



**Marist College Institute for Public Opinion**  
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## **Movin' On Up For NYS Pols'?** **Voters Say...It Depends**

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **'08 speculation about familiar NYS politicians:** New York State's registered voters divide over whether they would like to see Rudy Giuliani run for president in 2008. 49% of voters want to see him make the run, fueled by 67% of Republicans. 46% of the state's voters, including many Democrats, would prefer he does not. 40% of New York State's registered voters want Senator Hillary Clinton to run for president, although a majority, including 72% of Republicans and 57% of Independents, would prefer she not seek higher office. Only 17% of registered voters want Governor Pataki to run for the presidency in 2008.

**Question Wording:** Do you want Hillary Clinton/Rudy Giuliani/George Pataki to run for president in 2008 or not?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Yes, run</b>	<b>No, don't run</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
<b>Rudy Giuliani</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Democrats	35%	60%	5%
Republicans	67%	28%	5%
Non-enrolled	51%	45%	4%
<b>Hillary Clinton</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Democrats	54%	36%	10%
Republicans	21%	72%	7%
Non-enrolled	38%	57%	5%
<b>George Pataki</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Democrats	13%	84%	3%
Republicans	23%	73%	4%
Non-enrolled	17%	77%	6%

- **But, first things first...Senator Clinton's re-election prospects:** 52% of New York State's registered voters say they would definitely vote to re-elect Hillary Clinton to the U.S. Senate in 2006. 32% would definitely vote against her. 8% would like to wait and see who runs against her, and 8% are unsure.

**Question Wording:** Do you definitely plan to vote for Hillary Clinton for re-election as U.S. Senator or do you definitely plan to vote against her?

	Definitely Vote For	Definitely Vote Against	Depends Who Runs	Unsure
<b>Registered Voters</b>				
September 2005	52%	32%	8%	8%

- **And when given a choice...** In hypothetical pairings for the 2006 U.S. Senate race in New York, Senator Clinton bests her potential challengers by wide margins, including Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro, son-in-law of former President Richard Nixon attorney Edward Cox, attorney William Brenner, former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer, and public relations executive Adam Brecht.

**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:

	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
<b>Registered Voters</b>			
September 2005	35%	59%	6%
August 2005	28%	50%	22%
April 2005	28%	64%	8%

	Edward Cox Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
<b>Registered Voters</b>			
September 2005	34%	61%	5%
April 2005	26%	66%	8%

	William Brenner Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
<b>Registered Voters</b>			
September 2005	31%	61%	8%

	John Spencer Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
<b>Registered Voters</b>			
September 2005	31%	62%	7%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Adam Brecht Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
September 2005	29%	63%	8%
April 2005	29%	61%	10%

- **But will Hillary Clinton run for president...a majority of New York voters think so:** 54% of New York State's registered voters think Hillary Clinton will seek the presidency in 2008.

**Question Wording:** Do you think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2008 or not?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Will run	Will Not run	Unsure
September 2005	54%	34%	12%
August 2005	55%	27%	18%
<b>Party</b>			
Democrat	47%	36%	17%
Republican	60%	31%	9%
Non-enrolled	59%	32%	9%

- **Should Senator Clinton take the pledge...a majority of New York voters think not:** 53% of registered voters think Senator Hillary Clinton should not pledge to serve her full six year term should she win re-election to the U.S. Senate. 37% of registered voters think she should commit to complete a second term.

**Question Wording:** During Hillary Clinton's re-election campaign for the U.S. Senate, do you think she should pledge to fulfill another six year term and not run for president in 2008, or should she not make such a pledge?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Should Pledge	Should Not Pledge	Unsure
September 2005	37%	53%	10%
August 2005	39%	44%	17%
<b>Party</b>			
Democrat	36%	55%	9%
Republican	40%	50%	10%
Non-enrolled	38%	53%	9%

- **Senator Clinton’s approval rating is strong and steady:** 54% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Hillary Clinton is doing as senator as either excellent or good. Her job performance score is unchanged from a similar poll conducted in August.

**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
September 2005	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	22%	20%	4%
August 2005	<b>54%</b>	19%	35%	23%	16%	7%
April 2005	<b>56%</b>	16%	40%	24%	16%	4%
October 2004	<b>57%</b>	18%	39%	21%	18%	4%
September 2004	<b>53%</b>	18%	35%	25%	20%	2%
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%
<b>September 2005</b>						
<b>Party</b>						
Democrat	<b>72%</b>	25%	47%	17%	9%	2%
Republican	<b>31%</b>	9%	22%	29%	35%	5%
Non-enrolled	<b>53%</b>	15%	38%	22%	20%	5%
<b>Region</b>						
Upstate	<b>48%</b>	15%	33%	25%	22%	5%
New York City	<b>66%</b>	23%	43%	20%	11%	3%
Suburbs	<b>51%</b>	16%	35%	19%	27%	3%
<b>Gender</b>						
Men	<b>50%</b>	15%	35%	21%	26%	3%
Women	<b>58%</b>	20%	38%	22%	15%	5%

- **Governor Spitzer?** In match-ups for the 2006 election for New York State governor, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer outdistances his potential opponents by substantial margins including Rochester businessman Thomas Golisano, former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, former Assemblyman John Faso, Assemblyman Patrick Manning, and New York’s Secretary of State Randy Daniels.

**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>	Thomas Golisano Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
September 2005	26%	61%	13%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	William Weld Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
September 2005	21%	63%	16%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	John Faso Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
September 2005	20%	64%	16%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Patrick Manning Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
September 2005	20%	65%	15%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Randy Daniels Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
September 2005	18%	65%	17%
April 2005	18%	65%	17%

- **Attorney General Eliot Spitzer scores big with voters:** 61% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general as either excellent or good, the highest rating received by these statewide elected officials.

**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
September 2005	<b>61%</b>	18%	43%	22%	4%	13%
April 2005	<b>61%</b>	20%	41%	19%	5%	15%
October 2004	<b>57%</b>	23%	34%	19%	4%	20%
September 2004	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	25%	5%	16%
April 2004	<b>60%</b>	20%	40%	20%	4%	16%

- **Governor Pataki's job performance rating inches upward:** 38% of New York State's registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. He received his lowest score of 34% 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?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2005	<b>38%</b>	5%	33%	42%	17%	3%
April 2005	<b>34%</b>	5%	29%	39%	25%	2%
October 2004	<b>41%</b>	7%	34%	38%	19%	2%
September 2004	<b>43%</b>	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
April 2004	<b>41%</b>	4%	37%	40%	18%	1%
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%
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%

- **Senator Charles Schumer’s job rating remains high:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 55% among New York State’s registered voters. This is statistically unchanged from the 58% he received from voters in April, although his performance rating has declined since he received a score of 61% last fall.

**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 2005	<b>55%</b>	17%	38%	25%	11%	9%
April 2005	<b>58%</b>	15%	43%	24%	8%	10%
October 2004	<b>61%</b>	19%	42%	21%	8%	10%
September 2004	<b>50%</b>	13%	37%	29%	11%	10%
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%

- **Comptroller Alan Hevesi still not well known among New York voters:** 33% of New York State’s registered voters say they are unsure how to rate Comptroller Alan Hevesi. 40% rate his job performance as either excellent or good, and 27% rate the job he is doing as either fair or poor.

**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 2005	<b>40%</b>	4%	36%	24%	3%	33%
April 2005	<b>36%</b>	5%	31%	22%	6%	36%
October 2004	<b>35%</b>	4%	31%	24%	5%	36%
September 2004	<b>33%</b>	4%	29%	29%	5%	33%
April 2004	<b>36%</b>	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

- **The state of the state:** 50% of registered voters think New York State is headed in the wrong direction. This is down from a high during the Pataki administration of 65% in April. A majority of voters in New York City and its surrounding suburbs now believe the state is moving in the right direction. But, only 31% of registered voters upstate feel the state is headed in the right 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?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Right Direction</b>	<b>Wrong Direction</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
September 2005	43%	50%	7%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	31%	62%	7%
New York City	53%	39%	8%
Suburbs	52%	41%	7%
<b>Previous Polls</b>			
April 2005	29%	65%	6%
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%
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%

- Economic worries continue to decline:** 49% of registered voters think New York State is currently in a recession, a decline from 55% in a similar poll conducted in April and a full 13 point drop from last fall. However, 61% of upstate voters still think the state remains 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
September 2005	49%	44%	7%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	61%	34%	5%
New York City	38%	52%	10%
Suburbs	39%	54%	7%
<b>Previous Polls</b>			
April 2005	55%	37%	8%
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%

**Nature of the Sample: 707 NYS Registered Voters**

The survey of 707 registered voters was conducted on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 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.