



Voters Want Change in Albany... Senate and Assembly Approval Ratings Low

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Monday, November 23, 2009

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This Marist Poll Reports:

It probably comes as no surprise that many voters want change in Albany. In fact, 71% say the way things are done in Albany need major changes, and another 11% believe government in Albany is broken and beyond repair. Only 18% think daily operations in the state capital need minor changes.

“Albany is not a good place for politicians right now,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Poll, “Voters are dissatisfied with how things are being run and want change.”

Governor David Paterson’s approval rating is at a dreadful 20% among registered voters in New York State, but he isn’t the only one who is in the dog house among voters. The New York State Senate and Assembly aren’t faring better. Just 16% of voters statewide believe the State Senate is doing either an excellent or good job in office, and nearly a majority -- 48% -- thinks the legislative body is performing poorly.

How does the State Senate do along party lines? 17% of Democrats, 13% of Republicans, and 16% of non-enrolled voters approve of the Senate’s job performance. There has been little change in the Senate’s approval rating among the parties since Marist’s September survey.

There is even worse news for state senators. Voters divide about whether they plan to re-elect their current representative come 2010. If the election were held today, 44% report they would cast their ballot for the incumbent while 42% report they would say someone else. Republican voters want to make a change more than Democrats. A majority -- 51% -- of New York’s GOP say they would vote for the challenger. This compares with 33% of Democrats who vow to do the same. 47% of non-enrolled voters agree.

As for the State Assembly, it is scraping bottom along with the Senate. Only 13% of New York State voters approve of the job the Assembly is doing while 47% give the chamber poor marks. This is little changed from Marist’s September survey.

And, like their counterparts in the State Senate, members of the Assembly need to rally the support of their constituents. 44% of voters say they would choose for their current

representative if the 2010 elections were held today, but 43% report they would cast their ballot for someone new. Again, Republicans and non-enrolled voters are more likely to vote against the incumbent than are Democrats. 49% of the state's GOP and half of non-enrolled voters want to oust their current representative while one-third of Democrats share this view.

NY In Need of a Road Map

As for the direction of the state, 75% of voters think New York is moving in the wrong direction while 20% say its trajectory is on the mark. Similar proportions of voters held these views when Marist asked about the direction of New York State in its September 16th poll.

Nature of the Sample: 805 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 805 New York State registered voters was conducted on November 12th, November 16th, and November 17th 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. In an effort 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 +/- 3.5%. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

**Marist Poll November 2009
NYS Registered Voter Tables**

		Registered Voters		
		Do you think the way things are done in state government in Albany, do not need to be changed, need minor changes, need major changes or are broken and beyond repair?*		
		Need minor changes	Need major changes	Are broken and beyond repair
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		18%	71%	11%
Party Registration	Democrat	21%	72%	7%
	Republican	13%	73%	15%
	Non-enrolled	21%	67%	12%
Political Ideology	Liberal	24%	69%	7%
	Moderate	15%	73%	12%
	Conservative	16%	70%	14%
Region	New York City	24%	68%	8%
	Suburbs	19%	69%	12%
	Upstate	15%	73%	12%
Income	less \$50,000	25%	65%	10%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	13%	80%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	17%	68%	15%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	25%	65%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	15%	75%	11%
Education	Not college graduate	23%	70%	7%
	College graduate	14%	72%	14%
Race	White	16%	74%	10%
	Non White	29%	61%	10%
Religion	Protestant	23%	69%	9%
	Catholic	13%	77%	10%
	Jewish	23%	64%	13%
Age	18 to 29	42%	54%	4%
	30 to 44	21%	68%	10%
	45 to 59	12%	75%	12%
	60 or older	11%	76%	13%
Age	Under 45	28%	64%	8%
	45 or older	12%	76%	13%
Gender	Men	16%	68%	16%
	Women	20%	74%	6%

Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=805 MOE +/- 3.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. *There were no responses for "do not need to be changed."

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job the New York State Senate in Albany is doing as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		1%	15%	33%	48%	3%
Party Registration	Democrat	1%	16%	35%	42%	5%
	Republican	1%	12%	27%	60%	1%
	Non-enrolled	0%	16%	35%	46%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	1%	17%	36%	40%	5%
	Moderate	0%	11%	37%	50%	3%
	Conservative	1%	17%	24%	56%	3%
Region	New York City	0%	19%	36%	40%	5%
	Suburbs	0%	18%	27%	49%	6%
	Upstate	1%	11%	34%	53%	2%
Income	less \$50,000	0%	23%	35%	37%	5%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	13%	32%	50%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	0%	9%	31%	58%	1%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	0%	23%	35%	37%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	1%	11%	32%	54%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	1%	19%	37%	39%	4%
	College graduate	0%	12%	27%	58%	3%
Race	White	0%	12%	32%	52%	4%
	Non White	2%	29%	36%	30%	3%
Religion	Protestant	1%	17%	35%	42%	4%
	Catholic	0%	14%	33%	50%	3%
	Jewish	2%	16%	25%	54%	3%
Age	18 to 29	3%	29%	42%	20%	6%
	30 to 44	0%	13%	34%	49%	4%
	45 to 59	0%	14%	33%	52%	2%
	60 or older	1%	12%	28%	55%	4%
Age	Under 45	1%	18%	37%	40%	5%
	45 or older	0%	13%	30%	53%	3%
Gender	Men	1%	13%	26%	59%	2%
	Women	0%	17%	40%	38%	5%

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 New York State Senate were held today, would you support your current state senator who represents your district in Albany or would you vote for someone else?		
		Vote for current state senator	Vote for someone else	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		44%	42%	14%
Party Registration	Democrat	49%	33%	18%
	Republican	41%	51%	8%
	Non-enrolled	41%	47%	12%
Political Ideology	Liberal	51%	29%	19%
	Moderate	48%	41%	11%
	Conservative	36%	54%	10%
Region	New York City	46%	36%	17%
	Suburbs	41%	45%	14%
	Upstate	45%	44%	12%
Income	less \$50,000	43%	43%	14%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	43%	43%	13%
	\$100,000 or more	48%	43%	9%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	43%	43%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	45%	43%	12%
Education	Not college graduate	44%	44%	12%
	College graduate	45%	40%	15%
Race	White	45%	41%	14%
	Non White	47%	42%	12%
Religion	Protestant	42%	43%	15%
	Catholic	46%	45%	9%
	Jewish	49%	31%	20%
Age	18 to 29	41%	49%	10%
	30 to 44	41%	44%	15%
	45 to 59	46%	43%	12%
	60 or older	47%	38%	16%
Age	Under 45	41%	45%	14%
	45 or older	46%	40%	14%
Gender	Men	41%	50%	10%
	Women	48%	34%	18%

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

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job the New York State Assembly in Albany is doing as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		1%	12%	36%	47%	4%
Party Registration	Democrat	2%	16%	37%	41%	5%
	Republican	1%	8%	30%	60%	1%
	Non-enrolled	1%	13%	39%	43%	4%
Political Ideology	Liberal	3%	13%	39%	37%	7%
	Moderate	0%	13%	35%	51%	1%
	Conservative	1%	10%	32%	54%	3%
Region	New York City	1%	20%	34%	39%	6%
	Suburbs	1%	12%	36%	47%	5%
	Upstate	2%	8%	36%	52%	2%
Income	less \$50,000	2%	17%	38%	38%	5%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	12%	36%	47%	4%
	\$100,000 or more	0%	9%	31%	57%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	2%	17%	38%	38%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	1%	10%	34%	52%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	2%	14%	40%	40%	4%
	College graduate	1%	11%	31%	54%	3%
Race	White	1%	10%	34%	51%	4%
	Non White	3%	23%	44%	26%	3%
Religion	Protestant	2%	18%	34%	43%	3%
	Catholic	1%	11%	37%	48%	3%
	Jewish	1%	12%	26%	58%	4%
Age	18 to 29	3%	24%	48%	19%	6%
	30 to 44	1%	10%	37%	47%	4%
	45 to 59	1%	10%	36%	51%	2%
	60 or older	1%	12%	29%	54%	4%
Age	Under 45	2%	14%	41%	38%	5%
	45 or older	1%	11%	33%	52%	3%
Gender	Men	2%	8%	30%	57%	3%
	Women	0%	16%	41%	37%	5%

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 New York State Assembly were held today, would you support your current state assembly person who represents your district in Albany or would you vote for someone else?		
		Vote for current state assembly person	Vote for someone else	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		44%	43%	13%
Party Registration	Democrat	49%	33%	18%
	Republican	41%	49%	10%
	Non-enrolled	39%	50%	10%
Political Ideology	Liberal	51%	31%	18%
	Moderate	45%	44%	10%
	Conservative	37%	51%	12%
Region	New York City	49%	34%	18%
	Suburbs	44%	41%	15%
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		Registered Voters		
		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?		
		Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		20%	75%	5%
Party Registration	Democrat	28%	65%	7%
	Republican	9%	90%	1%
	Non-enrolled	17%	78%	5%
Political Ideology	Liberal	27%	66%	7%
	Moderate	20%	77%	3%
	Conservative	14%	82%	4%
Region	New York City	31%	59%	10%
	Suburbs	17%	78%	4%
	Upstate	15%	84%	2%
Income	less \$50,000	19%	76%	4%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	21%	76%	3%
	\$100,000 or more	20%	77%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	19%	76%	4%
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Education	Not college graduate	20%	75%	5%
	College graduate	19%	77%	4%
Race	White	18%	79%	4%
	Non White	33%	58%	9%
Religion	Protestant	19%	76%	5%
	Catholic	17%	79%	4%
	Jewish	29%	65%	6%
Age	18 to 29	27%	70%	2%
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