



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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Stadium Decision Shakes Up NYC Mayor's Race

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Mayor Bloomberg's lead against potential Democratic rivals dwindles:**
Mayor Bloomberg's re-election prospects have been setback by Albany's decision to not fund the West Side stadium project. The mayor, who had a sizeable lead against each of his Democratic contenders only last week, now runs neck and neck with all but one of them. Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, who trailed Michael Bloomberg by 9 points, currently has the support of 46% of the city's registered voters compared with 45% for the mayor. Michael Bloomberg is closely matched against Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields and Council Speaker Gifford Miller. The mayor maintains a comfortable lead only against Congressman Anthony Weiner.

Question Wording: If the November 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
After decision	45%	46%	9%
Before decision	49%	40%	11%
April 2005	51%	38%	11%
March 2005	42%	49%	9%
December 2004	39%	51%	10%
September 2004	43%	47%	10%
April 2004	41%	48%	11%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg, the Republican	C. Virginia Fields, the Democrat	Undecided
After decision	45%	43%	12%
Before decision	49%	41%	10%
April 2005	47%	41%	12%
March 2005	45%	42%	13%
December 2004	44%	44%	12%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg, the Republican	Gifford Miller, the Democrat	Undecided
After decision	46%	41%	13%
Before decision	53%	36%	11%
April 2005	50%	36%	14%
March 2005	44%	42%	14%
December 2004	42%	40%	18%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg, the Republican	Anthony Weiner, the Democrat	Undecided
After decision	49%	36%	15%
Before decision	52%	34%	14%
April 2005	48%	36%	16%
March 2005	45%	41%	14%
December 2004	44%	39%	17%

- Voters think it's for the mayor to lose:** Most city voters believe Mayor Bloomberg is likely to win re-election. Regardless of their choice, 65% think he will come out on top in November.

Question Wording: Regardless of whom you are planning to vote for, who do you think will win the election for mayor:

Registered Voters	After Decision
Michael Bloomberg	65%
Fernando Ferrer	18%
Virginia Fields	3%
Anthony Weiner	3%
Gifford Miller	2%
Unsure	9%

- City voters divide over whether they would like to see a new face in City Hall:** 49% of city voters think it's time to elect someone other than Michael Bloomberg to the city's top post. 45% think he deserves to be re-elected mayor.

Question Wording: Overall, do you think Mayor Bloomberg deserves to be re-elected mayor or is it time to elect someone else?

Registered Voters	Deserves Re-election	Time to Elect Someone Else	Unsure
After decision	45%	49%	6%
Before decision	48%	46%	6%
April 2005	47%	48%	5%
March 2005	39%	56%	5%
December 2004	42%	53%	5%

- **If it's 2012...many voters think it will be Paris:** City voters support bringing the Olympics to New York. But, following the decision in Albany to not fund the West Side stadium, many now believe Paris will be the winner in its bid to host the 2012 summer games. Last week, voters thought it could be a tossup between New York and Paris.

Question Wording: Do you think hosting the 2012 Summer Olympics is a good thing or a bad thing for New York City?

Registered Voters	Good Thing	Bad Thing	Unsure
After decision	60%	35%	5%
Before decision	57%	36%	7%

Question Wording: Which city do you think will be awarded the 2012 Summer Olympics:

Registered Voters	After Decision	Before Decision
Paris	48%	33%
New York	21%	37%
London	11%	8%
Madrid	10%	8%
Moscow	3%	6%
Unsure	7%	8%

- **Campaign for mayor seen as getting more contentious:** 49% of the city's voters believe the candidates are spending their time attacking each other and 34% believe they are focusing on the issues. Last week, voters were more divided about the tone of the campaign.

Question Wording: In general, do you feel that the candidates for mayor have spent more time talking about their positions on the issues or attacking their opponents?

Registered Voters	Talking Issues	Attacking	Both	Neither	Unsure
After decision	34%	49%	2%	3%	12%
Before decision	36%	41%	3%	4%	16%

- Mayor’s job performance rating slips after stadium decision:** Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s approval rating, his combined excellent and good scores, slipped to 49% after the decision to not fund the stadium was made on Monday. Prior to Albany’s decision, the mayor’s approval rating had reached a high point of 55%.

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
After decision	49%	11%	38%	35%	15%	1%
Before decision	55%	12%	43%	32%	12%	1%
April 2005	48%	8%	40%	35%	16%	1%
March 2005	43%	8%	35%	34%	21%	2%
December 2004	46%	6%	40%	35%	18%	1%
September 2004	42%	7%	35%	35%	21%	2%
April 2004	40%	7%	33%	38%	19%	3%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
After Decision						
Borough						
Bronx	47%	9%	38%	37%	13%	3%
Brooklyn	46%	10%	36%	34%	19%	1%
Manhattan	50%	12%	38%	35%	14%	1%
Queens	51%	8%	43%	33%	15%	1%
Staten Island	57%	24%	33%	37%	6%	<1%
Party						
Democrat	46%	9%	37%	38%	15%	1%
Republican	61%	18%	43%	30%	9%	<1%
Non-enrolled	47%	13%	34%	28%	21%	4%
Race						
White	56%	15%	41%	30%	14%	<1%
African American	47%	5%	42%	36%	16%	1%
Latino	42%	12%	30%	43%	12%	3%

- But mayor’s image among voters holds fast:** Many New York City voters continue to think Mayor Bloomberg works hard at his job, fights for the city, understands the city’s problems, and overall, is a good leader for New York. The mayor even got a boost from voters who now believe he is more likely to be able to unify the city and get it working together. However, a majority do not think he 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			
After decision	71%	26%	3%
Before decision	74%	23%	3%
March 2005	70%	29%	1%
Fights for New York City			
After decision	68%	28%	4%
Before decision	68%	27%	5%
March 2005	64%	32%	4%
Understands the problems facing New York City			
After decision	60%	38%	2%
Before decision	55%	42%	3%
March 2005	56%	43%	1%
Is a good leader for New York			
After decision	55%	41%	4%
Before decision	55%	42%	3%
March 2005	50%	47%	3%
Can unify the city and get it working together			
After decision	50%	45%	5%
Before decision	42%	51%	7%
March 2005	43%	52%	5%
Cares about people like you			
After decision	43%	51%	6%
Before decision	44%	49%	7%
March 2005	36%	58%	6%

- Voters still see top priorities as education, economic development, and jobs:** When thinking about the priorities facing the next mayor, city voters continue to place education at the top of the list. But after the stadium decision, more voters emphasize economic development and jobs. Concern for security from terrorism, poverty and homelessness, crime, taxes, and race relations follow.

Question Wording: Do you think the top priority for the next mayor should be

Registered Voters	After Decision	Before Decision
Education	30%	37%
Economic development	19%	15%
Jobs	18%	12%
Security from terrorism	11%	11%
Poverty and homelessness	10%	11%
Crime	6%	4%
Taxes	4%	8%
Ethnic and racial relations	2%	2%

- Many voters disapprove of the mayor’s handling of top issues:** Although the mayor’s image among city voters remained positive after Monday’s decision, perceptions of his handling of key issues have been less resilient. More voters are critical of the mayor’s handling of the public schools, unemployment, economic development, and, not surprisingly, the West Side stadium project. Most New York City voters think the mayor has done a good job addressing the problem of crime and handling security against a terror attack, although even his marks on these issues are a notch lower.

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

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
Crime			
After decision	69%	26%	5%
Before decision	73%	24%	3%
March 2005	69%	27%	4%
Security against a terror attack			
After decision	60%	36%	4%
Before decision	65%	28%	7%
March 2005	70%	23%	7%
Economic development			
After decision	45%	48%	7%
Before decision	56%	40%	4%
March 2005	51%	42%	7%
The public schools			
After decision	39%	54%	7%
Before decision	45%	49%	6%
March 2005	40%	53%	7%

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
Unemployment			
After decision	34%	56%	10%
Before decision	43%	44%	13%
March 2005	37%	51%	12%
The West Side stadium			
After decision	30%	65%	5%
Before decision	43%	51%	6%
March 2005	31%	61%	8%

- Ferrer back as Democratic frontrunner:** Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer leads his Democratic rivals for his party's nomination for mayor. Ferrer receives support from 38% of city Democrats for September's primary compared with 24% for his closest competitor Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields. Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Congressman Anthony Weiner trail with 13% and 12%, respectively. 13% of Democrats are undecided.

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

Registered Democrats	June 2005	April 2005
Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer	38%	34%
Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields	24%	30%
Council Speaker Gifford Miller	13%	12%
Congressman Anthony Weiner	12%	11%
Undecided	13%	13%

- Many Democrats are still up for grabs:** 35% of registered Democrats are strongly committed to their choice for the Democratic nomination for mayor. 30% say they somewhat support their choice, and 32% say they might vote differently on primary day. 3% are unsure.

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate name), somewhat support (candidate name), or do you think that you might vote differently on primary day?

Registered Democrats	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
June 2005	35%	30%	32%	3%

Registered Democrats	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
Fernando Ferrer				
June 2005	43%	28%	26%	3%
April 2005	30%	36%	32%	2%
March 2005	48%	24%	24%	4%
C. Virginia Fields				
June 2005	32%	31%	35%	2%
April 2005	29%	37%	33%	1%
March 2005	41%	25%	30%	4%
Gifford Miller				
June 2005	25%	32%	39%	4%
April 2005	22%	39%	36%	3%
March 2005	22%	48%	28%	2%
Anthony Weiner				
June 2005	26%	32%	39%	3%
April 2005	33%	39%	25%	3%
March 2005	33%	43%	18%	6%
April 2005	29%	37%	32%	2%
March 2005	41%	30%	25%	4%
December 2004	39%	25%	32%	4%

- **Are these the only choices?** Only 44% of the city’s Democrats are satisfied with the current slate of candidates vying for the nomination to challenge Mayor Bloomberg in November. 48% would like to see someone else join the primary field of Democrats.

Question Wording: In general, are you satisfied with the candidates who are running for the Democratic nomination for mayor in New York City or would you like to see someone else get into the race?

Registered Democrats	Satisfied with Candidates	Like to See Someone Else	Unsure
June 2005	44%	48%	8%
April 2005	45%	46%	9%

How the Surveys Were Conducted

Interviews were conducted both before and after Albany’s decision to not fund the West Side stadium project. The first survey was conducted on June 1st and 2nd, 2005, the Wednesday and Thursday before the decision was made to not fund the stadium project. 435 residents of New York City were interviewed in either English or Spanish in proportion to the population in each borough. The results for residents are statistically

significant at $\pm 5\%$. There are 321 registered voters in this survey. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.

The second survey was conducted on June 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2005, Monday through Wednesday of this week after the decision had been made to not fund the West Side stadium project. 441 residents of New York City were interviewed in either English or Spanish in proportion to the population in each borough. The results for residents are statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$. An oversample of registered voters was interviewed on Wednesday and added to the interviews with registered voters on Monday and Tuesday. There is a total of 549 registered voters in the survey done after the decision on the stadium. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.

June 2005 refers to the results for the Democratic Primary based on interviews with New York City Democrats from both the before and after surveys. There is a combined total of 549 registered Democrats. The results for registered Democrats are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.