



NYS Voters On White House Involvement In NYS Politics

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

NY Voters to Obama, “Mind Your Business”

The White House is urging Governor David Paterson not to run for office next year, but what do New York State voters think? 62% say the Obama Administration is wrong to suggest the governor should not run while 27% think Washington is well within its rights to get involved. 11% are unsure. Even a majority -- 51% -- of Democrats believes the Administration is meddling. 77% of Republicans and 64% of non-enrolled voters agree.

Do voters change their minds if presented with the possibility that Paterson's candidacy could have a negative impact on other Democrats running for office in New York State? The electorate does not waiver. 60% of registered voters say the White House should not have suggested that Paterson give up his gubernatorial aspirations even if this is the case. 30% of voters, on the other hand, believe this would be a reason for the Obama Administration to speak out.

Not surprisingly, Democrats are more worried about Paterson's impact on the 2010 Democratic ticket than are Republicans. Still, only 42% of Democrats agree with the actions of the White House based on this rationale, and 48% report the White House was *incorrect* in urging Paterson not to run. Looking across the aisle, 75% of Republicans overwhelmingly believe the Obama Administration overstepped its bounds while 18% think the move was a right one. Non-enrolled voters are more in line with Republicans on this issue. Regardless of the potential impact Paterson's run may have on other Democratic candidates, 68% report the White House's action was wrong while 21% think it was right.

Few New York State voters are surprised by the White House's interest in next year's New York State elections. Just 25% are surprised while 73% are not.

Paterson: Democratic Liability?...63% Don't Want Him to Run

Voters divide over whether having Governor Paterson on the ticket in 2010 will hurt other Democratic candidates. 43% agree he will while 41% disagree. 16% are unsure. 48% of Democrats believe Paterson will be detrimental to other candidates while 36% disagree. Republicans move toward the other end of the spectrum with 47% reporting Paterson will not harm other Democratic politicians' electoral aspirations and 39% saying he will. Non-

enrolled voters divide. 43% do not think that Paterson is a drain on the ticket. 39%, however, think he will damage the Democrats' hopefuls in other races.

There is greater consensus, however, on the question of whether voters want Paterson to run. More than six in ten voters -- 63% -- do not want Paterson to continue his gubernatorial quest. Just 25% would like to see Paterson make a bid. When Marist asked this question last week, 70% of registered voters thought Paterson should get out of the race while 27% thought he should run.

Democrats and Republicans agree on this question. Nearly two-thirds within each party, including 65% of Democrats, do not think Paterson should run for governor next year.

Paterson's Approval Rating at New Low

It is obvious this week has been a bad political week for Governor Paterson: the White House came out against his gubernatorial campaign, and the president, himself, praised the biggest threat to Paterson receiving the Democratic nomination for governor -- New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. And, the news for Paterson is about to get even worse. His approval rating is at an all time low. Currently, 17% of voters in New York State report he is doing either an excellent or good job in office while a whopping 44% say he is performing poorly. When Marist last asked this question earlier this month, Paterson's rating was at 20%. The governor's approval rating isn't the only one that has dropped. President Obama has slipped in the eyes of New York State voters but holds onto a slim majority of the electorate in this otherwise blue state.

Obama Holds Onto Slim Majority in NYS...Approval Rating Slips

The flare-up between the White House and Albany is not doing President Obama any good either. 52% of New York State registered voters say President Barack Obama is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 46% report he is doing a subpar job. The president's approval rating has dipped 5 percentage points since Marist last asked this question earlier this month. At that time, 57% thought the president was doing an above average job, and 43% said Mr. Obama was doing either a fair or poor job in office. The president's approval rating has been declining among New York State's voters since March when he received a positive rating of 68%.

There has been little change in the proportion of Democrats and Republicans who approve of the president's job performance since Marist last asked this question. However, there has been a drop among non-enrolled voters in the state. Currently, 42% of these voters report Obama is performing well in office. 53% held this view last week.

Giuliani with Majority Against Gillibrand...Pataki with Edge in Gillibrand Matchup

If the Obama Administration is concerned about the 2010 elections in New York State, perhaps, there is good reason. In a Marist Poll earlier this month, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's approval rating was 26% with more than a quarter of registered voters unsure how to rate her. When she is currently pitted against former Republican New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani in a hypothetical matchup for U.S. Senate, Gillibrand has some ground to gain. If the election were held today, Giuliani would win a slim majority of the electorate -- 51% -- to Gillibrand's 40%.

While support does divide along party lines, nearly three in ten Democrats say they would support Republican challenger Giuliani. Currently, 62% of Democrats would back Gillibrand while 29% would support Giuliani. On the Republican side, 80% are behind Giuliani compared with 13% for Gillibrand. By a two-to-one margin, non-enrolled voters support Giuliani, 60% to Gillibrand's 30%.

The picture for Gillibrand is somewhat, although not much, better when she faces off against former New York State Governor George Pataki. Pataki edges Gillibrand 45% to 41% among registered voters in New York State. In a Marist Poll earlier in September, Pataki received 48% of the electorate to Gillibrand's 44%.

The parties break in support of their respective candidates. Among non-enrolled voters, Pataki is leading Gillibrand, but a notable proportion is undecided. 48% of these voters say they would support Pataki if the race were held today while 32% would back Gillibrand. 20% are unsure.

Nature of the Sample: 616 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 616 registered voters in New York State was conducted on September 22, 2009. Registered voters were interviewed 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. A mixed-mode methodology was used to interview respondents. Interviews were conducted either by live telephone interviewers or by an interactive voice response (IVR) technology. Results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Marist Poll September 2009
NYS Registered Voter Tables

		Registered Voters		
		Do you think it is right or wrong for the White House to suggest that Governor Paterson should not run for election next year?		
		Right	Wrong	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		27%	62%	11%
Party Registration	Democrat	36%	51%	13%
	Republican	17%	77%	6%
	Non-enrolled	22%	64%	14%
Region	New York City	29%	58%	14%
	Suburbs	25%	64%	11%
	Upstate	28%	63%	10%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	27%	57%	16%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	25%	67%	8%
	\$100,000 or more	31%	63%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	23%	63%	14%
	College graduate	31%	60%	9%
Race	White	28%	63%	9%
	Non-white	25%	58%	17%
Age	Under 35	39%	45%	16%
	35 and older	24%	67%	8%
Gender	Men	27%	66%	7%
	Women	28%	57%	15%

Marist Poll New York State Registered Voters "N=616 MOE +/- 4.0%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		How about if having David Paterson on the ticket hurts other Democratic candidates running in New York; Do you think it is right or wrong for the White House to suggest that Governor Paterson should not run for election next year?		
		Right	Wrong	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		30%	60%	10%
Party Registration	Democrat	42%	48%	11%
	Republican	18%	75%	8%
	Non-enrolled	21%	68%	12%
Region	New York City	35%	54%	11%
	Suburbs	23%	65%	13%
	Upstate	30%	61%	9%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	25%	58%	17%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	31%	61%	8%
	\$100,000 or more	29%	63%	8%
Education	Not college graduate	27%	60%	13%
	College graduate	33%	60%	8%
Race	White	29%	61%	9%
	Non-white	30%	56%	13%
Age	Under 35	37%	49%	15%
	35 and older	28%	66%	6%
Gender	Men	30%	64%	6%
	Women	29%	57%	14%

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		Registered Voters		
		Are you surprised or not surprised that the White House is paying attention to next year's New York State elections?		
		Surprised	Not surprised	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		25%	73%	2%
Party Registration	Democrat	24%	74%	2%
	Republican	25%	74%	1%
	Non-enrolled	24%	72%	4%
Region	New York City	29%	69%	2%
	Suburbs	20%	77%	2%
	Upstate	24%	74%	2%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	29%	67%	4%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	23%	76%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	22%	78%	0%
Education	Not college graduate	29%	69%	2%
	College graduate	21%	78%	2%
Race	White	25%	74%	2%
	Non-white	24%	72%	4%
Age	Under 35	24%	76%	0%
	35 and older	26%	72%	2%
Gender	Men	22%	77%	1%
	Women	28%	69%	3%

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		Registered Voters		
		Do you agree or disagree that having David Paterson on the ticket would hurt other Democratic candidates running in New York next year?		
		Agree	Disagree	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		43%	41%	16%
Party Registration	Democrat	48%	36%	16%
	Republican	39%	47%	14%
	Non-enrolled	39%	43%	18%
Region	New York City	42%	43%	15%
	Suburbs	42%	40%	18%
	Upstate	44%	41%	16%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	40%	38%	22%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	43%	44%	13%
	\$100,000 or more	50%	38%	12%
Education	Not college graduate	39%	43%	17%
	College graduate	47%	39%	13%
Race	White	45%	40%	15%
	Non-white	38%	46%	16%
Age	Under 35	55%	36%	9%
	35 and older	40%	45%	16%
Gender	Men	46%	41%	12%
	Women	40%	41%	19%

Marist Poll New York State Registered Voters "N=616 MOE +/- 4.0%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Do you want David Paterson to run for governor in 2010, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		25%	63%	12%
Party Registration	Democrat	26%	65%	9%
	Republican	24%	64%	13%
	Non-enrolled	25%	58%	17%
Region	New York City	33%	56%	11%
	Suburbs	20%	65%	15%
	Upstate	23%	65%	12%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	23%	61%	16%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	26%	65%	10%
	\$100,000 or more	27%	62%	10%
Education	Not college graduate	22%	64%	14%
	College graduate	28%	61%	10%
Race	White	24%	65%	11%
	Non-white	31%	53%	16%
Age	Under 35	19%	65%	15%
	35 and older	26%	66%	8%
Gender	Men	30%	62%	8%
	Women	20%	63%	17%

Marist Poll New York State Registered Voters "N=616 MOE +/- 4.0%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job Governor David Paterson is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		3%	14%	35%	44%	4%
Party Registration	Democrat	4%	16%	36%	41%	2%
	Republican	1%	10%	33%	51%	5%
	Non-enrolled	1%	19%	33%	43%	5%
Region	New York City	4%	17%	34%	42%	3%
	Suburbs	2%	11%	39%	41%	6%
	Upstate	2%	14%	33%	47%	4%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	5%	17%	36%	34%	8%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	15%	33%	49%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	1%	9%	35%	52%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	1%	15%	37%	42%	5%
	College graduate	4%	14%	33%	46%	3%
Race	White	2%	12%	35%	47%	4%
	Non-white	6%	20%	35%	36%	2%
Age	Under 35	5%	3%	41%	46%	5%
	35 and older	2%	16%	32%	47%	3%
Gender	Men	2%	16%	29%	50%	4%
	Women	4%	13%	41%	39%	4%

Marist Poll New York State Registered Voters "N=616 MOE +/- 4.0%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job President Barack Obama is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		25%	27%	20%	26%	2%
Party Registration	Democrat	40%	35%	12%	10%	2%
	Republican	6%	21%	30%	43%	1%
	Non-enrolled	20%	22%	23%	33%	3%
Region	New York City	37%	30%	13%	19%	1%
	Suburbs	29%	23%	17%	30%	0%
	Upstate	16%	28%	26%	27%	2%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	29%	24%	23%	21%	3%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	22%	28%	22%	26%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	23%	27%	16%	34%	0%
Education	Not college graduate	20%	26%	26%	26%	2%
	College graduate	30%	29%	15%	25%	1%
Race	White	19%	29%	22%	29%	1%
	Non-white	43%	28%	11%	15%	3%
Age	Under 35	30%	25%	18%	24%	4%
	35 and older	20%	29%	22%	28%	1%
Gender	Men	25%	23%	21%	31%	1%
	Women	25%	32%	20%	21%	2%

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		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	Rudy Giuliani, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		40%	51%	9%
Party Registration	Democrat	62%	29%	9%
	Republican	13%	80%	7%
	Non-enrolled	30%	60%	11%
Region	New York City	58%	38%	4%
	Suburbs	33%	52%	15%
	Upstate	33%	59%	8%
Household Income	Less \$50,000	51%	42%	7%
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		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 %
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