



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ♦ Phone 845.575.5050 ♦ Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu

New Yorkers Rate Their Mayor and Their City

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Contact: Dr. Lee M. Miringoff
Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho
Marist College
845.575.5050

This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Mayor Bloomberg's job performance rating:** Mayor Michael Bloomberg's approval rating is 40% among New York City's registered voters. 7% of the electorate rates the job he is doing as excellent, 33% as good, 38% as fair, and 19% as poor. 3% are unsure. Mayor Bloomberg's support is higher in Staten Island and Manhattan, than it is in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. There is a racial divide in voters' assessments of the mayor.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Mayor Michael Bloomberg is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
April 2004	40%	7%	33%	38%	19%	3%
Borough						
Bronx	28%	4%	24%	49%	23%	<1%
Brooklyn	35%	6%	29%	42%	21%	2%
Manhattan	51%	10%	41%	35%	11%	3%
Queens	40%	7%	33%	32%	23%	5%
Staten Island	64%	15%	49%	21%	15%	<1%
Party						
Democrat	37%	6%	31%	38%	22%	3%
Republican	56%	15%	41%	30%	12%	2%
Non-enrolled	40%	5%	35%	40%	17%	3%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Race						
White	53%	12%	41%	30%	15%	2%
African American	28%	2%	26%	51%	20%	1%
Latino	22%	2%	20%	48%	26%	4%
Religion						
Protestant	42%	5%	37%	39%	18%	1%
Catholic	37%	7%	30%	42%	20%	1%
Jewish	55%	12%	43%	31%	13%	1%

- Voters rate the mayor on specific issues:** Most New York voters approve of the mayor's handling of security against terrorism in the city. The mayor also receives high marks from voters for his handling of crime and race relations. New York voters divide over Mayor Bloomberg's handling of economic development in the city and the city's budget. A majority of voters disapprove of his handling of the public schools and taxes.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how Mayor Michael Bloomberg is handling each of the following:

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
Security against a terror attack	71%	23%	6%
Crime	67%	30%	3%
Race relations	58%	33%	9%
Economic development	48%	45%	7%
The city's budget	44%	49%	7%
The public schools	38%	53%	9%
Taxes	32%	62%	6%

- Voters' perceptions of the mayor:** Many New York City voters think Mayor Bloomberg is working hard at his job and understands the problems of the city. But, a majority of voters do not think he is a good leader for New York, can unify the city, or cares about people like themselves.

Question Wording: Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Mayor Michael Bloomberg:

Registered Voters	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Is working hard as mayor	70%	28%	2%
Understands the problems facing New York City	54%	40%	6%
Is a good leader for New York	44%	51%	5%
Can unify the city and get it working together	43%	51%	6%
Cares about people like you	40%	56%	4%

- **The quality of city life:** Most New York residents favor the quality of life measures promoted by the Bloomberg administration.

Question Wording Do you favor or oppose each of the following quality of life measures promoted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg:

NYC Residents	Favor	Oppose	Unsure
Noise pollution prevention	74%	19%	7%
The ban on cell phones/pagers at public performances	67%	30%	3%
The ban on smoking in restaurants and bars	63%	35%	2%

However, a majority of city residents do not think the overall quality of life in New York City has improved in the past year.

Question Wording Thinking about the past year or so, do you feel that the overall quality of life in New York City has gotten better, gotten worse, or remained about the same? (If “remained about the same,” is it a good thing or a bad thing that things have remained the same?)

NYC Residents	Gotten Better	Same Good	Remained the Same	Same Bad	Gotten Worse
April 2004	17%	20%	7%	27%	29%

- **Residents divide over the direction of New York City:** 47% of New York City residents feel the city is moving in the right direction and 46% believe it is heading in the wrong direction. A majority of white residents think the city is going in the right direction, and a majority of African American and Latino residents believe the city is moving in the wrong direction.

Question Wording In general, thinking about the way things are going in New York City, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

NYC Residents	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
April 2004	47%	46%	7%
White	59%	33%	8%
African American	29%	62%	9%
Latino	42%	55%	3%

- 2005 Democratic primary for mayor:** Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer leads the field of Democratic mayoralty hopefuls for next year’s primary. A large number of Democratic voters are undecided.

Question Wording If the 2005 Democratic primary for mayor in New York City were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Democrats	April 2004
Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer	34%
Congressman Anthony Weiner	8%
Manhattan Borough President Virginia C. Fields	8%
Council Speaker Gifford Miller	6%
Controller William Thompson	6%
Councilman Charles Barron	2%
Undecided	36%

- The top contender:** Michael Bloomberg trails Fernando Ferrer, the leading Democrat, among New York City’s registered voters in a match-up for the 2005 race for mayor. However, neither candidate has the support of a majority of the city’s voters.

Question Wording If the 2005 election for mayor in New York City were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg, the Republican	Fernando Ferrer, the Democrat	Undecided
April 2004	41%	48%	11%

How the Survey Was Conducted

This survey was conducted from March 30th through April 2nd, 2004. 768 residents of New York City were interviewed in proportion to the population in each borough. All interviews were conducted by telephone. The results for residents are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. 546 registered voters in New York City and 335 registered Democrats were interviewed in proportion to the enrollment in each borough. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$ and for Democrats $\pm 5.5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.