
September 1995	<b>39%</b>	5%	34%	38%	17%	6%
March 1995	<b>36%</b>	8%	28%	28%	16%	20%

- Republicans face steep odds against Spitzer in race for New York governor:** In matchups for November's election for New York governor, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer trounces each of his potential opponents, former Assemblyman John Faso and former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, by 50 points.

**Question Wording:** If November's election for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	John Faso Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
May 2006	20%	70%	10%
January 2006	18%	68%	14%
September 2005	20%	64%	16%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>William Weld Republican</b>	<b>Eliot Spitzer Democrat</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
May 2006	20%	70%	10%
January 2006	19%	66%	15%
September 2005	21%	63%	16%

- Many New York Republicans are undecided about whom their party should nominate for governor:** 49% of New York State’s registered Republicans are undecided about whom to support for their party’s nominee for New York governor. 30% of registered Republicans support John Faso, and 21% back William Weld.

**Question Wording:** If September's Republican primary for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>John Faso</b>	<b>William Weld</b>	<b>Other</b>
May 2006	49%	30%	21%	n.a.
January 2006	50%	4%	8%	38%

- Eliot Spitzer outdistances his opponent among New York’s Democrats for their party’s nomination for governor:** 72% of New York State’s registered Democrats support Eliot Spitzer for their party’s nominee for New York governor. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi receives 12%, and 16% are undecided.

**Question Wording:** If September's Democratic primary for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered Democrats</b>	<b>Eliot Spitzer</b>	<b>Tom Suozzi</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
May 2006	72%	12%	16%
January 2006	72%	8%	20%

- Most New Yorkers approve of the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general:** 63% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general as either excellent or good. 22% rate the job he is doing as fair, and 5% rate his performance as poor. 10% are unsure.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
May 2006	<b>63%</b>	20%	43%	22%	5%	10%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrat	<b>71%</b>	30%	41%	17%	5%	7%
Republican	<b>57%</b>	10%	47%	28%	7%	8%
Non-enrolled	<b>60%</b>	18%	42%	22%	2%	16%
<b>Previous Polls</b>						
January 2006	<b>63%</b>	21%	42%	21%	3%	13%
September 2005	<b>61%</b>	18%	43%	22%	4%	13%
April 2005	<b>61%</b>	20%	41%	19%	5%	15%
October 2004	<b>57%</b>	23%	34%	19%	4%	20%
September 2004	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	25%	5%	16%
April 2004	<b>60%</b>	20%	40%	20%	4%	16%

- Hillary Clinton is a formidable favorite for re-election:** Hillary Clinton substantially outdistances her potential Republican challengers for the U.S. Senate. In hypothetical matchups for November's U.S. Senate race in New York, Senator Clinton outscores former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer, former Reagan administration official Kathleen Troia McFarland, and Attorney William Brenner by wide margins.

**Question Wording:** If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	John Spencer Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
May 2006	33%	63%	4%
January 2006	33%	62%	5%
September 2005	31%	62%	7%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Kathleen McFarland Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
May 2006	30%	64%	6%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	William Brenner Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
May 2006	32%	63%	5%

- **New York Republicans are undecided about whom to nominate to challenge Hillary Clinton for the U.S. Senate in November:** 47% of New York State’s registered Republicans are undecided about whom to support for their party’s U.S. Senate nominee against Hillary Clinton. John Spencer has the support of 26% of registered Republicans compared with 14% for Kathleen McFarland, and 13% for William Brenner.

**Question Wording:** If September's Republican primary for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered Republicans</b>	Undecided	John Spencer	Kathleen McFarland	William Brenner
May 2006	47%	26%	14%	13%

- **A majority of New York voters approve of the job Hillary Clinton is doing as senator:** 51% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Hillary Clinton is doing as senator as either excellent or good.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
May 2006	<b>51%</b>	15%	36%	27%	19%	3%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrat	<b>69%</b>	24%	45%	22%	6%	3%
Republican	<b>28%</b>	6%	22%	28%	41%	3%
Non-enrolled	<b>53%</b>	12%	41%	29%	14%	4%
<b>Region</b>						
Upstate	<b>46%</b>	13%	33%	27%	24%	3%
New York City	<b>62%</b>	20%	42%	24%	10%	4%
Suburbs	<b>48%</b>	14%	34%	29%	20%	3%
<b>Gender</b>						
Men	<b>45%</b>	13%	32%	31%	21%	3%
Women	<b>56%</b>	17%	39%	22%	18%	4%
<b>Previous Polls</b>						
January 2006	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	24%	19%	3%
September 2005	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	22%	20%	4%
August 2005	<b>54%</b>	19%	35%	23%	16%	7%
April 2005	<b>56%</b>	16%	40%	24%	16%	4%
October 2004	<b>57%</b>	18%	39%	21%	18%	4%
September 2004	<b>53%</b>	18%	35%	25%	20%	2%
April 2004	<b>51%</b>	13%	38%	27%	18%	4%
January 2004	<b>55%</b>	18%	37%	23%	17%	5%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2003	<b>49%</b>	17%	32%	26%	21%	4%
April 2003	<b>47%</b>	13%	34%	27%	22%	4%
December 2002	<b>44%</b>	10%	34%	28%	20%	8%
April 2002	<b>47%</b>	11%	36%	27%	20%	6%
December 2001	<b>45%</b>	11%	34%	23%	23%	9%
April 2001	<b>35%</b>	9%	26%	26%	22%	17%
February 2001	<b>30%</b>	10%	20%	22%	20%	28%

- Former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo leads field for the Democratic primary for New York’s attorney general:** Andrew Cuomo leads the field of potential candidates for the Democratic nomination for New York State’s attorney general with the support of 39% of registered Democrats. Former New York City Public Advocate Mark Green follows with 20%. The rest of the field of possible candidates receives only single digit support. 27% of Democrats remain undecided.

**Question Wording:** If September's Democratic primary for attorney general of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Democrats	Andrew Cuomo	Mark Green	Denise O’Donnell	Sean Patrick Maloney	Charlie King	Richard Brodsky	Undecided
May 2006	39%	20%	6%	5%	2%	1%	27%
January 2006	40%	18%	3%	5%	2%	1%	31%

- Democrats are frontrunners in contest for New York’s next attorney general:** In hypothetical match-ups for November’s election for New York State’s attorney general, Democrat Andrew Cuomo leads Republican Jeanine Pirro. Cuomo receives the support of 52% of New York State’s registered voters compared with 34% for Pirro. 14% of registered voters are undecided. When Democrat Mark Green is matched against Republican Jeanine Pirro, he receives the support of 48% of registered voters compared with 34% for Pirro. 18% are undecided.

**Question Wording:** If November's election for attorney general of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Andrew Cuomo Democrat	Undecided
May 2006	34%	52%	14%
January 2006	36%	50%	14%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Mark Green Democrat	Undecided
May 2006	34%	48%	18%
January 2006	36%	46%	18%

- **Many voters see state headed in the wrong direction:** 61% of registered voters think New York State is headed in the wrong direction. These results are fueled by 75% of registered voters upstate who are disappointed in the direction the state is headed. 50% of voters in New York City and 46% of voters in the suburbs which surround New York City share this view.

**Question Wording:** In general, thinking about the way things are going in New York State, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
May 2006	34%	61%	5%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	22%	75%	3%
New York City	43%	50%	7%
Suburbs	48%	46%	6%
<b>Previous Polls</b>			
January 2006	39%	54%	7%
September 2005	43%	50%	7%
April 2005	29%	65%	6%
October 2004	40%	54%	6%
September 2004	40%	54%	6%
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
January 2004	42%	46%	12%
September 2003	39%	54%	7%
April 2003	40%	53%	7%
December 2002	39%	52%	9%
October 30, 2002	51%	40%	9%
October 1, 2002	55%	37%	8%
September 2002	56%	38%	6%
May 2002	65%	28%	7%
April 2002	66%	28%	6%
December 2001	65%	25%	10%

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
December 2000	64%	30%	6%
September 1999	65%	25%	10%
October 1998	68%	23%	9%
October 1997	58%	33%	9%
November 1996	51%	37%	12%
September 1995	35%	48%	17%

- **Senator Charles Schumer’s job rating remains strong:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 56% among New York State’s registered voters. This is statistically unchanged from the 57% he received from voters in January.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
May 2006	<b>56%</b>	15%	41%	27%	8%	9%
January 2006	<b>57%</b>	15%	42%	23%	12%	8%
September 2005	<b>55%</b>	17%	38%	25%	11%	9%
April 2005	<b>58%</b>	15%	43%	24%	8%	10%
October 2004	<b>61%</b>	19%	42%	21%	8%	10%
September 2004	<b>50%</b>	13%	37%	29%	11%	10%
April 2004	<b>54%</b>	13%	41%	27%	8%	11%
January 2004	<b>58%</b>	14%	44%	23%	7%	12%
September 2003	<b>52%</b>	12%	40%	30%	10%	8%
April 2003	<b>52%</b>	10%	42%	27%	8%	13%
December 2002	<b>53%</b>	11%	42%	28%	8%	11%
April 2002	<b>55%</b>	11%	44%	26%	6%	13%
December 2001	<b>54%</b>	12%	42%	24%	7%	15%
April 2001	<b>49%</b>	12%	37%	26%	8%	17%
December 2000	<b>51%</b>	13%	38%	22%	9%	18%
March 2000	<b>39%</b>	9%	30%	27%	7%	27%
September 1999	<b>44%</b>	9%	35%	31%	8%	17%
March 1999	<b>41%</b>	7%	34%	23%	10%	26%

- **Comptroller Alan Hevesi is still the least known among the statewide officeholders:** 34% of New York State’s registered voters are still unsure how to rate Comptroller Alan Hevesi. 36% rate his job performance as either excellent or good, and 30% rate the job he is doing as either fair or poor.



**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Comptroller Alan Hevesi is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
May 2006	<b>36%</b>	6%	30%	24%	6%	34%
January 2006	<b>40%</b>	5%	35%	23%	3%	34%
September 2005	<b>40%</b>	4%	36%	24%	3%	33%
April 2005	<b>36%</b>	5%	31%	22%	6%	36%
October 2004	<b>35%</b>	4%	31%	24%	5%	36%
September 2004	<b>33%</b>	4%	29%	29%	5%	33%
April 2004	<b>36%</b>	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

- **President’s job performance rating in New York hits new low:** Only 24% of New York’s registered voters rate the job President Bush is doing in office as either excellent or good. Even a majority of Republicans in the state do not give the president a positive score for the job he is doing.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job President George Bush is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
May 2006	<b>24%</b>	7%	17%	21%	55%	<1%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrat	<b>11%</b>	4%	7%	18%	71%	<1%
Republican	<b>46%</b>	13%	33%	28%	26%	<1%
Non-enrolled	<b>19%</b>	6%	13%	21%	60%	<1%
<b>Previous Polls</b>						
January 2006	<b>34%</b>	11%	23%	21%	45%	<1%
September 2005	<b>33%</b>	10%	23%	22%	44%	1%
April 2005	<b>43%</b>	16%	27%	23%	34%	<1%
October 2004	<b>39%</b>	19%	20%	18%	42%	1%
September 2004	<b>40%</b>	19%	21%	21%	39%	<1%
April 2004	<b>38%</b>	14%	24%	22%	39%	1%
January 2004	<b>52%</b>	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	<b>44%</b>	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	<b>58%</b>	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%
April 2002	<b>72%</b>	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	<b>79%</b>	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	<b>40%</b>	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

**Nature of the Sample: 735 NYS Registered Voters**

The survey of 735 registered voters was conducted May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$ . There are 315 registered Democrats and 222 registered Republicans. Results for these sub-samples are statistically significant at  $\pm 5.5\%$  and  $\pm 6.6\%$ , respectively. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations. Interviews were conducted in either English or Spanish.