



New York State:

Tough Political Times for New York's Governor

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Voters give thumbs down to a fourth term for Governor Pataki:** Only 34% of New York State's registered voters want to see Governor Pataki seek a fourth term in 2006. 55% prefer that he does not run again. In April of 1993, a comparable time in Mario Cuomo's tenure as governor, New Yorkers were divided about whether or not he should run for re-election. 43% of registered voters wanted him to seek a fourth term and 47% did not.

Question Wording: Do you want George Pataki/Mario Cuomo to run for governor in 2006/1994 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2005 (Pataki)	34%	55%	11%
April 1993 (Cuomo)	43%	47%	10%

- **Many would not vote to re-elect the governor, although about one in five say it still depends:** 44% of New York State's registered voters would definitely vote against Governor Pataki should he decide to seek a fourth term next year. Only 28% of voters would definitely support him at this time. 19% neither support nor oppose him but say it depends on who runs against him. 9% are unsure.

Question Wording: If George Pataki runs for re-election as governor, do you definitely plan to vote for him or do you definitely plan to vote against him?

	Definitely Vote For	Definitely Vote Against	Depends Who Runs	Unsure
Registered Voters				
April 2005	28%	44%	19%	9%

- Voters' lowest rating of governor signals rough road:** Governor Pataki receives his lowest approval rating from voters since assuming office. 34% of New York State's registered voters including fewer than half of Republicans rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. 64% rate the job the governor is doing as fair or poor. Mario Cuomo's approval rating as governor at a similar time in his administration was 40%.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2005 (Pataki)	34%	5%	29%	39%	25%	2%
April 1993 (Cuomo)	40%	7%	33%	33%	25%	2%
Region						
Upstate	30%	5%	25%	43%	26%	1%
New York City	34%	5%	29%	38%	26%	2%
Suburbs	42%	8%	34%	32%	22%	4%
Party						
Democrats	24%	2%	22%	43%	30%	3%
Republicans	48%	9%	39%	37%	13%	2%
Non-enrolled	29%	5%	24%	36%	34%	1%
Previous Polls						
October 2004	41%	7%	34%	38%	19%	2%
September 2004	43%	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
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%
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%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
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%

- **Is it any wonder the governor is facing tough times:** 65% of registered voters think New York State is headed in the wrong direction. This is the highest percentage since George Pataki defeated Mario Cuomo in November 1994 when 62% of voters were dissatisfied with the direction of the 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
April 2005	29%	65%	6%
Region			
Upstate	22%	73%	5%
New York City	33%	58%	9%
Suburbs	38%	56%	6%
Previous Polls			
October 2004	40%	54%	6%
September 2004	40%	54%	6%
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%

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
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 worries inch downward:** 55% of registered voters think New York State is currently in a recession, a decline from a similar poll conducted last October. At that time, 62% of voters were concerned about the state's economy.

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

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2005	55%	37%	8%
Region			
Upstate	65%	29%	6%
New York City	44%	46%	10%
Suburbs	47%	45%	8%
Previous Polls			
October 2004	62%	33%	5%
September 2004	58%	37%	5%
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%

- Kudos for legislature not governor as state budget passes on time:** Most voters think it matters that the New York State budget was passed on time this year, including 44% who believe it matters a great deal. But 58% believe passage is due to the efforts of the state legislature while only 24% credit the governor for moving the process along. In fact, a majority of registered voters think the governor should wrap up this year's budget process by signing the current budget rather than exercising his veto power.

Question Wording: Does it matter to you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all that the New York State budget is on time this year?

Registered Voters	A Great Deal	Somewhat	Not Too Much	Not at All
April 2005	44%	23%	15%	18%

Question Wording: Who do you give more credit to for the New York State budget being on time:

Registered Voters	The Governor	The State Legislature	Both	Neither	Unsure
April 2005	24%	58%	5%	6%	7%

Question Wording: Should Governor Pataki sign the New York State budget that was passed by the state legislature and finalize the budget process or veto the parts he does not agree with and continue the budget process?

Registered Voters	Sign Budget	Use Veto Power	Unsure
April 2005	51%	32%	17%

- Governor Spitzer? It depends....** In match-ups for the 2006 election for New York State governor, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer outdistances George Pataki by 27 points. Spitzer trounces all other potential opponents except former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Giuliani leads Spitzer for New York's highest elective office by 15 points, although the margin has been cut in half since last fall.

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	Undecided
April 2005	33%	60%	7%
September 2004	47%	47%	6%
April 2004	45%	47%	8%
January 2004	45%	34%	21%
September 2003	50%	41%	9%

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	55%	40%	5%
September 2004	61%	34%	5%
April 2004	59%	34%	7%
January 2004	53%	32%	15%

Registered Voters	John Sweeney Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	20%	63%	17%

Registered Voters	Mary Donohue Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	18%	63%	19%

Registered Voters	Joel Giambra Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	18%	65%	17%

Registered Voters	Randy Daniels Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	18%	65%	17%

Nature of the Sample: 705 NYS Registered Voters

The survey of 705 registered voters was conducted on April 4th and 5th, 2005. 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 $\pm 4\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.