



WNBC/Marist Poll

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New York State Campaign 2006

In a Word...Lopsided

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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:

- **Senator Hillary Clinton is coasting toward re-election in November:** Hillary Clinton handily outmatches either of her potential Republican opponents for November’s U.S. Senate race in New York. Clinton leads former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer by 25 percentage points. Former Reagan administration official Kathleen Troia McFarland, who suspended her senate campaign this week, trails Senator Clinton by 30 percentage points. Clinton also has a formidable lead against Jonathan Tasini for the Democratic nomination in September.

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:

Registered Voters	John Spencer Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
August 2006	35%	60%	5%
July 2006	34%	61%	5%
May 2006	33%	63%	4%
January 2006	33%	62%	5%
September 2005	31%	62%	7%

Registered Voters	Kathleen McFarland Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
August 2006	32%	62%	6%
July 2006	32%	61%	7%
May 2006	30%	64%	6%

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

	Jonathan Tasini	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
Likely Democrats	15%	80%	5%
Registered Democrats			
August 2006	15%	80%	5%
July 2006	13%	83%	4%

- New York Republicans are undecided in the primary contest for their U.S. Senate nominee:** 46% of New York State's registered Republicans are undecided about whom to nominate to challenge Hillary Clinton for the U.S. Senate. John Spencer is the frontrunner among Republicans who support a candidate. He leads Kathleen Troia McFarland by more than two to one in the September primary. But, with the large number of undecided Republicans, the outcome of the primary is uncertain.

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:

Registered Republicans	Undecided	John Spencer	Kathleen McFarland	Other
August 2006	46%	38%	16%	n.a.
July 2006	49%	36%	15%	n.a.
May 2006	47%	26%	14%	13%

- Eliot Spitzer is the odds on favorite in the race for New York governor:** 70% of New York Democrats likely to vote in the September primary support Attorney General Eliot Spitzer for their party's nominee for New York governor. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi receives 17%, and 13% are undecided. In a match-up between Eliot Spitzer and his Republican opponent for November's election for New York governor, Spitzer has a commanding lead over former Assemblyman John Faso.

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

	Tom Suozzi	Eliot Spitzer	Undecided
Likely Democrats	17%	70%	13%
Registered Democrats			
August 2006	16%	73%	11%
July 2006	10%	75%	15%

	Tom Suozzi	Eliot Spitzer	Undecided
May 2006	12%	72%	16%
January 2006	8%	72%	20%

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

Registered Voters	John Faso Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
August 2006	23%	67%	10%
July 2006	20%	69%	11%
May 2006	20%	70%	10%
January 2006	18%	68%	14%
September 2005	20%	64%	16%

- Former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo leads the Democratic primary field 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 46% of Democrats likely to vote in the primary. Former New York City Public Advocate Mark Green follows with 28%. 15% of likely Democratic voters remain undecided. The other candidates in the race trail.

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:

	Andrew Cuomo	Mark Green	Sean Patrick Maloney	Charlie King	Other	Undecided
Likely Democrats	46%	28%	10%	1%	n.a.	15%
Registered Democrats						
August 2006	49%	24%	9%	3%	n.a.	15%
July 2006	40%	25%	7%	3%	n.a.	25%
May 2006	39%	20%	5%	2%	7%	27%
January 2006	40%	18%	5%	2%	4%	31%

- Democrat Andrew Cuomo leads Republican Jeanine Pirro in November’s race for New York’s next attorney general:** Andrew Cuomo, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for attorney general, leads Republican Jeanine Pirro in an early match-up for the November contest. Cuomo receives the support of 54% of New York State’s registered voters compared

with 39% for Pirro. 7% 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 42% for Pirro. 10% 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:

Registered Voters	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Andrew Cuomo Democrat	Undecided
August 2006	39%	54%	7%
July 2006	37%	51%	12%
May 2006	34%	52%	14%
January 2006	36%	50%	14%

Registered Voters	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Mark Green Democrat	Undecided
August 2006	42%	48%	10%
July 2006	35%	49%	16%
May 2006	34%	48%	18%
January 2006	36%	46%	18%

- **Comptroller Alan Hevesi is well positioned for re-election:** Alan Hevesi’s bid for re-election this November looks strong. He outdistances his Republican opponent Christopher Callaghan by 33 percentage points.

Question Wording: If the November election for comptroller of New York were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Christopher Callaghan Republican	Alan Hevesi Democrat	Undecided
August 2006	27%	60%	13%
July 2006	28%	57%	15%

- **Most voters think the Iraq war should be a major campaign issue this fall:** 63% of registered voters think the war in Iraq should be a major campaign issue this fall including 68% of Democrats, 61% of voters who are not enrolled in any party, and 55% of Republicans. 50% of New York voters are more likely to vote for a candidate who is against the war in Iraq, and 22% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the war.

Question Wording: Do you think the war in Iraq should be a major campaign issue, a minor campaign issue, or not a campaign issue this fall?

Registered Voters	Major Issue	Minor Issue	Not an Issue
August 2006	63%	24%	13%
July 2006	62%	23%	15%
Party			
Democrat	68%	21%	11%
Republican	55%	30%	15%
Non-enrolled	61%	23%	16%

Question Wording: Are you more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the war in Iraq, more likely to vote for a candidate who is against the war in Iraq, or does it not make any difference to you?

Registered Voters	Vote for Candidate who Supports Iraq War	Vote for Candidate who is Against Iraq War	Candidates Position Makes No Difference
August 2006	22%	50%	28%
July 2006	21%	48%	31%
Party			
Democrat	10%	64%	26%
Republican	43%	25%	32%
Non-enrolled	18%	54%	28%

Nature of the Sample: 1,123 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 1,123 New York State registered voters was conducted August 7th through August 18th, 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 $\pm 3\%$. There are 499 registered Democrats including 230 who are likely to vote on primary day. Results for these sub-samples are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$ and $\pm 6.5\%$, respectively. There are 329 registered Republicans, and the results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.