



Bloomberg's Approval Rating Slides 9 Percentage Points Voters Disagree with Term Limit Extension

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This Marist Poll reports:

- **What a Difference a Month Makes...Bloomberg's Approval Rating Slips**

Significantly: Although a majority of registered voters in New York City -- 59% -- think Mayor Michael Bloomberg is doing either an excellent or good job in office, his approval rating has dropped significantly. This is the first time since 2005 that his job performance rating has dipped into the 50 percent range. In a Marist Poll conducted in August 2005, 53% of the city's voters thought Mayor Bloomberg was doing well in his position. Bloomberg's approval rating has fallen since last month when 68% of the electorate thought Bloomberg was doing an above average job. Currently, Bloomberg is far from perfect in the eyes of 39% of voters. 28% report his job as fair while 11% say he is performing poorly as 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
November 2008	59%	21%	38%	28%	11%	2%
October 2008	68%	29%	39%	21%	11%	<1%
February 2008	66%	22%	44%	25%	6%	3%
July 2007	66%	21%	45%	22%	8%	4%
March 2006	65%	20%	45%	24%	10%	1%
November 4, 2005	63%	17%	46%	28%	9%	<1%
November 1, 2005	64%	19%	45%	28%	7%	1%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
October 2005	65%	22%	43%	27%	7%	1%
September 2005	61%	15%	46%	30%	8%	1%
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%
March 2002	50%	8%	42%	29%	6%	15%

- Big Apple Splits Over City’s Direction:** New York City voters divide over whether the five boroughs need a new compass. 47% of the electorate believes the city is headed in the wrong direction while 45% feel it’s on the right path. Voters are much more pessimistic than they were when the Marist Poll last asked this question. In its March 2006 survey, 64% of registered voters said the city was moving in the right direction compared with 30% who thought it was going the wrong way.

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
November 2008	45%	47%	8%
March 2006	64%	30%	6%
November 4, 2005	69%	26%	5%
November 1, 2005	68%	23%	9%
October 2005	69%	23%	8%
September 2005	64%	28%	8%
August 2005	60%	31%	9%
July 2005	62%	29%	9%
June 2005	54%	37%	9%
December 2004	54%	41%	5%
September 2004	51%	43%	6%

- Good or Bad? More Voters View Term Limit Extension as Bad for the City:** Mayor Bloomberg may have won the battle to extend New York City’s term limits, allowing

him to run for a third term, but he has a long way to go to convince New Yorkers that the change is a good one. While 30% of the electorate believes the decision by the City Council and the mayor is good for the city, a plurality of the electorate -- 43% -- disagrees with the change. In fact, 48% want the courts to overturn the decision and revert back to the two term limit. 42% think the courts should uphold the new law.

Question Wording: Last month, the City Council approved and Mayor Bloomberg signed a law to extend term limits for elected officials from two to three terms. This means current office holders including the City Council and the mayor may now run for re-election next year, something they would not have been able to do under the old law. Do you think the decision by the City Council and the mayor to extend the law was a good thing for the city, a bad thing, or it really doesn't make any difference?

Registered Voters	Good Thing	Bad Thing	No Difference
Term limit extension	30%	43%	27%

Question Wording: Opponents of the change are asking the courts to overturn the decision of the City Council and the mayor. Do you think the courts should or should not overturn the decision of the City Council and the mayor to extend term limits from two to three terms?

Registered Voters	Courts Should Overturn	Courts Should Not Overturn	Unsure
Term limit extension	48%	42%	10%

- Bloomberg's Bid for Third Term...A Political Pitfall?** Mayor Bloomberg's push for a third term may hurt him at the polls. In light of his decision, 40% of New York City voters say they are *less* likely to support the mayor's potential 2009 re-election bid compared with 19% of the electorate who say they are more likely to back Bloomberg's quest. 41% say his decision on term limits makes no difference to their vote.

Question Wording: Overall, did Mayor Bloomberg's decision to change term limits from two to three terms make you more likely or less likely to support him for mayor next year?

Registered Voters	More Likely to Support	Less Likely to Support	No Difference
Bloomberg's candidacy	19%	40%	41%

- Bloomberg with Lead Over Democratic Opponents...Receives Slim Majority:** If New York City's mayoral election were held today, Mayor Michael Bloomberg would achieve his goal of a third term. However, he has lost some support among voters. When placed up against Congressman Anthony Weiner, City Comptroller Bill Thompson, or City Council Member Tony Avella, Bloomberg leads Weiner 51% to 37%, outpaces Thompson 52% to 32% and defeats Avella 54% to 28%. Last month, voters had Bloomberg leading Weiner 56% to 30% and in front of Thompson 55% to 30%.

Question Wording: If next year's election for New York City mayor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Michael Bloomberg, an Independent or Comptroller Bill Thompson, the Democrat/Congressman Anthony Weiner, the Democrat/Tony Avella, the Democrat?

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg An Independent	Anthony Weiner The Democrat	Undecided
November 2008	51%	37%	12%
October 2008	56%	30%	14%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg An Independent	Bill Thompson The Democrat	Undecided
November 2008	52%	32%	16%
October 2008	55%	30%	15%

Registered Voters	Michael Bloomberg An Independent	Tony Avella The Democrat	Undecided
November 2008	54%	28%	18%

- No Clear-Cut Democratic Challenger for Bloomberg:** 30% of registered Democrats in New York City say, if they had to decide today, they are unsure about the candidate they'd choose to take on Mayor Bloomberg in the 2009 mayoral race. However, those who have formed an opinion see Congressman Anthony Weiner as Bloomberg's most formidable challenger. Overall, 34% of the city's electorate report they would choose Weiner in the Democratic primary. New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson comes in second with 26%. 10% report they would back City Council Member Tony Avella.

Question Wording: If next year's Democratic primary for mayor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Congressman Anthony Weiner, Comptroller Bill Thompson or City Council Member Tony Avella?

	Congressman Anthony Weiner	Comptroller Bill Thompson	Council Member Tony Avella	Undecided
Democrats	34%	26%	10%	30%

Nature of the Sample: 696 New York City Registered Voters

This survey was conducted from November 17th through November 19th, 2008. 696 registered voters within the New York City area were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout New York City in proportion to the enrollment in each borough and adjusted for turnout in comparable elections. The results for the entire survey are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$. There are 447 registered Democrats. The results for this subsample are statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.