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**Filling Her Senate Seat:  
New Yorkers Favor Cuomo to Replace Clinton**

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This Marist Poll reports:

- **New Yorkers Clamor for Cuomo...Kennedy Stagnates in Pool of Public Opinion:** The tides of support have changed in the contest over who voters think should fill Hillary Clinton's vacant U.S. Senate seat. 40% of registered voters in New York State say Governor David Paterson should appoint New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to the position while 25% believe Caroline Kennedy should assume the role. That's a marked difference for Cuomo from just one month ago when the Marist Poll showed him and Kennedy in a tie with each receiving 25% of New Yorkers' support. Kennedy's backing remains at a standstill.

Cuomo's allies span party lines. 39% of New York Democrats say Cuomo is the right person to succeed Clinton while 31% report that Kennedy should replace her. GOP members in New York are pulling for Cuomo 40% to Kennedy's 16%. Non-enrolled voters follow suit. Cuomo receives the support of 42% of New Yorkers who are not enrolled in a political party while 24% favor Kennedy. Geography doesn't play a big role either. Cuomo is the favorite across the state. However, the margin is tightest in New York City where Cuomo has the backing of 36% of voters compared with Kennedy's 31%.

Cuomo and Kennedy aren't the only contenders in the running to succeed Clinton. Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi places a distant third with 6% of New Yorkers saying he's the right fit for the job. Long Island Congressman Steve Israel and New York City Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney are close at his heels. Each receives 5% of voters' support. 3% of New Yorkers think Hudson Valley Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand should be picked.

**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: New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Long Island Congressman Steve Israel, Hudson Valley Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand, Daughter of the Former President Caroline Kennedy, New York City Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, or Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi?

	Registered Voters	By Party			By Region			Dec. 2008
		Democrats	Republicans	Non-enrolled	NYC	Suburbs	Upstate	
Cuomo	<b>40%</b>	39%	40%	42%	36%	43%	41%	<b>25%</b>
Kennedy	<b>25%</b>	31%	16%	24%	31%	17%	25%	<b>25%</b>
Suozzi	<b>6%</b>	4%	6%	9%	4%	8%	6%	<b>3%</b>
Maloney	<b>5%</b>	6%	6%	3%	9%	6%	2%	<b>3%</b>
Israel	<b>5%</b>	2%	10%	4%	3%	12%	2%	<b>2%</b>
Gillibrand	<b>3%</b>	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	4%	<b>4%</b>
Other	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<b>12%</b>
Unsure	<b>16%</b>	14%	19%	16%	15%	12%	20%	<b>26%</b>

- Kennedy’s Favorability Freefalls...Kudos for Cuomo:** In a little more than a month, Caroline Kennedy’s rating has plummeted among registered voters in New York State. 46% say they have a positive impression of Kennedy today. That’s a 16 percentage point drop from a Marist Poll conducted just last month. On the other hand, New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo maintains his favorability among the state’s electorate. 60% of New Yorkers say they view Cuomo well. This compares with 64% who had this view in Marist’s December survey.

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

Registered voters	Favorable	Unfavorable	Never Heard	Unsure
NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo				
<b>January 2009</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>17%</b>
December 2008	64%	18%	7%	11%
Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the Former President				
<b>January 2009</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>22%</b>
December 2008	62%	9%	8%	21%

- On the Job...Greatness Expected of Cuomo...Kennedy Falls Short:** More than six in ten New Yorkers are confident that Andrew Cuomo would perform well as a U.S. Senator. 62% say Cuomo would do either an excellent or good job as Hillary Clinton’s replacement while just 10% think he would do poorly. Registered voters across the state are less confident in Caroline Kennedy’s ability. 41% feel she would do an above average job while 20% report she would perform poorly.

**Question Wording:** If Andrew Cuomo/Caroline Kennedy is chosen to fill Hillary Clinton’s U.S. Senate seat, do you think he/she will do an excellent, good, fair or poor job as U.S. Senator?

<b>Registered voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo	<b>62%</b>	23%	39%	19%	10%	9%
Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the Former President	<b>41%</b>	15%	26%	31%	20%	8%

- Media Bias? “No Way,” Say New Yorkers:** Caroline Kennedy’s political aspirations have thrust her into the glare of the media’s spotlight. So, has the news coverage of the Senate hopeful been fair and balanced? A majority of New Yorkers -- 53% -- say it has been fair while 30% believe the media has crossed the line and has treated her unfairly. Democrats and Republicans agree. Majorities in both parties -- 53% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans -- say the press has been on the up-and-up with Kennedy. However, slightly more men than women think Kennedy has been treated fairly. 57% of men and 51% of women think the media has been justified in its coverage of Kennedy.

**Question Wording:** Do you think the media has treated Caroline Kennedy fairly or unfairly?

	Fairly	Unfairly	Unsure
<b>Registered voters</b>	53%	30%	17%
<b>By Party</b>			
Democrats	53%	32%	15%
Republicans	57%	26%	17%
Non-enrolled	51%	29%	20%
<b>By Gender</b>			
Men	57%	27%	16%
Women	51%	32%	17%

- New Yorkers High On Hillary:** 65% of registered voters in New York State think Hillary Clinton will do either an excellent or good job as Secretary of State. In Marist’s December survey, 70% of New Yorkers had high hopes for Hillary Clinton’s performance. Democrats overwhelmingly think Clinton will do an above average job in her new position. 84% say she will do an excellent or good job. Not surprisingly, Republicans disagree. Just 39% of the GOP in New York State believe she will excel.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
<b>January 2009</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Democrats	84%	61%	23%	11%	5%	<1%
Republicans	39%	15%	24%	28%	29%	4%
Non-enrolled	67%	33%	34%	14%	14%	5%
<b>December 2008</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>November 2008</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4%</b>

- Slip Sliding Away...Governor Paterson's Job Approval Rating Falls:** Voters are less satisfied with Governor Paterson's job performance than they were just one month ago. Paterson's current approval rating stands at 44%. That's the first time since April that New York's unelected governor has failed to garner a majority's approval. Last month, the Marist Poll reported that 54% of the state's electorate gave the governor high marks for his job performance. Looking at party lines, a majority of Democrats -- 54% -- still believe Paterson is an effective governor. However, Republicans tip the scales in the opposite direction. Just 37% of Republicans feel the governor is making the grade. New York City and suburban voters are less critical of the governor than are voters upstate. 52% of New York City voters and 49% of suburban voters believe Paterson is doing an above average job while just 35% of upstate voters maintain this view.

**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/ Never Heard
<b>January 2009</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>By Party</b>						
Democrats	54%	12%	42%	28%	9%	9%
Republicans	37%	6%	31%	30%	28%	5%
Non-enrolled	40%	2%	38%	40%	15%	5%
<b>By Region</b>						
New York City	52%	11%	41%	26%	11%	11%
Suburbs	49%	8%	41%	27%	21%	3%
Upstate	35%	5%	30%	37%	20%	8%
<b>December 2008</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11%</b>
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: 603 New York State Registered Voters**

This survey was conducted on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 through January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 603 registered voters within New York State were interviewed by telephone using a blended method of interviewers and a standardized voice system. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout New York State in proportion to the enrollment in each borough and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. The results for the entire survey are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.