



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

New York: Statewide Ratings & Future Match-ups

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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:

New York State Voters Rate Governor Pataki

- **Approval Rating:** 46% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. 49% rate the job the governor is doing as fair or poor. His approval rating was 40% in a similar poll conducted last September.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Governor George Pataki is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
January 2004	46%	7%	39%	35%	14%	5%
Region						
Upstate	49%	4%	45%	37%	11%	3%
New York City	38%	8%	30%	33%	21%	8%
Suburbs	50%	10%	40%	35%	9%	6%
Party						
Democrats	36%	5%	31%	40%	20%	4%
Republicans	63%	12%	51%	27%	5%	5%
Non-enrolled	42%	3%	39%	37%	14%	7%
Previous Polls						
September 2003	40%	6%	34%	41%	17%	2%
May 2003	37%	4%	33%	34%	25%	4%
April 2003	49%	7%	42%	31%	18%	2%
December 2002	57%	12%	45%	31%	10%	2%
October 30, 2002	57%	14%	43%	33%	9%	1%
October 1, 2002	61%	14%	47%	30%	8%	1%
September 2002	60%	12%	48%	31%	7%	2%
May 2002	72%	14%	58%	23%	5%	0%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2002	64%	15%	49%	28%	6%	2%
December 2001	65%	15%	50%	27%	4%	4%
April 2001	53%	10%	43%	34%	8%	5%
December 2000	55%	11%	44%	30%	10%	5%
March 2000	51%	9%	42%	35%	11%	3%
September 1999	51%	10%	41%	38%	9%	2%
July 1999	55%	15%	40%	31%	11%	3%
March 1999	61%	12%	49%	28%	10%	1%
October 1998	60%	14%	46%	31%	8%	1%
September 1998	62%	16%	46%	31%	6%	1%
April 1998	59%	11%	48%	33%	7%	1%
February 1998	60%	11%	49%	32%	6%	2%
October 1997	49%	7%	42%	39%	10%	2%
March 1997	47%	6%	41%	38%	12%	3%
November 1996	47%	8%	39%	36%	14%	3%
March 1996	39%	6%	33%	40%	17%	4%
September 1995	39%	5%	34%	38%	17%	6%
March 1995	36%	8%	28%	28%	16%	20%

- **Governor Pataki's Re-election Prospects:** Governor George Pataki has an 11% lead over New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, and is in a close match-up with Senator Charles Schumer in hypothetical pairings for the 2006 election for New York State governor.

Question Wording: If the 2006 election for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Unsure
January 2004	45%	34%	21%
September 2003	50%	41%	9%

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Unsure
January 2004	43%	44%	13%
September 2003	43%	50%	7%

Democratic Challengers for Governor

- **Schumer vs. Spitzer:** In a 2006 Democratic primary race for governor, Charles Schumer leads Eliot Spitzer by a wide margin among registered Democrats.

Question Wording: If the 2006 Democratic primary for governor in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

NYS Democrats	Charles Schumer	Eliot Spitzer	Unsure
January 2004	54%	29%	17%

Governor Giuliani?

- **Rudy Giuliani’s Future:** Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has double-digit leads over both New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Senator Charles Schumer in hypothetical pairings for the 2006 election for New York State governor.

Question Wording: If the 2006 election for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Unsure
January 2004	53%	32%	15%

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Unsure
January 2004	52%	35%	13%

Voters Rate New York State

- **Direction of the State:** 42% of registered voters express a positive outlook about the direction of New York State. 46% think things are headed in the wrong direction.

Question Wording: In general, thinking about the way things are going in New York State, 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
January 2004	42%	46%	12%
September 2003	39%	54%	7%
April 2003	40%	53%	7%
December 2002	39%	52%	9%
October 30, 2002	51%	40%	9%
October 1, 2002	55%	37%	8%
September 2002	56%	38%	6%

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
May 2002	65%	28%	7%
April 2002	66%	28%	6%
December 2001	65%	25%	10%
December 2000	64%	30%	6%
September 1999	65%	25%	10%
October 1998	68%	23%	9%
October 1997	58%	33%	9%
November 1996	51%	37%	12%
September 1995	35%	48%	17%
November 1994	25%	62%	13%
November 1993	26%	59%	15%
September 1990	28%	56%	16%

- **Economic Recession:** 56% of registered voters think New York State is currently in a recession, a decline since last September.

Question Wording: Do you think that New York State is currently in a recession, or not?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
January 2004	56%	33%	11%
September 2003	64%	31%	5%
April 2003	74%	22%	4%
December 2002	71%	26%	3%
October 1, 2002	71%	26%	3%
September 2002	71%	25%	4%
May 2002	62%	33%	5%
April 2002	68%	28%	4%
December 2001	76%	19%	5%
September 1998	23%	71%	6%
October 1997	36%	58%	6%
November 1996	48%	45%	7%
September 1995	56%	34%	10%
October 1994	67%	27%	6%
March 1991	84%	13%	3%

New York State Voters Rate Senator Clinton

- **Approval Rating:** Senator Hillary Clinton’s approval rating is 55% among New York State’s registered voters. This is Senator Clinton’s highest approval rating since assuming office, and the first time her positive score has exceeded 50%. 40% do not rate her job performance positively.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
January 2004	55%	18%	37%	23%	17%	5%
September 2003	49%	17%	32%	26%	21%	4%
April 2003	47%	13%	34%	27%	22%	4%
December 2002	44%	10%	34%	28%	20%	8%
April 2002	47%	11%	36%	27%	20%	6%
December 2001	45%	11%	34%	23%	23%	9%
April 2001	35%	9%	26%	26%	22%	17%
February 2001	30%	10%	20%	22%	20%	28%

- **Senator Clinton’s Re-election Prospects:** Senator Hillary Clinton is tied in a hypothetical match-up for her re-election to the U.S. Senate in New York with George Pataki, and trails former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani by 5%.

Question Wording: If the 2006 election for U.S. Senate in New York were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	George Pataki Republican	Unsure
January 2004	46%	46%	8%
September 2003	52%	44%	4%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Unsure
January 2004	45%	50%	5%
September 2003	40%	57%	3%

New York State Voters Rate Senator Schumer

- **Approval Rating:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 58% among New York State's registered voters. 30% do not rate his job performance positively. This is his highest rating since assuming office. In a similar poll conducted last September, his approval rating was 52%.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
January 2004	58%	14%	44%	23%	7%	12%
September 2003	52%	12%	40%	30%	10%	8%
April 2003	52%	10%	42%	27%	8%	13%
December 2002	53%	11%	42%	28%	8%	11%
April 2002	55%	11%	44%	26%	6%	13%
December 2001	54%	12%	42%	24%	7%	15%
April 2001	49%	12%	37%	26%	8%	17%
December 2000	51%	13%	38%	22%	9%	18%
March 2000	39%	9%	30%	27%	7%	27%
September 1999	44%	9%	35%	31%	8%	17%
March 1999	41%	7%	34%	23%	10%	26%

- **Senator Schumer’s Re-election Prospects:** 39% of New York State’s registered voters definitely plan to vote to re-elect Senator Schumer in 2004, and 15% definitely plan to vote against him. 46% say it will depend on his opponent or are unsure.

Question Wording: Do you definitely plan to vote for Charles Schumer for re-election as U.S. Senator in 2004 or do you definitely plan to vote against him?

Registered voters	For	Against	Depends/Unsure
January 2004	39%	15%	46%

Nature of the Sample: 617 NYS Registered Voters and 544 NYS Registered Democrats

The survey of 617 registered voters was conducted January 6th and 7th, 2004. Registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results for the Democratic primaries are based on a sample of 544 New York State registered Democrats that includes an over-sample that was conducted from January 6th through 8th, 2004. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$ for registered voters and $\pm 4.5\%$ for Democrats. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.