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New York City Race for Mayor

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Potential Democratic rivals face uphill contest against Mayor Bloomberg:** In match-ups for mayor, Michael Bloomberg leads each of his potential Democratic contenders by wide margins among New York City's registered voters. Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer trails Michael Bloomberg by 16 points. The mayor also has a formidable lead of 18 points against Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields. He outpaces Congressman Anthony Weiner and Council Speaker Gifford Miller by 18 and 20 points, respectively. In fact, among only Democratic voters, Republican Bloomberg runs competitively against each of these Democratic hopefuls.

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
August 2005	52%	36%	12%
Democrat	44%	44%	12%
Republican	77%	16%	7%
Non-enrolled	62%	27%	11%
July 2005	52%	36%	12%
June 10, 2005	45%	46%	9%
June 2, 2005	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
August 2005	52%	34%	14%
Democrat	42%	44%	14%
Republican	78%	15%	7%
Non-enrolled	61%	23%	16%
July 2005	53%	32%	15%
June 10, 2005	45%	43%	12%
June 2, 2005	49%	41%	10%
April 2005	47%	41%	12%
March 2005	45%	42%	13%
December 2004	44%	44%	12%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg, the Republican	Anthony Weiner, the Democrat	Undecided
August 2005	52%	34%	14%
Democrat	43%	42%	15%
Republican	79%	14%	7%
Non-enrolled	59%	26%	15%
July 2005	53%	29%	18%
June 10, 2005	49%	36%	15%
June 2, 2005	52%	34%	14%
April 2005	48%	36%	16%
March 2005	45%	41%	14%
December 2004	44%	39%	17%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg, the Republican	Gifford Miller, the Democrat	Undecided
August 2005	53%	33%	14%
Democrat	45%	40%	15%
Republican	77%	14%	9%
Non-enrolled	61%	28%	11%
July 2005	53%	31%	16%
June 10, 2005	46%	41%	13%
June 2, 2005	53%	36%	11%
April 2005	50%	36%	14%
March 2005	44%	42%	14%
December 2004	42%	40%	18%

- What's behind the mayor's appeal to city Democrats?** Two of the top three reasons Democrats support Republican Michael Bloomberg, have to do with his abilities as mayor. Many Democrats believe the mayor has run the city well and has improved the quality of city life during his tenure. Nearly two-thirds of Democratic voters also think it doesn't really matter whether the mayor of New

York City is a Democrat or a Republican. A majority likes Mayor Bloomberg's stands on the issues and believes his positions are closer to the Democrats than the Republicans. 43% do not think this is a good time to change the mayor of New York City, and 40% of registered Democrats don't like the Democratic candidates running for mayor this time.

Question Wording: Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following:

	Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
Registered Democrats						
Mayor Bloomberg runs NYC well	64%	10%	54%	27%	6%	3%
It does not really matter if the mayor of New York City is a Democrat or a Republican	62%	14%	48%	26%	9%	3%
Mayor Bloomberg has improved the quality of life in NYC	58%	7%	51%	31%	8%	3%
You like Mayor Bloomberg's positions on the issues	52%	6%	46%	31%	8%	9%
Many of Mayor Bloomberg's positions on issues are closer to the Democrats than the Republicans	53%	8%	45%	31%	6%	10%
Now is not a good time to change the mayor of New York City	43%	11%	32%	40%	12%	5%
You don't like any of the Democratic candidates running for NYC mayor this time	40%	10%	30%	41%	9%	10%

- **Mayor Bloomberg is voters' presumed winner in November:** Regardless of the candidate they support, 75% of voters believe Mayor Bloomberg is likely to win re-election.

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

Registered Voters	August 2005	July 2005	June 10, 2005
Michael Bloomberg	75%	78%	65%
Fernando Ferrer	9%	8%	18%
C. Virginia Fields	3%	2%	3%
Gifford Miller	2%	1%	2%
Anthony Weiner	1%	1%	3%
Unsure	10%	10%	9%

- Majority of city voters think the mayor deserves to be re-elected but opinions differ along racial lines:** A majority of city voters, 51%, think Michael Bloomberg deserves to be re-elected mayor, including 45% of Democrats. White voters are more likely to think the mayor deserves a second term than are African American or Latino voters.

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
August 2005	51%	43%	6%
Party			
Democrat	45%	50%	5%
Republican	73%	22%	5%
Non-enrolled	52%	39%	9%
Race			
White	63%	32%	5%
African American	40%	53%	7%
Latino	35%	58%	7%
July 2005	55%	38%	7%
June 10, 2005	45%	49%	6%
June 2, 2005	48%	46%	6%
April 2005	47%	48%	5%
March 2005	39%	56%	5%
December 2004	42%	53%	5%

- Majority of voters see Mayor Bloomberg’s campaign ads as credible:** 64% of city voters have seen a campaign ad for Mayor Bloomberg on television. Among voters who have seen an ad, 57% think the ads are believable.

Question Wording: Have you seen any of Mayor Bloomberg's campaign ads on television? Do you think that Mayor Bloomberg's ads are believable or not?

Registered Voters	Have Seen Ads	Have Not	Unsure
August 2005	64%	35%	1%
	Believable	Not Believable	Unsure
Have seen ads	57%	35%	8%

- **Voters are upbeat about New York City:** 60% of registered voters believe New York City is headed in the right direction, including a majority of Democrats. Fewer than one-third think the city is headed 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?

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
August 2005	60%	31%	9%
Party			
Democrat	54%	36%	10%
Republican	73%	19%	8%
Non-enrolled	68%	25%	7%
July 2005	62%	29%	9%
June 10, 2005	54%	37%	9%

- **Majority of city voters approve of the job the mayor is doing:** Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s job approval rating, his combined excellent and good scores, is 53%. Last month his approval rating was 58%, its highest since he assumed office.

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
August 2005	53%	14%	39%	34%	12%	1%
July 2005	58%	15%	43%	27%	12%	3%
June 10, 2005	49%	11%	38%	35%	15%	1%
June 2, 2005	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%

August 2005	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Borough						
Bronx	50%	9%	41%	34%	14%	2%
Brooklyn	47%	9%	38%	41%	10%	2%
Manhattan	62%	20%	42%	29%	9%	<1%
Queens	50%	13%	37%	31%	17%	2%
Staten Island	54%	24%	30%	29%	17%	<1%

August 2005	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Party						
Democrat	47%	10%	37%	39%	13%	1%
Republican	72%	25%	47%	18%	10%	<1%
Non-enrolled	54%	14%	40%	32%	12%	2%
Race						
White	62%	20%	42%	26%	11%	1%
African American	41%	5%	36%	46%	11%	2%
Latino	44%	6%	38%	39%	16%	1%

- Education tops list of voters' priorities for the next mayor:** When thinking about the priorities facing the next mayor, city voters continue to place education at the top of the list. Other priorities voters would like to see on the agenda of the next mayor include security from terrorism, jobs, economic development, poverty and homelessness, crime, taxes, and race relations.

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

Registered Voters	August 2005	July 2005	June 10, 2005
Education	27%	28%	30%
Security from terrorism	23%	20%	11%
Jobs	16%	17%	18%
Economic development	14%	13%	19%
Poverty and homelessness	9%	11%	10%
Crime	5%	4%	6%
Taxes	4%	5%	4%
Ethnic and racial relations	2%	2%	2%

- Most voters approve of the mayor's handling of security, but not his handling of education:** 69% of New York City voters think the mayor has done a good job handling security against a terror attack. Although the mayor's scores on education have improved, fewer than half of city voters approve of his handling of the public schools. Latino voters are especially critical of the mayor on this issue.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how Mayor Michael Bloomberg is handling security against a terror attack?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
August 2005	69%	24%	7%

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
White	70%	22%	8%
African American	70%	24%	6%
Latino	65%	29%	6%
July 2005	69%	21%	10%
June 10, 2005	60%	36%	4%
June 2, 2005	65%	28%	7%
March 2005	70%	23%	7%

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how Mayor Michael Bloomberg is handling the public schools?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
August 2005	49%	40%	11%
White	56%	31%	13%
African American	46%	46%	8%
Latino	32%	59%	9%
June 10, 2005	39%	54%	7%
June 2, 2005	45%	49%	6%
March 2005	40%	53%	7%

- 40% still eludes Ferrer:** Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer leads his Democratic rivals for his party's nomination for mayor but still falls short of the 40% needed to avoid a run-off. Ferrer receives support from 30% of city Democrats for September's primary compared with 19% for his closest competitor Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields. Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Congressman Anthony Weiner trail with 15% and 13%, respectively. 23% 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	August 2005	July 2005	June 2005	April 2005
Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer	30%	36%	38%	34%
Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields	19%	19%	24%	30%
Council Speaker Gifford Miller	15%	14%	13%	12%
Congressman Anthony Weiner	13%	14%	12%	11%
Undecided	23%	17%	13%	13%

- **Many Democratic voters still up-for-grabs:** Even among Democrats who have made up their mind, only 30% are strongly committed to their choice for the Democratic nomination for mayor. 33% say they somewhat support their choice, and 33% say they might vote differently on primary day. 4% 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
August 2005	30%	33%	33%	4%
Fernando Ferrer				
August 2005	35%	29%	33%	3%
July 2005	34%	34%	28%	4%
June 2005	43%	28%	26%	3%
April 2005	30%	36%	32%	2%
March 2005	48%	24%	24%	4%
C. Virginia Fields				
August 2005	29%	37%	25%	9%
July 2005	27%	34%	35%	4%
June 2005	32%	31%	35%	2%
April 2005	29%	37%	33%	1%
March 2005	41%	25%	30%	4%
Gifford Miller				
August 2005	23%	39%	36%	2%
July 2005	26%	41%	27%	6%
June 2005	25%	32%	39%	4%
April 2005	22%	39%	36%	3%
March 2005	22%	48%	28%	2%
Anthony Weiner				
August 2005	26%	31%	43%	<1%
July 2005	19%	42%	36%	3%
June 2005	26%	32%	39%	3%
April 2005	33%	39%	25%	3%
March 2005	33%	43%	18%	6%
July 2005	29%	37%	30%	4%
June 2005	35%	30%	32%	3%
April 2005	29%	37%	32%	2%
March 2005	41%	30%	25%	4%
December 2004	39%	25%	32%	4%

- Many Democrats undecided in primary for Public Advocate:** 50% of registered Democrats are undecided in their choice for their party's nominee for New York City Public Advocate. Incumbent Betsy Gotbaum tops the list of candidates with 20%, followed by civil rights lawyer Norman Siegel with 13%. Five other candidates trail with single digit support.

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

Registered Democrats	August 2005
Undecided	50%
Betsy Gotbaum	20%
Norman Siegel	13%
Michael Brown	6%
Eric Ruano Melendez	5%
Jay Golub	3%
Andrew Rasiej	2%
Damon Cabbagestalk	1%

How the survey was conducted:

This survey was conducted in either English or Spanish from July 28th through August 4th, 2005. 661 registered voters in New York City were interviewed in proportion to the enrollment in each borough including 406 Democrats. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$, and the results for Democrats are statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.