



WNBC/Marist Poll

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NYS Poll: Jury Still Out on Eliot Spitzer as Governor

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

- Nearly one in five New York State voters are unsure how to rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as governor:** Eliot Spitzer, who received high praise from many New York State voters as attorney general, is having to prove himself once again to voters in his new job as governor. 19% of registered voters statewide are unsure how to rate the job he is doing so far. Among voters who express an opinion, 43% approve and rate the job Spitzer is doing as governor as excellent or good. 38% of registered voters do not approve and rate the job he is doing as fair or poor. In a similar poll conducted during Governor Pataki’s first months in office in 1995, 36% of registered voters approved of the job he was doing in office, and 44% did not approve. 20% of voters at that time were unsure how to rate the new governor. In May 1983, Governor Cuomo’s first year in office, he received an approval rating of 49%. 38% did not approve of the job Governor Cuomo was doing, and 13% were unsure how to rate him.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
March 2007	43%	8%	35%	30%	8%	19%
Party						
Democrat	46%	12%	34%	30%	6%	18%
Republican	39%	5%	34%	32%	12%	17%
Non-enrolled	43%	5%	38%	30%	8%	19%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
Previous Governors						
Governor George Pataki						
March 1995	36%	8%	28%	28%	16%	20%
Governor Mario Cuomo						
May 1983	49%	10%	39%	30%	8%	13%

- Many voters praise Governor Spitzer’s leadership, but his image is in black and white:**

60% of registered voters think Eliot Spitzer is a good leader for New York State. But, African American voters have a very different impression of the new governor than voters as a whole. 63% of white voters and 66% of Latino voters see Spitzer as a good leader for the state. This contrasts with the perceptions of many African American voters. Only 39% of African American voters think Governor Spitzer is a good leader, 27% do not, and 34% are unsure. The debate over health care seems to have taken its toll. 45% of voters statewide think Governor Spitzer can be trusted to do the right thing on health care, 34% do not think so, and 21% are unsure. But, voters again divide along racial lines. 45% of white voters and 62% of Latino voters think Governor Spitzer can be trusted on health care compared with only 22% of African American voters who share this view. 45% of African American voters do not think he can be trusted on this issue, and 33% are unsure. Governor Spitzer is also perceived by 56% of registered voters statewide as a new kind of independent politician, and a majority of voters think he is changing the way things work in Albany. Only 38% of New York State voters think his style is too confrontational.

Question Wording: I'm going to read you several statements about Governor Eliot Spitzer. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one:

Registered Voters	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
He is a good leader for New York State	60%	22%	18%
White	63%	21%	16%
African American	39%	27%	34%
Latino	66%	26%	8%
He can be trusted to do the right thing in health care for NYS	45%	34%	21%
White	45%	34%	21%
African American	22%	45%	33%
Latino	62%	24%	14%
He is a new kind of independent politician	56%	29%	15%
White	59%	27%	14%
African American	45%	34%	21%
Latino	68%	25%	7%

Registered Voters	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
He is changing the way things work in Albany for the better	54%	28%	18%
White	57%	26%	17%
African American	25%	44%	31%
Latino	72%	15%	13%
His style as governor is too confrontational	38%	47%	15%
White	39%	48%	13%
African American	39%	46%	15%
Latino	49%	41%	10%

- For the first time since 2002, more voters think New York State is moving in the right direction than think it is moving in the wrong direction:** Nearly half of registered voters in New York State think the state is headed in the right direction. 49% of voters see the state moving in the right direction compared with 43% who feel it is not. This is the first time since October of 2002 that more voters feel positively than negatively about how the state is doing.

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
March 2007	49%	43%	8%
Region			
Upstate			
March 2007	42%	51%	7%
October 2006	26%	66%	8%
New York City			
March 2007	59%	33%	8%
October 2006	39%	49%	12%
Suburbs			
March 2007	48%	42%	10%
October 2006	44%	47%	9%
Previous Polls			
October 2006	35%	56%	9%
July 2006	40%	52%	8%
May 2006	34%	61%	5%
January 2006	39%	54%	7%
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%

- Campaign 2008: If Rudy Giuliani were the Republican nominee for president, would he turn this blue state red?** Rudy Giuliani handily outdistances Democrats Barack Obama and John Edwards for New York’s electoral votes in hypothetical matchups for the 2008 presidential election. Giuliani receives the support of 56% of registered voters in New York compared to 39% for Obama. Similarly, he receives 56% in a contest against Edwards who receives the support of 38% of the state’s registered voters. In addition, Giuliani is the most competitive Republican against Democrat Hillary Clinton in New York. Although he loses to Clinton by seven percentage points, he keeps her support just at 50%.

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

Registered Voters	Barack Obama Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Undecided
March 2007	39%	56%	5%
Democrat	63%	33%	4%
Republican	21%	74%	5%
Non-enrolled	26%	70%	4%

Registered Voters	John Edwards Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Undecided
March 2007	38%	56%	6%
Democrat	63%	32%	5%
Republican	18%	77%	5%
Non-enrolled	23%	71%	6%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Undecided
March 2007	50%	43%	7%
Democrat	76%	18%	6%
Republican	16%	77%	7%
Non-enrolled	42%	53%	5%

- If New York Republicans had their way, Rudy Giuliani would be the Republican nominee for president:** Rudy Giuliani receives the support of 48% of registered Republicans in New York State compared with 21% for John McCain, 7% for Newt Gingrich, and 5% for Fred Thompson. Nine other Republican candidates trail with low single digits. When informed that Rudy Giuliani has taken pro-choice, pro-gun control, and pro-gay rights stands, 63% of Republicans consider these positions to be a factor in deciding whether or not to support him. 34% of Republicans consider his stance on these social issues to be a major factor, and 29% of

Republicans think it is a minor factor in deciding their vote. But, 52% of Republicans in New York State say his positions on these social issues would make them more likely to support him.

Question Wording: If the 2008 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Republicans	March 2007
Rudy Giuliani	48%
John McCain	21%
Newt Gingrich	7%
Fred Thompson	5%
Mitt Romney	2%
Tommy Thompson	1%
Chuck Hagel	1%
Tom Tancredo	1%
Sam Brownback	1%
Ron Paul	<1%
John Cox	<1%
Mike Huckabee	<1%
Duncan Hunter	<1%
Undecided	13%

Question Wording: Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is a pro-choice, pro-gun control, pro-gay rights Republican. Would the fact that Rudy Giuliani has these positions be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in deciding if you would vote for Rudy Giuliani for president in 2008?

Registered Voters	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not a Factor
March 2007	35%	28%	37%
Democrat	35%	26%	39%
Republican	35%	28%	37%
Non-enrolled	30%	38%	32%

Question wording: Does the fact that Rudy Giuliani has these positions make you more or less likely to vote for him?

Registered Voters	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
March 2007	45%	33%	22%
Democrat	41%	38%	21%
Republican	52%	27%	21%
Non-enrolled	48%	28%	24%

- Hillary Clinton is New York Democrats' favorite presidential candidate:** Hillary Clinton receives the support of 44% of registered Democrats in New York State outdistancing her closest competitor, non-candidate Al Gore, by 28 percentage points. Gore receives 16% followed by Barack Obama with 14% and John Edwards with 9%. Seven other Democrats trail.

Question Wording: If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Republicans	March 2007
Hillary Clinton	44%
Al Gore	16%
Barack Obama	14%
John Edwards	9%
Joe Biden	3%
Bill Richardson	2%
Al Sharpton	1%
Chris Dodd	1%
Wesley Clark	<1%
Mike Gravel	<1%
Dennis Kucinich	<1%
Undecided	10%

- Hillary Clinton’s position on the war in Iraq is not a problem for most New York Democrats:** Most registered voters in New York State believe the war in Iraq should be a major issue in the presidential campaign including 77% of Democrats. Only 17% of Democrats say Hillary Clinton’s position on the war makes them less likely to support her. 53% of New York Democrats do not think her position makes a difference to their vote, and 30% say her position on the war makes them more likely to support her.

Question Wording: Do you think the war in Iraq should be a major campaign issue, a minor campaign issue, or not a campaign issue in the presidential campaign?

Registered Voters	Major Issue	Minor Issue	Not an Issue
March 2007	74%	17%	9%
Democrat	77%	15%	8%
Republican	71%	20%	9%
Non-enrolled	74%	15%	11%

Question wording: Does Hillary Clinton's position on the war in Iraq make you more likely or less likely to support her, or does it make no difference to you?

Registered Voters	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
March 2007	20%	21%	59%
Democrat	30%	17%	53%
Republican	9%	30%	61%
Non-enrolled	14%	20%	66%

- Hillary Clinton holds a convincing lead in New York against the top GOP presidential contenders with one exception:** Hillary Clinton outpaces a host of potential GOP competitors in matchups for the 2008 presidential race in New York. Clinton bests Newt Gingrich by 49 percentage points and Mitt Romney by 44 percentage points in a one on one among New York State voters. She also leads John McCain by 16 percentage points receiving the support of 56% of registered voters in the state compared to McCain's 40%. But, she faces tougher competition from Rudy Giuliani. As noted earlier, she just has 50% compared with his 43%. 7% of registered voters in New York State are undecided in this contest.

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

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Newt Gingrich Republican	Undecided
March 2007	71%	22%	7%
Democrat	91%	6%	3%
Republican	33%	56%	11%
Non-enrolled	74%	16%	10%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Mitt Romney Republican	Undecided
March 2007	66%	22%	12%
Democrat	88%	6%	6%
Republican	31%	55%	14%
Non-enrolled	62%	18%	20%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	John McCain Republican	Undecided
March 2007	56%	40%	4%
Democrat	80%	18%	2%
Republican	18%	75%	7%
Non-enrolled	53%	43%	4%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Undecided
March 2007	50%	43%	7%
Democrat	76%	18%	6%
Republican	16%	77%	7%
Non-enrolled	42%	53%	5%

- **A majority of New Yorkers approve of the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing:** 54% of registered voters in New York State approve of the job Hillary Clinton is doing in the U.S. Senate. Her rating has dipped slightly from its highest point of 58% which she received last fall just prior to her re-election.

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
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%

- **A majority of voters approve of the job Charles Schumer is doing as senator:** Senator Charles Schumer’s approval rating is currently 57% among New York State's registered voters.

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
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%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
March 2007	57%	20%	37%	23%	9%	11%
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%

- **New York voters rate the new attorney general:** 40% of registered voters rate the job Andrew Cuomo is doing as attorney general as excellent or good. 34% rate his job performance as fair or poor. 26% of New York State voters do not know enough about him to rate the job he is doing.

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
March 2007	40%	7%	33%	26%	8%	26%

- **DiNapoli who?** 59% of registered voters in New York State are unsure how to rate the job their new comptroller is doing. Among voters who have an impression of the job he is doing, 18% rate his job performance as excellent or good, and 23% rate the job he is doing as fair or poor.

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
March 2007	18%	2%	16%	20%	3%	59%

- **A majority of New York voters rate the job President Bush is doing as poor:** 55% of registered voters in the state rate the President's job performance as poor. Only 25% of New York State voters rate the job President Bush is doing in office as either excellent or good.

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
March 2007	25%	6%	19%	19%	55%	1%
Party						
Democrat	10%	1%	9%	15%	74%	1%
Republican	44%	10%	34%	28%	28%	<1%
Non-enrolled	24%	6%	18%	17%	58%	1%
Previous Polls						
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: 641 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 641 New York State registered voters was conducted March 20th through March 22nd, 2007. 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. The margin of error is $\pm 4\%$. There are 275 registered Democrats and 188 registered Republicans. The margin of error for these sub-groups is $\pm 6\%$ and $\pm 7\%$, respectively. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.