



WNBC/Marist Poll

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NYS Poll: Voters Want Further Probe of 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:

- **Three in five New York State voters think there should be a further investigation into what Governor Spitzer knew:** 62% of registered voters think there should be an additional inquiry beyond the New York State Attorney General’s report into what Governor Spitzer knew when his top aides misused the state police to gather information about Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno. 33% think the Attorney General’s report should end the discussion, and 5% are unsure. A majority of Democrats, Republicans, and independents believe the issue should be further investigated.

Question Wording: The report issued this week by the New York State Attorney General revealed that top aides to Governor Spitzer improperly used the state police to plant a negative story about New York State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno. Do you think the report issued by the New York State Attorney General should end the discussion or do you think there should be further investigation into what Governor Spitzer knew about what his top aides did?

Registered Voters	Further Investigate	End Discussion	Unsure
July 2007	62%	33%	5%
Party			
Democrat	57%	37%	6%
Republican	70%	28%	2%
Non-enrolled	60%	31%	9%
Region			
Upstate	59%	37%	4%
New York City	61%	31%	8%
Suburbs	66%	28%	6%

- Half of the New York State electorate does not think Governor Spitzer is being candid about what he knew:** 50% of registered voters think Governor Spitzer was aware of what his aides were doing when they tried to plant a negative story about Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno. 38% believe the governor when he says he had no knowledge of the incident. Republicans are most skeptical. 61% of Republican voters think the governor was aware of his staff's attempt to embarrass the Senate majority leader. Democrats are more divided. 45% think Governor Spitzer was aware of what was going on, and 42% believe he had no knowledge of their actions. 50% of independent voters think Governor Spitzer has not been forthcoming about what he knew of his staff's efforts to discredit Senate Majority Leader Bruno.

Question Wording: Do you believe Governor Spitzer when he says he had no knowledge of the actions taken by his top aides in this matter or do you think Governor Spitzer was aware of their actions?

Registered Voters	Governor Spitzer Had No Knowledge	Governor Spitzer Was Aware	Unsure
July 2007	38%	50%	12%
Party			
Democrat	42%	45%	13%
Republican	32%	61%	7%
Non-enrolled	34%	50%	16%
Region			
Upstate	42%	47%	11%
New York City	39%	48%	13%
Suburbs	28%	58%	14%

- Most voters believe Governor Spitzer should testify about what he knew:** New York State's registered voters, across party lines, overwhelmingly believe Governor Spitzer should be required to testify in an investigation regarding the actions of his staff. 80% of voters want the governor to testify compared with only 15% who do not. 5% are unsure.

Question Wording: If there is a further investigation into what Governor Spitzer knew, should he be required to testify or not?

Registered Voters	Governor Spitzer Should Testify	Governor Spitzer Should Not Testify	Unsure
July 2007	80%	15%	5%
Party			
Democrat	77%	17%	6%
Republican	83%	14%	3%
Non-enrolled	84%	11%	5%

Registered Voters	Governor Spitzer Should Testify	Governor Spitzer Should Not Testify	Unsure
Region			
Upstate	84%	14%	2%
New York City	75%	17%	8%
Suburbs	77%	15%	8%

- The good news for the governor is the events of the past week have had little impact on how voters view him:** 47% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as governor as either excellent or good, inching up from the 43% he received in March. 44% do not currently approve of his performance in office and rate the job he is doing as fair or poor, an increase from 38% in the previous poll. 9% of registered voters are unsure how to rate the governor's performance in office, a decline from 19% in the spring.

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
July 2007	47%	7%	40%	31%	13%	9%
Party						
Democrat	52%	9%	43%	29%	10%	9%
Republican	42%	4%	38%	33%	20%	5%
Non-enrolled	43%	6%	37%	36%	11%	10%
Region						
Upstate	51%	6%	45%	32%	13%	4%
New York City	43%	7%	36%	29%	13%	15%
Suburbs	42%	7%	35%	31%	16%	11%
Previous Ratings						
March 2007	43%	8%	35%	30%	8%	19%

- Governor Spitzer still has a reservoir of support among the state's voters:** 66% of registered voters think Eliot Spitzer is a good leader for New York State, and 58% think of him as a new kind of independent politician. A majority of voters still agree he is changing the way things work in Albany for the better although there has been an increase in the proportion of voters who disagree. 41% think his style as governor 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			
July 2007	66%	27%	7%
March 2007	60%	22%	18%
He is a new kind of independent politician			
July 2007	58%	36%	6%
March 2007	56%	29%	15%
He is changing the way things work in Albany for the better			
July 2007	54%	39%	7%
March 2007	54%	28%	18%
His style as governor is too confrontational			
July 2007	41%	52%	7%
March 2007	38%	47%	15%

- Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is not popular among New York State voters:** Although nearly one in four registered voters do not have an opinion about the job Joe Bruno is doing as Senate majority leader, half rate the job he is doing as fair or poor. Only 26% approve of his performance in office.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job New York State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
July 2007	26%	5%	21%	30%	20%	24%
Party						
Democrat	24%	6%	18%	32%	18%	26%
Republican	34%	6%	28%	29%	18%	19%
Non-enrolled	22%	3%	19%	30%	27%	21%
Region						
Upstate	30%	6%	24%	28%	24%	18%
New York City	24%	3%	21%	26%	20%	30%
Suburbs	19%	3%	16%	42%	14%	25%

- Nearly half of the state's voters disapprove of the job Sheldon Silver is doing as assembly speaker:** 48% of registered voters disapprove of the job Sheldon Silver is doing as speaker of the New York State Assembly. 28% rate the job he is doing as excellent or good. 24% do not know enough about him to offer an opinion.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
July 2007	28%	3%	25%	25%	23%	24%
Party						
Democrat	36%	5%	31%	27%	16%	21%
Republican	20%	1%	19%	26%	30%	24%
Non-enrolled	23%	3%	20%	25%	27%	25%
Region						
Upstate	25%	3%	22%	29%	25%	21%
New York City	34%	3%	31%	20%	22%	24%
Suburbs	25%	5%	20%	24%	22%	29%

- New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo improves his standing with voters:** 52% of registered voters rate the job Andrew Cuomo is doing as attorney general as excellent or good. This is a major increase from the 40% he received in March. 37% currently rate his job performance as fair or poor. 11% of New York State voters do not know enough about him to rate the job he is doing which is a decrease from 26% in the spring.

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
July 2007	52%	6%	46%	30%	7%	11%
Party						
Democrat	62%	8%	54%	23%	5%	10%
Republican	40%	3%	37%	40%	8%	12%
Non-enrolled	49%	6%	43%	31%	9%	11%
Region						
Upstate	46%	5%	41%	32%	8%	14%
New York City	64%	5%	59%	21%	5%	10%
Suburbs	48%	8%	40%	38%	5%	9%
Previous Ratings						
March 2007	40%	7%	33%	26%	8%	26%

Nature of the Sample: 554 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 554 New York State registered voters was conducted on July 25th and 26th, 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 $\pm 4.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.