



## **Approval Ratings for Senators Gillibrand & Schumer Should Eliot Spitzer Run for Statewide Office?**

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

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### **This Marist Poll Reports:**

#### **Gillibrand Gains Name Recognition, But for the Better?**

The good news for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is more voters in New York are familiar with what she is doing in the U.S. Senate. The bad news, however, is that it all doesn't translate into a higher job approval rating. 26% of the statewide electorate view Gillibrand as doing an excellent or good job in office, and 9% believe she is performing poorly. 27% are not sure how to rate her. In Marist's July survey, a similar proportion -- 24% -- gave Gillibrand a thumbs-up, 13% thought she was doing poorly in office, and 33% weren't quite sure how to answer the question. This adds up to a bump in Gillibrand's fair rating since July.

#### **Gillibrand Loses Edge Against Pataki in Hypothetical Matchup**

Time is ticking away to next year's election for U.S. Senate in New York. And, there could be some cause for concern for Senator Gillibrand's camp. When pitted against former New York Governor George Pataki, Pataki edges Gillibrand 48% to 44%. The tides have turned against Gillibrand over the last couple of months. In July, Gillibrand had 46% to Pataki's 42%.

While Gillibrand maintains a similar degree of support among Democrats, more Republicans and non-enrolled voters have thrown their support behind Pataki. Currently, 71% of the GOP say they would vote for Pataki while 21% would back Gillibrand. In July, 63% reported they would support Pataki. 27% would do the same for Gillibrand. Looking at non-enrolled voters, half are behind Pataki while 42% support Gillibrand. Two months ago, they were divided, 45% for Gillibrand and 42% for Pataki.

#### **Schumer Approval Rating Nearly 6 in 10**

Is Senator Chuck Schumer's approval rating unshakeable? His latest poll numbers indicate it is. 58% of registered voters in New York State think Senator Schumer is doing either an excellent or good job in office, and just 13% believe he is performing poorly. When Marist last asked this question in July, 54% gave him above average marks. He received similar approval ratings in May and March.

## **Resurrect Spitzer? “No Way,” Say Nearly Seven in Ten**

Controversy-ridden former New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer has refuted rumors that he is looking to seek political office again. And, perhaps, that’s a good thing.

69% of registered voters in New York State say they do not want Democrat Spitzer to run for statewide office next year. This includes 62% of Spitzer’s own party, 77% of Republicans, and 72% of non-enrolled voters.

Does the office make a difference? Among Democrats in New York State, when Mr. Spitzer is paired in a hypothetical contest against his successor, Governor David Paterson, 60% report they would support the highly unpopular Paterson in next year’s Democratic Primary while 31% would vote for Spitzer.

When it comes to the race for New York State Comptroller, his prospects aren’t much better. Here, 49% of Democrats in New York State report they would vote for the incumbent, Tom DiNapoli while 37% say they would cast their ballot for Spitzer. 14% are unsure.

How does Spitzer fare against Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate? Gillibrand garners a majority -- 57% -- while the former governor takes home 29%. 14% are unsure.

Even if Spitzer were to achieve his party’s nomination for U.S. Senate, he would not win the ultimate prize when paired up against former New York Governor George Pataki. Here, 58% of the statewide electorate would back Pataki compared with one-third who would vote for Spitzer. Among Democrats, Spitzer squeaks out a slim majority of his own party -- 52%. However, Republicans would be more firmly behind their candidate, Pataki. 86% of New York’s GOP would support him. 61% of non-enrolled voters align with the GOP.

### **Nature of the Sample: 805 New York State Registered Voters**

This survey of 805 New York State registered voters was conducted on September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 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. 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 at  $\pm 3.5\%$ . There are 354 Democrats. Results for this subsample are statistically significant at  $\pm 5.5\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Marist Poll September 2009  
NYS Registered Voter Tables

		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
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		3%	23%	38%	9%	27%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	4%	26%	38%	5%	27%
	Republican	1%	21%	37%	16%	25%
	Non-enrolled	1%	19%	41%	9%	30%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	3%	30%	34%	3%	31%
	Moderate	3%	22%	41%	8%	27%
	Conservative	3%	19%	39%	15%	24%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	3%	14%	42%	10%	31%
	Suburbs	0%	13%	43%	8%	36%
	Upstate	4%	32%	34%	10%	20%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	1%	27%	39%	6%	27%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	23%	38%	12%	25%
	\$100,000 or more	3%	20%	41%	11%	26%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	1%	27%	39%	6%	27%
	\$50,000 or more	2%	22%	39%	11%	25%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	3%	23%	41%	9%	24%
	College graduate	2%	22%	37%	9%	30%
<b>Race</b>	White	2%	24%	37%	10%	25%
	Non White	5%	16%	40%	5%	35%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	3%	24%	36%	6%	31%
	Catholic	3%	23%	37%	12%	24%
	Jewish	2%	19%	47%	7%	25%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	6%	19%	53%	4%	17%
	30 to 44	1%	24%	39%	7%	29%
	45 to 59	1%	24%	36%	13%	26%
	60 or older	5%	22%	35%	11%	29%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	3%	22%	44%	6%	26%
	45 or older	3%	23%	35%	12%	27%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	3%	22%	40%	11%	25%
	Women	3%	23%	37%	8%	30%

Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=805 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If the 2010 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>		44%	48%	8%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	62%	32%	6%
	Republican	21%	71%	7%
	Non-enrolled	42%	50%	8%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	65%	29%	7%
	Moderate	49%	44%	7%
	Conservative	26%	66%	8%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	43%	45%	12%
	Suburbs	35%	58%	7%
	Upstate	50%	44%	6%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	48%	44%	8%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	40%	53%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	47%	48%	5%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	48%	44%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	51%	6%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	42%	50%	8%
	College graduate	47%	46%	7%
<b>Race</b>	White	44%	50%	6%
	Non White	46%	41%	13%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	44%	49%	8%
	Catholic	41%	53%	5%
	Jewish	47%	43%	10%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	25%	63%	11%
	30 to 44	43%	53%	4%
	45 to 59	51%	40%	9%
	60 or older	47%	46%	8%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	37%	56%	6%
	45 or older	49%	43%	8%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	43%	50%	7%
	Women	45%	46%	9%

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		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
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		17%	41%	26%	13%	3%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	26%	46%	19%	7%	2%
	Republican	10%	31%	36%	21%	3%
	Non-enrolled	13%	41%	31%	12%	3%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	27%	48%	16%	4%	5%
	Moderate	20%	43%	27%	10%	1%
	Conservative	8%	32%	34%	22%	3%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	21%	45%	20%	13%	1%
	Suburbs	14%	45%	25%	15%	2%
	Upstate	17%	36%	31%	12%	4%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	16%	43%	28%	9%	4%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	19%	38%	28%	13%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	17%	42%	23%	16%	2%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	16%	43%	28%	9%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	18%	40%	26%	14%	2%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	17%	34%	32%	13%	3%
	College graduate	17%	48%	21%	12%	2%
<b>Race</b>	White	17%	41%	26%	13%	3%
	Non White	18%	40%	29%	11%	3%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	15%	41%	27%	13%	4%
	Catholic	16%	41%	29%	13%	1%
	Jewish	25%	44%	15%	15%	1%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	9%	43%	30%	15%	2%
	30 to 44	11%	47%	32%	8%	2%
	45 to 59	18%	40%	25%	14%	2%
	60 or older	24%	35%	22%	15%	4%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	10%	46%	31%	11%	2%
	45 or older	21%	38%	24%	14%	3%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	16%	37%	28%	16%	2%
	Women	18%	44%	24%	10%	3%

Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=805 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Do you want Eliot Spitzer to run for statewide office in 2010, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		27%	69%	4%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	32%	62%	6%
	Republican	20%	77%	3%
	Non-enrolled	25%	72%	3%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	33%	61%	6%
	Moderate	26%	71%	3%
	Conservative	25%	72%	3%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	32%	63%	5%
	Suburbs	22%	75%	3%
	Upstate	26%	70%	4%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	39%	56%	5%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	26%	71%	4%
	\$100,000 or more	20%	76%	4%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	39%	56%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	23%	73%	4%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	32%	64%	3%
	College graduate	22%	74%	4%
<b>Race</b>	White	24%	72%	3%
	Non White	37%	56%	7%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	31%	65%	4%
	Catholic	25%	72%	4%
	Jewish	24%	73%	3%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	42%	56%	2%
	30 to 44	27%	68%	5%
	45 to 59	23%	73%	4%
	60 or older	26%	70%	4%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	32%	64%	4%
	45 or older	24%	72%	4%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	28%	69%	3%
	Women	26%	69%	5%

Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=805 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Democrats			
If next years New York State Democratic primary for Governor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:			
	David Paterson	Eliot Spitzer	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
Democrats	60%	31%	9%

Marist Poll New York Registered Democrats "N=354 MOE +/- 5.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Democrats			
If next years Democratic primary for Comptroller in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:			
	Thomas DiNapoli	Eliot Spitzer	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
Democrats	49%	37%	14%

Marist Poll New York Registered Democrats "N=354 MOE +/- 5.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Democrats			
If next years Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:			
	Kirsten Gillibrand	Eliot Spitzer	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
Democrats	57%	29%	14%

Marist Poll New York Registered Democrats "N=354 MOE +/- 5.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If the 2010 election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Eliot Spitzer, the Democratic candidate	George Pataki, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		33%	58%	9%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	52%	39%	9%
	Republican	10%	86%	4%
	Non-enrolled	29%	61%	9%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	56%	33%	11%
	Moderate	34%	60%	6%
	Conservative	18%	75%	8%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	41%	45%	14%
	Suburbs	30%	65%	5%
	Upstate	31%	62%	7%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	41%	50%	9%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	33%	62%	6%
	\$100,000 or more	31%	62%	7%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	41%	50%	9%
	\$50,000 or more	32%	62%	6%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	32%	59%	8%
	College graduate	35%	57%	8%
<b>Race</b>	White	29%	65%	6%
	Non White	54%	33%	14%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	38%	54%	9%
	Catholic	27%	67%	6%
	Jewish	38%	53%	9%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	44%	47%	9%
	30 to 44	33%	65%	2%
	45 to 59	32%	58%	10%
	60 or older	32%	58%	10%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	37%	59%	4%
	45 or older	32%	58%	10%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	31%	61%	8%
	Women	35%	55%	9%

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