



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

**New York State:
Ratings & Future Match-ups**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, September 17, 2004

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:** 43% of New York State's registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. 55% rate the job the governor is doing as fair or poor. His approval rating was 41% in a similar poll conducted in April.

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
September 2004	43%	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
Region						
Upstate	42%	5%	37%	38%	18%	2%
New York City	36%	4%	32%	41%	19%	4%
Suburbs	51%	9%	42%	35%	13%	1%
Party						
Democrats	30%	4%	26%	41%	26%	3%
Republicans	60%	9%	51%	29%	9%	2%
Non-enrolled	42%	6%	36%	45%	11%	2%
Previous Polls						
April 2004	41%	4%	37%	40%	18%	1%
January 2004	46%	7%	39%	35%	14%	5%
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%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2002	60%	12%	48%	31%	7%	2%
May 2002	72%	14%	58%	23%	5%	0%
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%

- **Competitive race if Governor Pataki seeks a fourth term:** In match-ups for the 2006 election for New York State governor, George Pataki runs evenly 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:

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Unsure
September 2004	47%	47%	6%
April 2004	45%	47%	8%
January 2004	45%	34%	21%
September 2003	50%	41%	9%

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Unsure
September 2004	46%	50%	4%
April 2004	45%	50%	5%
January 2004	43%	44%	13%
September 2003	43%	50%	7%

- **George Pataki trails Hillary Clinton in '06 Senate match-up:** U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton leads Governor George Pataki in a match-up for the 2006 election for U.S. Senate by 9 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:

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Unsure
September 2004	44%	53%	3%
April 2004	42%	55%	3%
January 2004	46%	46%	8%
September 2003	44%	52%	4%

- **Governor Pataki...what's next?** 36% of voters think the governor should seek another term. 25% think he should take, if offered, a position in the Bush Administration, and 25% of registered voters think he should challenge Hillary Clinton for the U.S. Senate.

Question Wording: Do you think Governor Pataki should:

Registered Voters	September 2004	April 2004
Run for re-election as governor	36%	29%
Be appointed to a position with the Bush administration	25%	32%
Run for U.S. Senate against Hillary Clinton	25%	22%
Unsure	14%	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 continues to have 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:

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Unsure
September 2004	61%	34%	5%
April 2004	59%	34%	7%
January 2004	53%	32%	15%

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Unsure
September 2004	59%	37%	4%
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:

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

- **We know it's early but if they happen to be thinking about it:** 47% of New York voters want Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008. Only 22% want Governor Pataki to run. If there is a contest for the Democratic nomination in 2008, 42% want Senator Hillary Clinton to run for president.

Question Wording: Do you want George Pataki/Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008 or not? If there is a contest for the Democratic nomination for president in 2008, do you want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, run	No, don't run	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	47%	46%	7%
Hillary Clinton	42%	54%	4%
George Pataki	22%	72%	6%

- **How's New York State doing?** A majority of registered voters, 54%, think the state is headed in the wrong direction. 40% 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?

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
September 2004	40%	54%	6%
Region			
Upstate	33%	62%	5%
New York City	41%	53%	6%
Suburbs	54%	39%	7%
Previous Polls			
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
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%
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 relief...many voters say not yet:** 58% 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?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
September 2004	58%	37%	5%
Region			
Upstate	64%	31%	5%
New York City	55%	38%	7%
Suburbs	50%	46%	4%
Previous Polls			
April 2004	62%	34%	4%
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 53% among New York State's registered voters. Last April, her approval rating was 51%.

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
September 2004	53%	18%	35%	25%	20%	2%
April 2004	51%	13%	38%	27%	18%	4%
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%

- **New York State voters rate Senator Schumer:** Senator Charles Schumer's approval rating is currently 50% among New York State's registered voters. In a similar poll conducted in April, his approval rating was 54%.

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
September 2004	50%	13%	37%	29%	11%	10%
April 2004	54%	13%	41%	27%	8%	11%
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:** Senator Schumer has overwhelming support among New York State registered voters for his re-election effort. Schumer receives the support of 65% of registered voters. 17% support Republican challenger Howard Mills, and 7% favor Conservative Party candidate Marilyn O'Grady.

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

Registered Voters	Howard Mills Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Marilyn O'Grady Conservative	Undecided
September 2004	17%	65%	7%	11%
April 2004	17%	72%	n.a.	11%

- **New York State voters rate Attorney General Spitzer:** 54% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as Attorney General as either excellent or good. His rating is down slightly from a similar poll conducted in April when he had a positive rating of 60%.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2004	54%	18%	36%	25%	5%	16%
April 2004	60%	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 33%. 34% rate his job performance as either fair or poor. 33% 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?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2004	33%	4%	29%	29%	5%	33%
April 2004	36%	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

Nature of the Sample: 786 NYS Registered Voters

The survey of 786 registered voters was conducted on September 13th and 14th, 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 $\pm 3.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.