



# Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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## New York: Statewide Ratings & Future Match-ups

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **New York State voters rate Governor Pataki:** 41% of New York State's registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. 58% rate the job the governor is doing as fair or poor. His approval rating was 46% in a similar poll conducted in January.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2004	<b>41%</b>	4%	37%	40%	18%	1%
<b>Region</b>						
Upstate	<b>39%</b>	4%	35%	41%	18%	2%
New York City	<b>39%</b>	3%	36%	38%	23%	<1%
Suburbs	<b>50%</b>	5%	45%	41%	8%	1%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrats	<b>32%</b>	4%	28%	42%	26%	<1%
Republicans	<b>61%</b>	6%	55%	32%	4%	3%
Non-enrolled	<b>32%</b>	1%	31%	48%	19%	1%
<b>Previous Polls</b>						
January 2004	<b>46%</b>	7%	39%	35%	14%	5%
September 2003	<b>40%</b>	6%	34%	41%	17%	2%
May 2003	<b>37%</b>	4%	33%	34%	25%	4%
April 2003	<b>49%</b>	7%	42%	31%	18%	2%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	12%	45%	31%	10%	2%
October 30, 2002	<b>57%</b>	14%	43%	33%	9%	1%
October 1, 2002	<b>61%</b>	14%	47%	30%	8%	1%
September 2002	<b>60%</b>	12%	48%	31%	7%	2%
May 2002	<b>72%</b>	14%	58%	23%	5%	0%
April 2002	<b>64%</b>	15%	49%	28%	6%	2%

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

- **Morning line if Governor Pataki seeks a fourth term:** In hypothetical pairings for the 2006 election for New York State governor, George Pataki is neck and neck with New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and is narrowly behind Senator Charles Schumer.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	George Pataki Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Unsure
April 2004	45%	47%	8%
January 2004	45%	34%	21%
September 2003	50%	41%	9%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	George Pataki Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Unsure
April 2004	45%	50%	5%
January 2004	43%	44%	13%
September 2003	43%	50%	7%

- **Morning line if George Pataki challenges Hillary Clinton for the U.S. Senate:** Governor George Pataki trails Hillary Clinton in a match-up for the 2006 election for U.S. Senate by 13 points.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	George Pataki Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Unsure
April 2004	42%	55%	3%
January 2004	46%	46%	8%
September 2003	44%	52%	4%

- **Voters weigh in on what's next for Governor Pataki:** 32% of voters think the governor should take, if offered, a position in the Bush Administration. 29% of registered voters think the governor should seek another term, and 22% think he should challenge Hillary Clinton for the U.S. Senate.

**Question Wording:** Do you think Governor Pataki should:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	April 2004
Be appointed to a position with the Bush administration	32%
Run for re-election as governor	29%
Run for U.S. Senate against Hillary Clinton	22%
Unsure	17%

- **Governor Giuliani?** Should Governor Pataki not seek another term, New York State voters are very positive about the idea of a Governor Giuliani. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has a double-digit lead when matched against either New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer or Senator Charles Schumer 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:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Unsure
April 2004	59%	34%	7%
January 2004	53%	32%	15%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Unsure
April 2004	57%	37%	6%
January 2004	52%	35%	13%

- **Senator Giuliani?** Rudy Giuliani and Hillary Clinton are closely matched in a hypothetical contest for the 2006 election for U.S. Senate in New York State. Giuliani receives the support of 50% of registered voters and Clinton receives 48%.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Unsure
April 2004	50%	48%	2%
January 2004	50%	45%	5%
September 2003	57%	40%	3%

- **Voters rate New York State:** A majority of registered voters, 51%, think the state is headed in the wrong direction. 43% of registered voters express a positive outlook about the direction of New York State.

**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?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	35%	61%	4%
New York City	47%	45%	8%
Suburbs	55%	40%	5%
<b>Previous Polls</b>			
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%
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%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
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:** 62% of registered voters think New York State is currently in a recession.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2004	62%	34%	4%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	66%	29%	5%
New York City	59%	38%	3%
Suburbs	57%	38%	5%
<b>Previous Polls</b>			
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:** Senator Hillary Clinton's approval rating is 51% among New York State's registered voters. 45% do not rate her job performance positively. Last January, her approval rating was 55%.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2004	<b>51%</b>	13%	38%	27%	18%	4%
January 2004	<b>55%</b>	18%	37%	23%	17%	5%
September 2003	<b>49%</b>	17%	32%	26%	21%	4%
April 2003	<b>47%</b>	13%	34%	27%	22%	4%
December 2002	<b>44%</b>	10%	34%	28%	20%	8%
April 2002	<b>47%</b>	11%	36%	27%	20%	6%
December 2001	<b>45%</b>	11%	34%	23%	23%	9%
April 2001	<b>35%</b>	9%	26%	26%	22%	17%
February 2001	<b>30%</b>	10%	20%	22%	20%	28%

- **New York State voters rate Senator Schumer:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 54% among New York State's registered voters. 35% rate his job performance as fair or poor. In a similar poll conducted in January, his approval rating was 58%.

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

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

- **Senator Schumer’s re-election prospects:** Senator Schumer has overwhelming support among New York State registered voters when paired against each of his potential Republican challengers.

**Question Wording:** If November's election for U.S. Senate were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

<b>Registered voters</b>	Howard Mills Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Undecided
April 2004	17%	72%	11%

<b>Registered voters</b>	Michael Benjamin Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Undecided
April 2004	16%	71%	13%

<b>Registered voters</b>	Abe Hirschfeld Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Undecided
April 2004	16%	72%	12%

- New York State voters rate Attorney General Spitzer:** Attorney General Eliot Spitzer receives high marks from registered voters. 60% rate the job he is doing as Attorney General as either excellent or good. 24% rate his job performance as fair or poor. 16% are unsure how to rate him.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2004	<b>60%</b>	20%	40%	20%	4%	16%

- New York State voters rate Comptroller Alan Hevesi:** Comptroller Alan Hevesi is the least known of the statewide officeholders presented in this survey. His job performance rating is 36%. 30% do not rate his job performance positively. 34% of registered voters say they are unsure how to rate him.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Comptroller Alan Hevesi is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2004	<b>36%</b>	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

- **The presidential election in New York...a blue state campaign:** John Kerry has a wide lead over George Bush in the campaign for New York's electoral votes. John Kerry receives the support of 56% of the state's registered voters compared with 38% for George Bush. 6% are undecided.

**Question Wording:** If November's presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered voters	George Bush Republican	John Kerry Democrat	Undecided
April 2004	38%	56%	6%

- **Most voters are firmly committed to their candidate:** 61% of New York State registered voters are strongly committed to their choice for president. Bush backers are more firmly committed than are Kerry supporters.

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

Registered voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
April 2004	61%	29%	9%	1%
George Bush	70%	21%	8%	1%
John Kerry	55%	34%	10%	1%

- **The Nader effect:** When Ralph Nader is added to the presidential equation, he receives the support of 5% of New York State's registered voters.

**Question Wording:** If November's presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered voters	George Bush Republican	John Kerry Democrat	Ralph Nader Independent	Undecided
April 2004	37%	54%	5%	4%

- **New York State voters rate President Bush:** President George Bush's approval rating is at its lowest point in New York State since he assumed office. 38% of registered voters rate the president's job performance positively, a decline from 52% in a similar poll conducted in January.



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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2004	<b>38%</b>	14%	24%	22%	39%	1%
January 2004	<b>52%</b>	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	<b>44%</b>	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	<b>58%</b>	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%
April 2002	<b>72%</b>	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	<b>79%</b>	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	<b>40%</b>	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

***Nature of the Sample: 602 NYS Registered Voters***

The survey of 602 registered voters was conducted from April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$  for registered voters. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.