

Marist Institute for Public Opinion

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

New York State Governor: One More Day

- In a poll completed Sunday night, Governor George Pataki leads Comptroller H. Carl McCall by 20% among likely voters for tomorrow's gubernatorial election. George Pataki receives 47% compared with H. Carl McCall's 27%. Businessman Thomas Golisano has 19%.

Question Wording: If Tuesday's election for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Pataki Republican	McCall Democrat	Golisano Independence	Other*	Undecided
Likely Voters					
November 4, 2002	47%	27%	19%	2%	5%
October 30, 2002	47%	27%	17%	2%	7%
Likely w/ Leaners					
November 4, 2002	48%	27%	19%	3%	3%
October 30, 2002	48%	27%	19%	2%	4%
Registered Voters					
November 4, 2002	47%	27%	17%	2%	7%
October 30, 2002	45%	28%	17%	2%	8%

- Intensity of Support:** 68% of likely voters are strongly committed to a candidate for governor, 24% say they somewhat support their choice, and 7% indicate they might vote differently on election day.

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

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
Likely Voters				
November 4, 2002	68%	24%	7%	1%
October 30, 2002	71%	20%	8%	1%

* Other candidates for NYS Governor included in the question were Gerard Cronin, the Right-to-Life Party candidate, and Stanley Aronowitz, the Green Party Candidate.

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
George Pataki				
November 4, 2002	73%	23%	4%	0%
October 30, 2002	77%	17%	5%	1%
H. Carl McCall				
November 4, 2002	69%	23%	8%	0%
October 30, 2002	73%	21%	6%	0%
Thomas Golisano				
November 4, 2002	53%	31%	14%	2%
October 30, 2002	52%	29%	19%	0%

- **The Golisano Factor:** Thomas Golisano draws similar support from both George Pataki and H. Carl McCall. When Golisano backers are asked whom they would support if Golisano was not on the ballot, George Pataki's support among likely voters increases by 9%, and H. Carl McCall's support goes up by 7%.

Question Wording: How about if the candidates are (Golisano omitted):

Likely Voters	Pataki Republican	McCall Democrat	Other*	Undecided
November 4, 2002	56%	34%	3%	7%
October 30, 2002	54%	33%	4%	9%

- **Attacks vs. Issues:** In assessing the campaign for governor, 81% of registered voters think the candidates have spent more time attacking each other, and 15% think the candidates have spent more time talking about their positions on the issues.

Question Wording: Overall, when thinking about the election campaign for governor, do you feel that the candidates have spent more time talking about their positions on the issues, or attacking each other?

	Attacks	Issues	Unsure
Registered Voters	81%	15%	4%

Favorable/Unfavorable Impressions

- Among registered voters, George Pataki has the highest favorable score of the three candidates.

* Other candidates for NYS Governor included in the question were Gerard Cronin, the Right-to-Life Party candidate, and Stanley Aronowitz, the Green Party Candidate.

Question Wording: Please tell me if you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of each of the following:

Registered Voters	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure/Never Heard
George Pataki			
November 4, 2002	67%	29%	4%
October 30, 2002	69%	28%	3%
H. Carl McCall			
November 4, 2002	54%	34%	12%
October 30, 2002	54%	33%	13%
Thomas Golisano			
November 4, 2002	43%	40%	17%
October 30, 2002	44%	38%	18%

The Contest for NYS Comptroller

- Alan Hevesi has the support of 50% of likely voters and John Faso has the support of 33%. 12% of likely voters are undecided.

Question Wording: If Tuesday's election for comptroller of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Likely Voters	Faso Republican	Hevesi Democrat	Other*	Undecided
November 4, 2002	33%	50%	5%	12%
October 30, 2002	37%	44%	7%	12%
Likely w/ Leaners				
November 4, 2002	35%	51%	6%	8%
October 30, 2002	38%	47%	7%	8%
Registered Voters				
November 4, 2002	29%	49%	6%	16%
October 30, 2002	32%	45%	7%	16%

- **Intensity of Support:** Half of likely voters are firmly committed to a candidate in the race for New York State Comptroller.

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

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
November 4, 2002	50%	38%	11%	1%
October 30, 2002	47%	37%	15%	1%
John Faso				
November 4, 2002	44%	44%	11%	1%
October 30, 2002	41%	43%	14%	2%
Alan Hevesi				
November 4, 2002	53%	35%	11%	1%
October 30, 2002	52%	33%	14%	1%

* Other candidates for NYS Comptroller included in the question were Garifalia Christea, the Right-to-Life Party candidate and Howie Hawkins, the Green Party Candidate.

- **Favorable/Unfavorable Impressions:** Alan Hevesi has a higher favorable rating than John Faso among New York State's registered voters.

Question Wording: Please tell me if you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of each of the following:

Registered Voters	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure/Never Heard
John Faso			
November 4, 2002	31%	28%	41%
October 30, 2002	34%	23%	43%
Alan Hevesi			
November 4, 2002	50%	23%	27%
October 30, 2002	45%	24%	31%

Nature of the Sample: 840 New York State Registered Voters

This survey was conducted on November 1st and 3rd, 2002. 840 registered voters were interviewed in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in comparable elections. All interviews were conducted by telephone. The results are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$ for the entire sample. There were 475 likely voters. The results for likely voters are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.