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Voters Weigh In:
Cuomo and Kennedy Deadlocked for Clinton Seat
High Hopes for Secretary of State Clinton

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This Marist Poll reports:

- **Cuomo and Kennedy Tie...More Than a Quarter of Voters Unsure About Clinton's**

Replacement: While much of the buzz has shifted toward Caroline Kennedy since news broke of her interest in assuming Hillary Clinton's Senate seat, she is not New Yorkers' clear choice. 25% of registered voters in the state say Governor David Paterson should select Kennedy to replace the senator if Clinton is confirmed as Secretary of State. New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo receives the exact same proportion of support from voters. 25% say he should be the one chosen to replace Clinton. However, a notable 26% of voters say they aren't sure who should fill the sitting senator's seat.

Kennedy is the choice among more Democrats. 31% believe the daughter of President John F. Kennedy should be appointed to the Senate. This compares with 21% of Democrats who are pulling for Cuomo. The pattern reverses when looking at New York Republicans. 34% of Republicans say the right choice is Cuomo while 21% believe it should be Kennedy. Voters not enrolled in a party split. Looking across the state, Kennedy garners more support than Cuomo in New York City while Cuomo has more backers in the suburbs. Upstate divides.

So, what about the other possible contenders? Kennedy and Cuomo leave the pack in the dust. Among New York registered voters, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown receives 6%. Hudson Valley Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand and New York City Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez each receive 4% while New York City Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Nassau County Executive

Tom Suozzi each garner 3%. Long Island Congressman Steve Israel and Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion trail with 2% each.

Question Wording: If Hillary Clinton is confirmed as Secretary of State, who do you think Governor Paterson should choose to fill her U.S. Senate seat:

	Registered Voters	By Party			By Region		
		Democrats	Republicans	Non-enrolled	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate
Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the Former President	25%	31%	21%	24%	29%	27%	22%
NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo	25%	21%	34%	22%	19%	33%	25%
Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown	6%	5%	10%	2%	3%	<1%	10%
NYC Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez	4%	6%	2%	2%	8%	4%	1%
Hudson Valley Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand	4%	4%	1%	5%	1%	<1%	9%
NYC Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney	3%	5%	3%	2%	5%	6%	1%
Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi	3%	1%	5%	7%	4%	5%	2%
Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion	2%	<1%	1%	6%	4%	1%	<1%
Long Island Congressman Steve Israel	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	4%	<1%
Unsure	26%	25%	21%	29%	25%	20%	30%

- Voters View Cuomo and Kennedy Favorably:** New Yorkers have positive perceptions of both Andrew Cuomo and Caroline Kennedy. 64% of New Yorkers say they have a favorable impression of Cuomo while 62% view Kennedy in a similar light. 18% of registered voters have an unfavorable impression of Cuomo compared with just 9% of those who have an unfavorable impression of Kennedy. When it comes to the other Senate hopefuls, many New Yorkers say they do not have a strong impression one way or the other or have not heard of them.

Question Wording: Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of each of the following?

Registered voters	Favorable	Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Unsure
NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo	64%	18%	7%	11%
Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the Former President	62%	9%	8%	21%
NYC Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney	27%	7%	39%	27%
Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi	24%	10%	38%	28%

Registered voters	Favorable	Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Unsure
NYC Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez	17%	8%	46%	29%
Long Island Congressman Steve Israel	16%	6%	52%	26%
Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown	14%	6%	53%	27%
Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion	14%	7%	52%	27%
Hudson Valley Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand	13%	4%	58%	25%

- High Hopes for Hillary:** Most New Yorkers expect great things from Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State. 70% of registered voters say Clinton will do either an excellent or good job in this new position while just 11% believe she will perform poorly. Looking at party lines, 82% of Democrats say Clinton will excel in her newly-designated role. Even a majority of New York Republicans -- 57% -- share this view.

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

	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Registered Voters	70%	33%	37%	15%	11%	4%
Democrats	82%	44%	38%	9%	6%	3%
Republicans	57%	18%	39%	21%	16%	6%
Non-enrolled	64%	30%	34%	25%	9%	2%
November 2008	72%	35%	37%	15%	9%	4%

- Paterson Holds His Own Among a Majority of New York Voters:** 54% of registered voters in New York State approve of the job Governor David Paterson is doing in office. 45% believe Paterson is doing a good job while 9% report he is performing excellently. Paterson's job approval rating remains relatively unchanged since the Marist Poll's previous statewide survey. Last month, 51% said Paterson was doing an above average job. More Democrats than Republicans currently report that the governor is meeting their expectations. However, there is little difference in Paterson's appeal across the state. 49% of New York City dwellers believe Paterson's performance is up to snuff while 57% and 55% of suburban and upstate voters, respectively, approve of Paterson's job.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
December 2008	54%	9%	45%	29%	6%	11%
By Party						
Democrats	58%	13%	45%	24%	5%	13%
Republicans	42%	4%	38%	41%	11%	6%
Non-enrolled	57%	7%	50%	31%	4%	8%
By Region						
New York City	49%	10%	39%	26%	4%	21%
Suburbs	57%	8%	49%	29%	8%	6%
Upstate	55%	7%	48%	31%	7%	7%
November 2008	51%	9%	42%	29%	8%	12%
October 2008	57%	10%	47%	28%	6%	9%
April 2008	35%	4%	31%	25%	8%	32%

Nature of the Sample: 503 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 503 registered voters in New York State was conducted on December 8th, 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 $\pm 4.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.