



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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New York State:

Outlook Bright for Senator Clinton in '06 ...

Voters Not Sold On NYS Pols' '08 Prospects

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday April 12, 2005

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Majority supports Senator Clinton's re-election:** 51% of New York State's registered voters say they would definitely vote to re-elect Hillary Clinton to the U.S. Senate in 2006. 31% would definitely vote against her, and 12% want to wait and see who runs against her. 6% 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?

Registered Voters	Definitely Vote For	Definitely Vote Against	Depends Who Runs	Unsure
April 2005	51%	31%	12%	6%

- **Senator Clinton's approval rating remains strong:** 56% of New York State's registered voters rate the job Hillary Clinton is doing as senator as either excellent or good. In a similar poll conducted in October, her approval rating was 57%, the highest she had received since assuming office.

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
April 2005	56%	16%	40%	24%	16%	4%
October 2004	57%	18%	39%	21%	18%	4%
September 2004	53%	18%	35%	25%	20%	2%

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

- Hillary Clinton handily defeats potential senate opponents except for....** In hypothetical pairings between Senator Clinton and a number of possible Republican candidates, only former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani makes her 2006 re-election bid to the U.S. Senate a competitive contest. Giuliani, with the support of 49% of New York's voters, is closely matched with Clinton who receives 47%. 4% are undecided. Senator Clinton bests her other potential challengers by wide margins including Governor George Pataki, former U.S. Senate candidate Rick Lazio, public relations executive Adam Brecht, Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro, and the son-in-law of former President Richard Nixon, attorney Edward Cox.

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	Undecided
April 2005	49%	47%	4%
September 2004	50%	48%	2%
April 2004	50%	48%	2%
January 2004	50%	45%	5%
September 2003	57%	40%	3%

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	34%	60%	6%
September 2004	44%	53%	3%
April 2004	42%	55%	3%
January 2004	46%	46%	8%
September 2003	44%	52%	4%

Registered Voters	Rick Lazio Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	31%	61%	8%

Registered Voters	Adam Brecht Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	29%	61%	10%

Registered Voters	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	28%	64%	8%

Registered Voters	Edward Cox Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	26%	66%	8%

- **A presidential contender from New York?** 51% of New York voters want Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008 including 67% of Republicans. 44% of New York State's registered voters want Senator Hillary Clinton to run for president, although she too receives more support from voters of her own party. Only 19% of registered voters want Governor Pataki to run.

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

Registered Voters	Yes, run	No, don't run	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	51%	42%	7%
Democrats	40%	54%	6%
Republicans	67%	26%	7%
Non-enrolled	48%	45%	7%
Hillary Clinton	44%	51%	5%
Democrats	59%	35%	6%
Republicans	24%	73%	3%
Non-enrolled	43%	52%	5%
George Pataki	19%	74%	7%
Democrats	14%	81%	5%
Republicans	25%	66%	9%
Non-enrolled	19%	74%	7%

- **As New York goes....** When asked to choose sides in a match-up for president in 2008, 51% of New York State's registered voters would support Rudy Giuliani compared with 43% who would back Hillary Clinton. In contrast when pitted against George Pataki, Hillary Clinton receives 55% to 36% for New York's governor.

Question Wording: If the 2008 election for president were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	51%	43%	6%

Registered Voters	George Pataki Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
April 2005	36%	55%	9%

- Rudy Giuliani...so what's next?** Although most New York State voters would like to see Rudy Giuliani run for elective office, there is little consensus about which one that should be. 28% would like to see him run for governor, 18% for president, and 14% for U.S. Senate. 33% want him to stay in the private sector.

Question Wording: From the following list, do you want Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008, run for the U.S. Senate in 2006, run for New York State Governor in 2006, or stay in private business and law?

Registered Voters	President 2008	U.S. Senate 2006	NYS Governor 2006	Stay in Business/ Law	Unsure
April 2005	18%	14%	28%	33%	7%
Democrats	14%	10%	23%	47%	6%
Republicans	25%	21%	33%	15%	6%
Non-enrolled	18%	10%	31%	34%	7%

- Senator Charles Schumer's job rating remains high:** Senator Charles Schumer's approval rating is currently 58% among New York State's registered voters. This is numerically lower but statistically comparable to his highest score of 61% which he had received from voters in October of last year.

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
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%

- Attorney General Eliot Spitzer tops statewide officeholders:** 61% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general as either excellent or good, the highest rating received by New York’s statewide elected officials. In a similar poll conducted in October, Spitzer had a positive rating of 57%.

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
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%

- Many in state still don’t know Comptroller Alan Hevesi:** 36% of New York State registered voters say they are unsure how to rate Comptroller Alan Hevesi. 36% rate his job performance as either excellent or good, and 28% 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
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%

- **President Bush’s approval rating nudges up in New York:** 43% of New York State’s registered voters rate the president’s job performance positively.

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
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: 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.