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New York State: Campaign 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2006

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll of New York State reports:

- **Spitzer formidable frontrunner in race for New York governor:** In match-ups for the 2006 election for New York governor, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer outdistances his potential opponents by substantial margins including former Assemblyman John Faso, former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, and Rochester businessman Thomas Golisano, who has since announced that he will not be a candidate.

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	John Faso Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
January 2006	18%	68%	14%
September 2005	20%	64%	16%

Registered Voters	William Weld Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
January 2006	19%	66%	15%
September 2005	21%	63%	16%

Registered Voters	Thomas Golisano Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
January 2006	28%	61%	11%
September 2005	26%	61%	13%

- **Many New York Republicans are undecided about whom their party should nominate for governor:** 50% of New York State's registered Republicans are undecided about whom to support for their party's nominee for New York governor. Thomas Golisano was the frontrunner in the Republican Party's September primary but

has since announced he will not be a candidate. No one else receives even double digit support among registered Republicans.

Question Wording: If September's Republican primary for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Republicans	Undecided	Thomas Golisano	William Weld	John Faso	Patrick Manning	Randy Daniels
January 2006	50%	33%	8%	4%	3%	2%

- Eliot Spitzer is the overwhelming favorite of New York's Democrats in their September primary for governor:** 72% of New York State's registered Democrats support Eliot Spitzer for their party's nominee for New York governor. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi receives 8%, and 20% are undecided.

Question Wording: If September's Democratic primary for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Democrats	Eliot Spitzer	Tom Suozzi	Undecided
January 2006	72%	8%	20%

- Many New Yorkers approve of the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general:** 63% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general as either excellent or good. 21% rate the job he is doing as fair, and only 3% rate his performance as poor. 13% are unsure.

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
January 2006	63%	21%	42%	21%	3%	13%
September 2005	61%	18%	43%	22%	4%	13%
April 2005	61%	20%	41%	19%	5%	15%
October 2004	57%	23%	34%	19%	4%	20%
September 2004	54%	18%	36%	25%	5%	16%
April 2004	60%	20%	40%	20%	4%	16%
Party						
Democrat	67%	26%	41%	17%	3%	13%
Republican	60%	14%	46%	23%	4%	13%
Non-enrolled	62%	24%	38%	26%	3%	9%

- The battle for New York’s next attorney general...the Republicans:** Former Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro leads the field of potential Republican candidates for her party’s nomination for New York State’s attorney general with 35%. But 44% of registered Republicans are undecided. Pirro is followed by New York State Senator Michael Balboni and Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan each with 9%, and New York State Criminal Justice Director Chauncey Parker with 3%.

Question Wording: If September's Republican primary for attorney general of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Republicans	Undecided	Jeanine Pirro	Michael Balboni	Daniel Donovan	Chauncey Parker
January 2006	44%	35%	9%	9%	3%

- The battle for New York’s next attorney general...the Democrats:** Former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo leads the field of potential candidates for the Democratic nomination for New York State’s attorney general with the support of 40% of registered Democrats. Former New York City Public Advocate Mark Green follows with 18%. The rest of the field of possible candidates receives only single digit support. 31% of Democrats remain undecided.

Question Wording: If September's Democratic primary for attorney general of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Democrats	Andrew Cuomo	Mark Green	Sean Patrick Maloney	Denise O’Donnell	Charlie King	Richard Brodsky	Undecided
January 2006	40%	18%	5%	3%	2%	1%	31%

- The battle for New York’s next attorney general...Republican and Democratic frontrunners head to head:** In hypothetical match-ups for November’s election for New York State’s attorney general, Democrat Andrew Cuomo leads Republican Jeanine Pirro. Cuomo receives the support of 50% of New York State’s registered voters compared with 36% for Pirro. 14% of registered voters are undecided. When Democrat Mark Green is matched against Republican Pirro, he receives the support of 46% of registered voters compared with 36% for Pirro. 18% are undecided.

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

Registered Voters	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Andrew Cuomo Democrat	Undecided
January 2006	36%	50%	14%

Registered Voters	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Mark Green Democrat	Undecided
January 2006	36%	46%	18%

- **Governor Pataki's job performance rating up slightly:** 43% of New York State's registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. He received 38% 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 2006	43%	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
September 2005	38%	5%	33%	42%	17%	3%
April 2005	34%	5%	29%	39%	25%	2%
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%
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%

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

- **Majority of voters see state headed in the wrong direction:** 54% of registered voters think New York State is headed in the wrong direction. 67% of registered voters upstate, 44% of voters in New York City, and 41% of voters in the suburbs which surround New York City share this view.

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 2006	39%	54%	7%
Region			
Upstate	28%	67%	5%
New York City	47%	44%	9%
Suburbs	51%	41%	8%
Previous Polls			
September 2005	43%	50%	7%
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%

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
November 1996	51%	37%	12%
September 1995	35%	48%	17%

- Voters divide over the state of New York’s economy but opinions depend on where they live:** 47% of registered voters think the state is currently in a recession, and 46% do not. But 57% of voters who live upstate are concerned about the state’s economy. In contrast, 63% of voters who live in the suburbs that surround New York City do not think the state’s economy is in recession. New York City voters divide on the issue.

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

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
January 2006	47%	46%	7%
Region			
Upstate	57%	37%	6%
New York City	44%	47%	9%
Suburbs	32%	63%	5%
Previous Polls			
September 2005	49%	44%	7%
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%

- Senator Charles Schumer’s job rating remains strong:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 57% among New York State's registered voters. This is statistically unchanged from the 55% he received from voters last September.

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 2006	57%	15%	42%	23%	12%	8%
September 2005	55%	17%	38%	25%	11%	9%
April 2005	58%	15%	43%	24%	8%	10%
October 2004	61%	19%	42%	21%	8%	10%
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%

- **Comptroller Alan Hevesi's job performance steady but...** 34% of New York State's registered voters are still unsure how to rate Comptroller Alan Hevesi. 40% rate his job performance as either excellent or good, and 26% 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
January 2006	40%	5%	35%	23%	3%	34%
September 2005	40%	4%	36%	24%	3%	33%
April 2005	36%	5%	31%	22%	6%	36%
October 2004	35%	4%	31%	24%	5%	36%
September 2004	33%	4%	29%	29%	5%	33%
April 2004	36%	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

Nature of the Sample: 854 NYS Registered Voters

The survey of 854 registered voters was conducted January 24th through January 26th, 2006. 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 $\pm 3.5\%$. There are 357 registered Democrats and 261 registered Republicans. Results for these sub-samples are statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$ and $\pm 6\%$, respectively. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.