



## **Governor Cuomo...Take Two?**

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

**For Immediate Release: Friday, November 20, 2009**

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff  
Barbara L. Carvalho  
Mary E. Azzoli  
Marist College  
845.575.5050

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

If New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is seriously considering a bid for New York governor, there may be one less obstacle in his path. According to published reports, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has decided he will not run for the office, removing Cuomo's most formidable opponent on his way to the statehouse. Cuomo has huge leads over fellow Democrat David Paterson for his party's nomination and Rick Lazio, the only announced Republican candidate.

"Right now, Andrew Cuomo has a clear path to become governor," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Poll, "If he could fast-forward to next November, I'm sure he would."

For months, there has been speculation that Cuomo will challenge Governor David Paterson for the Democratic nomination.

Among Democrats statewide, 72% report they would support Cuomo if the Democratic primary were held today while just 21% say they would vote for Paterson. Little has changed since Marist last asked about a potential Paterson-Cuomo primary face-off in mid-September.

It's not just the Democrats who want to oust Paterson. Voters statewide also want a change. 63% of registered New York State voters do not want Paterson to run for governor. Three in ten, on the other hand, would like to see him seek election. When Marist last asked this question in its September 24<sup>th</sup> survey, 63% wanted Paterson to drop out, and 25% wanted him to remain in the contest.

And, although Governor Paterson has launched a media campaign to change his electoral prospects, the television ads have done little to alter the race. Overall, a majority of voters statewide -- 56% -- say they've seen at least one television ad for Paterson. But, viewing the ad does not change how voters feel about Paterson's political future. 65% of voters who say they have watched a Paterson campaign ad say Paterson should not run for governor. This proportion closely reflects the overall proportion of registered voters who, regardless of whether they have seen an ad or not, do not want the governor to be in the race.

## **Lazio Crushed by Cuomo...Competitive Against Paterson**

Former U.S. Representative Rick Lazio has made no bones about the fact that he wants to be the Republican nominee for governor. But, how does he stack up against his possible, Democratic opponents? If Andrew Cuomo were the Democratic nominee and the election were held today, Cuomo would defeat Lazio by an almost three-to-one margin. Cuomo receives 69% of voters' support to Lazio's 24%. When Lazio is pitted against Governor David Paterson, the race is more competitive. In fact, voters divide. 44% of the electorate would back Paterson, and 44% would cast their ballot for Lazio. 12% are undecided. Little has changed in both of these hypothetical matchups since Marist last asked about them in mid-September.

## **Paterson and Cuomo: A Tale of Two Approval Ratings**

When it comes to how voters view Paterson and Cuomo's job performances, the two men fall on opposite ends of the spectrum.

66% of the state's electorate thinks Cuomo is doing either an excellent or good job in office while just 6% say he is performing poorly.

Cuomo has consistently enjoyed kudos from New York's electorate. 69% thought he was doing an above average job when Marist last tracked Cuomo's approval rating in mid-September. In Marist's June survey, he received a similar proportion.

While Cuomo is the most popular statewide officeholder, Paterson is the most unpopular. Just one-fifth of registered voters think Governor Paterson is doing either an excellent or good job in office. More than one-third -- 35% -- report he is performing poorly. When Marist last asked about Governor Paterson's approval rating in its September 24<sup>th</sup> survey, the governor hit an all-time low with 17% giving the governor high marks. 44%, at that time, ranked Paterson's performance as poor.

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

This survey of 805 New York State registered voters was conducted on November 12<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and November 17<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. 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%. There are 365 Democrats. The results for this subset are statistically significant at  $\pm 5.5\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

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

		Democrats		
		If next year's New York State Democratic primary for Governor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		David Paterson	Andrew Cuomo	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Democrats		21%	72%	7%
Governor Paterson Campaign Ad	Seen an ad	20%	74%	6%
	Have not seen an ad	21%	74%	5%

Marist Poll New York Registered Democrats "N=365 MOE +/- 5.5%". 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		30%	63%	7%
Governor Paterson Campaign Ad	Seen an ad	31%	65%	4%
	Have not seen an ad	30%	61%	10%
Party Registration	Democrat	34%	57%	8%
	Republican	28%	66%	6%
	Non-enrolled	27%	66%	7%
Political Ideology	Liberal	29%	63%	8%
	Moderate	31%	64%	5%
	Conservative	30%	63%	7%
Region	New York City	33%	58%	9%
	Suburbs	22%	69%	8%
	Upstate	32%	63%	5%
Income	less \$50,000	39%	56%	5%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	26%	68%	6%
	\$100,000 or more	27%	66%	6%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	39%	56%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	26%	67%	6%
Education	Not college graduate	30%	63%	7%
	College graduate	31%	63%	7%
Race	White	27%	67%	6%
	Non White	47%	45%	8%
Religion	Protestant	39%	57%	5%
	Catholic	26%	67%	7%
	Jewish	30%	64%	6%
Age	18 to 29	37%	59%	5%
	30 to 44	26%	64%	11%
	45 to 59	34%	62%	5%
	60 or older	28%	65%	7%
Age	Under 45	29%	62%	9%
	45 or older	31%	64%	6%
Gender	Men	31%	62%	6%
	Women	29%	63%	8%

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

		Registered Voters			
		How many times, in just the past couple of weeks, have you seen a campaign ad for Governor Paterson on television:			
		Not at all	Once	Two or more times	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		42%	14%	42%	2%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	38%	15%	44%	3%
	Republican	43%	11%	43%	3%
	Non-enrolled	44%	16%	39%	1%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	38%	18%	42%	2%
	Moderate	46%	12%	41%	1%
	Conservative	39%	15%	43%	3%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	46%	12%	39%	3%
	Suburbs	35%	16%	48%	1%
	Upstate	43%	14%	41%	2%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	37%	12%	51%	1%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	42%	17%	40%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	46%	15%	38%	1%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	37%	12%	51%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	16%	39%	1%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	40%	14%	46%	1%
	College graduate	44%	15%	39%	2%
<b>Race</b>	White	41%	13%	44%	2%
	Non White	42%	18%	38%	3%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	46%	12%	41%	2%
	Catholic	37%	14%	46%	2%
	Jewish	39%	18%	40%	3%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	50%	19%	29%	2%
	30 to 44	47%	17%	32%	4%
	45 to 59	38%	13%	47%	1%
	60 or older	36%	10%	52%	1%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	48%	18%	31%	3%
	45 or older	37%	12%	50%	1%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	47%	14%	39%	1%
	Women	37%	15%	46%	3%

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 Governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Andrew Cuomo, the Democratic candidate	Rick Lazio, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		<b>69%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Party Registration</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Republican</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	<b>Non-enrolled</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Political Ideology</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>New York City</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>6%</b>
	<b>Suburbs</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Upstate</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>less \$50,000</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>\$50,000-\$99,999</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>6%</b>
	<b>\$100,000 or more</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Not college graduate</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>College graduate</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	<b>Non White</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Religion</b>	<b>Protestant</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>4%</b>
	<b>Catholic</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>18 to 29</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>30 to 44</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<b>45 to 59</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>6%</b>
	<b>60 or older</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>7%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>8%</b>

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 Governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		David Paterson, the Democratic candidate	Rick Lazio, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		44%	44%	12%
<b>Governor Paterson Campaign Ad</b>	Seen an ad	44%	43%	12%
	Have not seen an ad	43%	45%	12%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	66%	21%	13%
	Republican	17%	74%	9%
	Non-enrolled	40%	47%	13%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	70%	21%	9%
	Moderate	45%	42%	13%
	Conservative	22%	66%	12%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	62%	27%	11%
	Suburbs	36%	54%	10%
	Upstate	38%	48%	14%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	47%	39%	14%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	43%	46%	11%
	\$100,000 or more	43%	49%	8%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	47%	39%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	47%	10%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	42%	47%	11%
	College graduate	46%	41%	12%
<b>Race</b>	White	40%	48%	12%
	Non White	66%	26%	8%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	46%	44%	10%
	Catholic	36%	52%	12%
	Jewish	49%	36%	15%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	52%	43%	5%
	30 to 44	43%	43%	14%
	45 to 59	44%	44%	12%
	60 or older	43%	45%	13%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	46%	43%	11%
	45 or older	43%	44%	12%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	40%	49%	11%
	Women	48%	39%	13%

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 New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		20%	46%	22%	6%	6%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	23%	49%	18%	2%	8%
	Republican	18%	43%	26%	10%	3%
	Non-enrolled	19%	45%	22%	7%	6%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	27%	46%	18%	2%	8%
	Moderate	19%	52%	20%	5%	4%
	Conservative	17%	39%	28%	10%	7%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	21%	50%	18%	4%	7%
	Suburbs	23%	44%	20%	7%	7%
	Upstate	19%	45%	25%	7%	4%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	18%	50%	18%	7%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	21%	47%	21%	4%	6%
	\$100,000 or more	23%	42%	24%	6%	5%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	18%	50%	18%	7%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	22%	45%	23%	5%	6%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	17%	45%	23%	7%	8%
	College graduate	23%	47%	20%	5%	4%
<b>Race</b>	White	21%	46%	22%	5%	6%
	Non White	19%	50%	21%	8%	3%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	20%	47%	19%	8%	6%
	Catholic	19%	45%	25%	5%	6%
	Jewish	28%	40%	23%	4%	5%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	10%	34%	30%	11%	15%
	30 to 44	11%	47%	29%	4%	10%
	45 to 59	20%	50%	21%	7%	2%
	60 or older	33%	46%	12%	5%	3%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	10%	42%	29%	6%	12%
	45 or older	26%	48%	17%	6%	3%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	22%	44%	20%	9%	6%
	Women	19%	48%	23%	3%	6%

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 Governor David Paterson is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		2%	18%	41%	35%	4%
<b>Party Registration</b>	Democrat	2%	21%	45%	26%	5%
	Republican	2%	13%	39%	44%	2%
	Non-enrolled	1%	18%	40%	38%	4%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	3%	22%	49%	21%	4%
	Moderate	1%	17%	41%	38%	2%
	Conservative	1%	15%	36%	42%	5%
<b>Region</b>	New York City	3%	21%	45%	27%	5%
	Suburbs	1%	11%	42%	38%	8%
	Upstate	2%	19%	39%	38%	2%
<b>Income</b>	less \$50,000	2%	23%	36%	33%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	16%	45%	34%	4%
	\$100,000 or more	1%	16%	46%	36%	1%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	2%	23%	36%	33%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	1%	16%	45%	35%	3%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	2%	18%	38%	37%	5%
	College graduate	1%	18%	45%	33%	3%
<b>Race</b>	White	2%	16%	43%	35%	4%
	Non White	1%	26%	37%	30%	6%
<b>Religion</b>	Protestant	3%	21%	40%	33%	3%
	Catholic	1%	16%	38%	40%	5%
	Jewish	3%	16%	49%	28%	5%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	2%	19%	41%	31%	7%
	30 to 44	0%	18%	41%	36%	5%
	45 to 59	3%	15%	42%	37%	2%
	60 or older	1%	20%	40%	35%	3%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	1%	18%	41%	34%	5%
	45 or older	2%	18%	41%	36%	3%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	3%	17%	37%	39%	4%
	Women	1%	18%	45%	31%	5%

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