



WNBC/Marist Poll

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NYS Poll: Voters Want Governor Spitzer to Resign

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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:

- **Seven in ten New York State voters think Governor Spitzer should resign from office:** 70% of registered voters think Governor Spitzer should resign from office after it was revealed that he was a customer of a high-priced prostitution ring. 22% think he should not have to resign from office, and 8% are unsure. A majority of Democrats, Republicans, and non-enrolled voters believe he should submit his resignation.

Question Wording: Law enforcement officials say Governor Spitzer was a customer of a prostitution ring and arranged to meet with a high-priced prostitute at a Washington hotel last month. Governor Spitzer apologized to his family and the public. Do you think Governor Spitzer should resign from office, or not?

Registered Voters	Should Resign	Should Not Resign	Unsure
March 2008	70%	22%	8%
Party			
Democrat	65%	27%	8%
Republican	81%	14%	5%
Non-enrolled	68%	24%	8%
Region			
Upstate	77%	15%	8%
New York City	62%	31%	7%
Suburbs	70%	24%	6%

- Even if Governor Spitzer resigns from office, more New York State voters think he should face criminal prosecution for his actions than those who think he should not:** 49% of registered voters think Eliot Spitzer should face criminal charges for his role as a customer of the Emperors Club VIP escort service, even if he decides to give up his job as New York’s governor. Republicans are most adamant. 64% of Republican voters think the governor should be charged with a crime. Many Democrats do not think so. 39% of Democrats think Governor Spitzer should face criminal charges. 47% believe, if he resigns, Spitzer should not face further scrutiny, and 14% are unsure. 49% of non-enrolled voters think Governor Spitzer should be prosecuted.

Question Wording: If Eliot Spitzer resigns as governor, do you think he should face criminal charges, or not?

Registered Voters	Should Face Criminal Charges	Should Not Face Criminal Charges	Unsure
March 2008	49%	37%	14%
Party			
Democrat	39%	47%	14%
Republican	64%	23%	13%
Non-enrolled	49%	38%	13%
Region			
Upstate	58%	29%	13%
New York City	36%	51%	13%
Suburbs	53%	33%	14%

- If Governor Spitzer does not resign from office, most voters want the New York State Legislature to impeach him:** 66% of New York State’s registered voters think the New York State Legislature should impeach Governor Spitzer if he fails to leave office on his own. Even 57% of Democrats think the state legislature should begin proceedings to remove the governor from office if he does not submit his resignation. 83% of Republicans and 62% of non-enrolled voters share this view.

Question Wording: If Governor Spitzer does not resign, do you think the New York State Legislature should impeach him and remove him from office?

Registered Voters	Legislature Should Impeach	Legislature Should Not Impeach	Unsure
March 2008	66%	28%	6%

Registered Voters	Legislature Should Impeach	Legislature Should Not Impeach	Unsure
Party			
Democrat	57%	35%	8%
Republican	83%	14%	3%
Non-enrolled	62%	32%	6%
Region			
Upstate	75%	19%	6%
New York City	54%	39%	7%
Suburbs	68%	28%	4%

- Many voters think Eliot Spitzer has done a poor job as governor:** Governor Eliot Spitzer has no reservoir of support among voters in the state. 36% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer has done as governor as poor and another 28% characterize his term in office as fair. This is an overall negative rating of 64%. Only 30% of New York voters rate his efforts as governor positively. Even among Democrats, only 34% rate the job he has done as governor as either excellent or good.

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 2008	30%	5%	25%	28%	36%	6%
Party						
Democrat	34%	4%	30%	28%	30%	8%
Republican	22%	5%	17%	25%	51%	2%
Non-enrolled	31%	6%	25%	36%	30%	3%
Region						
Upstate	26%	3%	23%	29%	40%	5%
New York City	35%	6%	29%	27%	30%	8%
Suburbs	30%	9%	21%	29%	37%	4%
Previous Ratings						
January 2008	35%	5%	30%	41%	15%	9%
July 2007	47%	7%	40%	31%	13%	9%
March 2007	43%	8%	35%	30%	8%	19%

- Most voters in New York think Hillary Clinton will be unscathed by the problems plaguing Eliot Spitzer:** Despite Eliot Spitzer's endorsement of Hillary Clinton and his pledge to be a superdelegate for her at the Democratic convention, 74% of voters in the state believe Clinton's campaign will be largely unaffected by the scandals surrounding the governor.

Question Wording: Governor Spitzer has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president. Do you think the scandal involving Governor Spitzer hurts Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or not at all?

Registered Voters	A Great Deal	A Good Amount	Not Very Much	Not at All	Unsure
March 2008	10%	14%	38%	36%	2%
Party					
Democrat	12%	12%	37%	38%	1%
Republican	9%	18%	40%	30%	3%
Non-enrolled	10%	12%	38%	38%	2%
Region					
Upstate	11%	17%	42%	28%	2%
New York City	13%	10%	33%	41%	3%
Suburbs	6%	14%	37%	41%	2%

- Lieutenant Governor who?** Nearly half of registered voters in New York State have either never heard of Lieutenant Governor David Paterson or aren't sure how to rate his performance in office. 48% of voters are unfamiliar with Lieutenant Governor Paterson who may become New York's first African American governor. 35% of voters statewide rate him positively, and only 17% do not have a positive impression of him.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
March 2008	35%	5%	30%	15%	2%	48%
Party						
Democrat	40%	6%	34%	14%	2%	44%
Republican	28%	3%	25%	17%	5%	50%
Non-enrolled	32%	4%	28%	15%	<1%	53%
Region						
Upstate	37%	3%	34%	11%	4%	48%
New York City	34%	7%	27%	17%	1%	48%
Suburbs	30%	6%	24%	19%	2%	49%

- New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Lieutenant Governor David Paterson are favorites for a gubernatorial run in 2010:** 56% of registered voters would like to see Michael Bloomberg run for governor of New York in two years, and 50% of the state's electorate wants Lieutenant Governor David Paterson to seek election as governor in 2010. This compares with 39% who would like to see Attorney General Andrew Cuomo make a run for the state's highest office, and 38% who want former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani to consider the race.

Question Wording: If Eliot Spitzer steps down as governor, Lieutenant Governor David Paterson becomes governor and will fulfill the remainder of Governor Spitzer's term in office. Do you want each of the following to run for governor in 2010:

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
Michael Bloomberg	56%	36%	8%
Democrat	55%	37%	8%
Republican	57%	35%	8%
Non-enrolled	58%	36%	6%
David Paterson	50%	24%	26%
Democrat	55%	19%	26%
Republican	42%	29%	29%
Non-enrolled	50%	25%	25%
Andrew Cuomo	39%	49%	12%
Democrat	46%	41%	13%
Republican	30%	61%	9%
Non-enrolled	41%	47%	12%
Rudy Giuliani	38%	60%	2%
Democrat	24%	75%	1%
Republican	61%	37%	2%
Non-enrolled	38%	61%	1%

Nature of the Sample: 624 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 624 New York State registered voters was conducted on March 11th, 2008. 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 $\pm 4\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.