



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ♦ Phone 845.575.5050 ♦ Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu

New Yorkers Say, “Yes,” to Secretary of State Clinton Governor Paterson’s Approval Rating Drops

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College, 845.575.5050

This Marist Poll reports:

- **Yes, She Should...Majority of New York Voters Want Hillary Clinton As Obama’s Secretary of State:** Senator Hillary Clinton may not have won the White House, but if it were up to a majority of New York voters, she’d be on her way to the State Department. 55% of the state’s electorate wants President-elect Barack Obama to select New York’s junior senator as his Secretary of State while 31% think Clinton should remain in the U.S. Senate. 14% aren’t quite sure what Senator Clinton’s future should be.

Question Wording: Do you want Hillary Clinton to become Secretary of State, or do you want her to stay in the U.S. Senate?

	Become Secretary of State	Stay in U.S. Senate	Unsure
Registered Voters	55%	31%	14%
Democrats	65%	26%	9%
Republicans	43%	35%	22%
Non-enrolled	52%	36%	12%

- **Diplomacy Becomes Her...New Yorkers Optimistic About How Clinton Would Do As Secretary of State:** 72% of registered voters in New York State say Senator Hillary Clinton would do either an excellent or good job as Secretary of State. 15% believe Clinton would do a fair job while just 9% think she would do poorly in the role. 86% of Democrats say Clinton would do well as Secretary of State, and 76% of non-enrolled voters agree. Even nearly a majority of Republicans think she would excel in the position.

Question Wording: What kind of job do you think Hillary Clinton will do as Secretary of State: excellent, good, fair or poor?

	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Registered Voters	72%	35%	37%	15%	9%	4%
Democrats	86%	47%	39%	10%	2%	2%
Republicans	49%	17%	32%	26%	21%	4%
Non-enrolled	76%	34%	42%	12%	9%	3%

- **Bill and Hillary...A One-Two Punch:** If Senator Hillary Clinton is chosen as the next Secretary of State, most New Yorkers don't think former President Bill Clinton would negatively affect her ability to perform her duties. In fact, 46% think the former president would help his wife while 32% say the former president will not even be a factor. Just 22% say Bill Clinton would hurt Hillary Clinton in her new role.

Question Wording: Do you think Bill Clinton would help or hurt Hillary Clinton's ability to perform her duties as Secretary of State? If you do not think he would be a factor, please say so.

	Help	Hurt	Not a Factor
Registered Voters	46%	22%	32%
Democrat	55%	16%	29%
Republican	30%	40%	30%
Non-enrolled	48%	14%	38%

- **Voters' Choice...Cuomo As Clinton's Replacement:** It's up to Governor David Paterson to choose Hillary Clinton's successor should she resign from the U.S. Senate and join the Obama Cabinet. Voters in New York State have their own views about who should replace her. 43% of the state's electorate thinks Governor Paterson should appoint New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. However, a similar proportion of voters – 42% – say they just aren't sure who Clinton's successor should be. Looking at other viable candidates, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez and Congresswoman Nita Lowey tie for a distant second with 5% each. Congressman Steve Israel and Congressman Gregory Meeks also trail with 3% and 2% of the electorate, respectively.

Question Wording: If Hillary Clinton should resign from the U.S. Senate to join the Obama Cabinet in Washington, who do you think Governor Paterson should choose to fill her unexpired term:

	NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo	Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez	Congressman Steve Israel	Congresswoman Nita Lowey	Congressman Greg Meeks	Unsure
Registered Voters	43%	5%	3%	5%	2%	42%
Democrat	46%	7%	2%	5%	2%	38%
Republican	50%	1%	5%	4%	3%	37%
Non-enrolled	26%	9%	4%	7%	2%	52%

- Paterson’s Job Approval Rating Dips:** Governor David Paterson has made it no secret that he plans to run for governor in 2010, and by the looks of his job approval rating, he would be competitive in his election bid. 51% of the state’s electorate believes Paterson is doing either an excellent or good job running the state while 37% thinks he is doing a fair or poor job. However, in the wake of a weakening state economy and bitter budget battle, Paterson’s approval rating has declined. In a Marist Poll conducted just last month, 57% had a positive impression of Paterson compared with 34% who had a less than glowing perception of his performance. There are partisan differences. More Democrats than Republicans rate the governor as doing well. His appeal stretches across the state with 53% of voters in both New York City and upstate and 49% of suburban voters approving 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						
November 2008	51%	9%	42%	29%	8%	12%
By Party						
Democrat	55%	12%	43%	28%	6%	11%
Republican	43%	6%	37%	36%	12%	9%
Non-enrolled	56%	8%	48%	22%	6%	16%
By Region						
New York City	53%	12%	41%	24%	9%	14%
Suburbs	49%	8%	41%	39%	5%	7%
Upstate	53%	9%	44%	26%	8%	13%
October 2008	57%	10%	47%	28%	6%	9%
April 2008	35%	4%	31%	25%	8%	32%

- Toe-to-Toe...Paterson Overtakes Bloomberg...Giuliani Stagnates in Hypothetical Matchups:** New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg could give Governor Paterson a real run for his money

if Bloomberg decides to run for governor. In a hypothetical pairing between the mayor and Paterson, the two would be locked in a tight race. 40% of registered voters in New York State say they would support Bloomberg compared with 44% who say they would vote for Paterson. In Marist's October survey, Paterson *trailed* Bloomberg 39% to 50%. Paterson maintains an edge when pitted against former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Giuliani, who announced earlier this week that he would consider a run for the office, garners 41% of the electorate compared with 51% for Paterson. That's nearly the same proportion by which Paterson led last month.

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 Independent	Undecided
November 2008	44%	40%	16%
October 2008	39%	50%	11%
April 2008	42%	43%	15%

Registered Voters	Paterson Democrat	Giuliani Independent	Undecided
November 2008	51%	41%	8%
October 2008	51%	42%	7%
April 2008	48%	44%	8%

Nature of the Sample: 613 New York Registered Voters

This survey of 613 registered voters in New York was conducted on November 18th, 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 $\pm 4\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.