



The Political Climate in New York State Approval Ratings & the 2010 Gubernatorial Race

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This Marist Poll reports:

- **Thumbs Up for Governor Paterson's Performance in Office:** A majority of registered voters in New York State think Governor David Paterson is doing either an excellent or good job in office. Paterson has done well at winning over voters in the Empire State. In a Marist Poll conducted in April just weeks after taking office, many New York voters didn't know much about their new governor. 35% of registered voters rated the governor well at the time but 32% didn't feel they knew enough about him to have an opinion. Today, 57% of the state's electorate has a positive impression of how he is running the state. Only 9% are unsure how to rate him. 34% rate the governor's performance in office as fair or poor. Although there are partisan differences with more Democrats than Republicans rating the governor well, his appeal stretches across the state. 56% of voters in New York City and upstate, and 60% of suburban voters approve of the job Paterson is doing as governor.

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

	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Registered Voters						
October 2008	57%	10%	47%	28%	6%	9%
By Party						
Democrat	67%	12%	55%	24%	2%	7%
Republican	47%	7%	40%	34%	13%	6%
Non-enrolled	54%	8%	46%	32%	2%	12%
By Region						
New York City	56%	8%	48%	28%	3%	13%
Suburbs	60%	10%	50%	24%	9%	7%
Upstate	56%	11%	45%	31%	6%	7%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
April 2008	35%	4%	31%	25%	8%	32%
By Party						
Democrat	42%	6%	36%	20%	3%	35%
Republican	32%	4%	28%	33%	8%	27%
Non-enrolled	28%	2%	26%	28%	13%	31%
By Region						
New York City	36%	3%	33%	22%	8%	34%
Suburbs	24%	2%	22%	30%	8%	38%
Upstate	40%	6%	34%	26%	7%	27%

- **2010? Bloomberg Bests Paterson in Potential Gubernatorial Matchups...Paterson Fares**

Better Against Other Possible Republican Rivals: New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is a formidable statewide contender for governor. In a hypothetical pairing between the mayor and Governor Paterson, Bloomberg receives the support of 50% of registered New York State voters to Paterson's 39%. Bloomberg has improved his standing against the governor since earlier this year. In a Marist Poll conducted last April, Bloomberg and Paterson were in a dead heat -- 43% to 42%. Governor Paterson turns the tables, however, when pitted against other potential opponents. 51% of voters say they would support Paterson if he ran against former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Giuliani would win the backing of 42% of voters. Paterson has an even greater advantage when matched against Congressman Peter King. King receives the backing of just 17% of the state's electorate compared with 62% for Paterson.

Question Wording: If the 2010 election for Governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Paterson Democrat	Bloomberg Republican	Undecided
October 2008	39%	50%	11%
April 2008	42%	43%	15%

Registered Voters	Paterson Democrat	Giuliani Republican	Undecided
October 2008	51%	42%	7%
April 2008	48%	44%	8%

Registered Voters	Paterson Democrat	King Republican	Undecided
October 2008	62%	17%	21%
April 2008	59%	23%	18%

- In Need of a New Direction:** A majority of registered voters in New York think the state needs to shift gears and take a different course. 57% say New York is headed in the wrong direction while 35% believe the state is on the right track. 61% of the upstate electorate and 57% of suburban voters think the state is off course. 51% of New York City voters hold this view. A majority of Republicans and voters who are not enrolled in a party -- 66% and 59%, respectively -- agree the state needs to chart a new course while half of Democrats feel the same way.

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
October 2008	35%	57%	8%
By Party			
Democrat	42%	50%	8%
Republican	25%	66%	9%
Non-enrolled	34%	59%	7%
By Region			
New York City	41%	51%	8%
Suburbs	30%	57%	13%
Upstate	33%	61%	6%
Previous Polls			
April 2008	33%	59%	8%
March 2007	49%	43%	8%
October 2006	35%	56%	9%

- Nearly Eight in Ten Voters Think New York Is In a Recession:** Most of New York State's electorate believes the state is in a recession. 79% of registered voters have this view compared with only about one in five who says the state is not in a recession. This impression of the state's economy is echoed around the state. 82% of voters upstate, 77% of the New York City electorate, and 75% of suburban voters share this view. While Republicans and Democrats have their differences on other matters, there is consensus on this issue. 83% of Democrats and 81% of Republicans share this grim economic perspective. 71% of voters who are not enrolled in a party concur.

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

Registered voters	Yes	No	Unsure
October 2008	79%	19%	2%

Registered voters	Yes	No	Unsure
By Party			
Democrat	83%	16%	1%
Republican	81%	16%	3%
Non-enrolled	71%	27%	2%
By Region			
New York City	77%	20%	3%
Suburbs	75%	23%	2%
Upstate	82%	17%	1%
Previous Polls			
April 2008	73%	24%	3%

- Most New York Voters Concerned About Making Ends Meet:** 73% of registered voters in New York State say they are either always worried or sometimes worried their income will not cover their families' living expenses. That includes nearly one-third who say this is a constant concern. About three-quarters of voters in New York City and upstate are worried about their personal finances. 69% of suburban voters are uneasy about their financial situation. Not surprisingly, voters with lower incomes are particularly strapped. Nearly half of those voters who earn less than \$50,000 a year always worry about making ends meet.

Question Wording: How often do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills: always, sometimes, seldom, or never?

Registered voters	Always/ Sometimes	Always	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
October 2008	73%	32%	41%	17%	10%
By Region					
New York City	76%	32%	44%	14%	10%
Suburbs	69%	29%	40%	19%	12%
Upstate	74%	34%	40%	17%	9%
By Income					
Less than \$50,000	87%	46%	41%	9%	4%
\$50,000 or more	66%	24%	42%	21%	13%

- Senator Hillary Clinton Achieves Personal Best:** 62% of registered voters in New York State say Senator Hillary Clinton is doing either an excellent or good job. This is Clinton's highest job approval rating since taking office in 2001. It is notable that one-quarter of the state's electorate rate the job she is doing as excellent, her highest to date, and only 13% think she is doing a poor job, her lowest negative score.

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
October 2008	62%	25%	37%	21%	13%	4%
April 2008	50%	18%	32%	25%	23%	2%
March 2007	54%	18%	36%	21%	20%	5%
October 2006	58%	20%	38%	25%	15%	2%
July 2006	52%	13%	39%	27%	19%	2%
May 2006	51%	15%	36%	27%	19%	3%
January 2006	54%	18%	36%	24%	19%	3%
September 2005	54%	18%	36%	22%	20%	4%
August 2005	54%	19%	35%	23%	16%	7%
April 2005	56%	16%	40%	24%	16%	4%
October 2004	57%	18%	39%	21%	18%	4%
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%

- Majority of Voters Likes the Job Chuck Schumer Is Doing As Senator:** 55% of registered voters in New York State think New York’s senior senator, Charles Schumer, is doing either an excellent or good job in office. Schumer has consistently achieved a favorable approval rating from at least half of the state’s electorate since December 2001.

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
October 2008	55%	20%	35%	20%	13%	12%
April 2008	57%	15%	42%	27%	10%	6%
March 2007	57%	20%	37%	23%	9%	11%
October 2006	55%	19%	36%	32%	8%	5%
July 2006	58%	13%	45%	27%	8%	7%
May 2006	56%	15%	41%	27%	8%	9%
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%

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

- State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo’s Job Approval Rating Drops:** Half of New York’s voters approve of the job Andrew Cuomo is doing as the state’s attorney general. That includes 13% who believe he is doing an excellent job and 37% who say he is doing a good job. Cuomo has lost some ground among New York registered voters. In a Marist Poll conducted last April, 59% of the electorate reported he was doing either an excellent or good job. But, the decline is not because more voters dislike the job he is doing. 34% of the New York electorate currently rates his job performance as fair or poor, the same proportion that did so in the previous poll. Instead, the proportion of voters who are unsure about how to rate the job the attorney general is doing has increased.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2008	50%	13%	37%	28%	6%	16%
April 2008	59%	13%	46%	25%	9%	7%
July 2007	52%	6%	46%	30%	7%	11%
March 2007	40%	7%	33%	26%	8%	26%

- Nearly Half of New York Voters are Unsure How to Rate Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli:** While 52% of voters say they have an opinion about the job New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is doing, 48% are unsure. That’s an increase in the proportion of voters who couldn’t rate the comptroller’s job performance in April. Those who do have an opinion divide. 26% rate him positively, and the same proportion does not.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2008	26%	5%	21%	21%	5%	48%
April 2008	32%	4%	28%	29%	6%	33%
March 2007	18%	2%	16%	20%	3%	59%

- **President George W. Bush's Approval Rating at All-Time Low Among New York Voters:**

Just 11% of the New York State electorate believes President George W. Bush is doing an excellent or good job. 67% believe the job he is doing in office is poor. The president's already dismal approval rating dropped by half since last April. At that time, 22% of voters in New York approved of the job George Bush was doing as president.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2008	11%	2%	9%	22%	67%	<1%
Democrat	3%	1%	2%	12%	85%	<1%
Republican	30%	4%	26%	32%	38%	<1%
Independent	7%	1%	6%	25%	68%	<1%
April 2008	22%	6%	16%	21%	56%	1%
Democrat	11%	4%	7%	12%	77%	<1%
Republican	40%	10%	30%	34%	25%	1%
Non-enrolled	19%	5%	14%	20%	61%	<1%
Previous Polls						
March 2007	25%	6%	19%	19%	55%	1%
October 2006	26%	8%	18%	23%	50%	1%
July 2006	26%	8%	18%	24%	49%	1%
May 2006	24%	7%	17%	21%	55%	<1%
January 2006	34%	11%	23%	21%	45%	<1%
September 2005	33%	10%	23%	22%	44%	1%
April 2005	43%	16%	27%	23%	34%	<1%
October 2004	39%	19%	20%	18%	42%	1%
September 2004	40%	19%	21%	21%	39%	<1%
April 2004	38%	14%	24%	22%	39%	1%
January 2004	52%	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	44%	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	58%	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	57%	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%
April 2002	72%	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	79%	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	40%	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

Nature of the Sample: 660 New York Registered Voters

This survey of 660 registered voters in New York was conducted on October 21st and October 22nd, 2008.

Registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in

New York and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$.

There are 527 likely voters. The results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.