



The Race for U.S. Senate in New York
*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

What Might Have Been...Gillibrand and Ford Matchup

Harold Ford Jr.'s decision not to challenge Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in New York makes good sense poll-wise. In a Marist Poll completed last night, Gillibrand put a little more distance between herself and the former Tennessee Congressman in a hypothetical contest for the nomination. 50% of New York Democratic voters would have backed Gillibrand. 19% reported, however, they would have supported Ford, and labor activist Jonathan Tasini would have taken just 3% of the vote. 28% of Democrats were unsure.

When The Marist Poll last asked this question in early February, 44% of Democrats reported they backed Gillibrand, 27% threw their support behind Ford, and 4% said they were going to cast their ballot for Tasini. 25%, at the time, were unsure.

"Ford's short-lived challenge to Gillibrand not only did her no harm, it may have even solidified her support among Democrats," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

Gillibrand in Tight Race with Pataki...Leads Blakeman & Zuckerman

While the leader of the National Republican Senatorial Committee is said to have met with former New York Governor George Pataki about a possible challenge to Senator Gillibrand, Pataki has not announced his intentions. But, what if he decided to enter the fray?

In a hypothetical matchup against Gillibrand, the two are locked in a tight contest. 48% of registered voters say they would support Pataki while Gillibrand receives 45% of voters' support. 7% are unsure. There has been little change on this question since Marist last asked it in early February.

Another possible Republican challenger for Gillibrand is Mort Zuckerman, the publisher of *The New York Daily News*. In this hypothetical contest, Gillibrand leads Zuckerman 59% to 26%. 15% are unsure.

While Pataki and Zuckerman have not announced they are running, Bruce Blakeman has. Here, Gillibrand leads with 58% of the electorate to Blakeman's 28%. 14% are unsure. Gillibrand has widened her lead over Blakeman. When Marist asked this question in its early February survey, Gillibrand had 52% while her Republican challenger Blakeman received 30%.

Gillibrand Making the Grade with NYS Voters?

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand still needs to prove herself to many members of the electorate. Currently, 25% view the senator as doing either an excellent or good job in office. 38% say she is doing a fair job while 15% report she is doing poorly. 22% are unsure or never heard of her.

When Marist last asked about Senator Gillibrand's job approval rating, 24% gave her high marks while one-third thought her performance was fair. 18% saw her as doing a below average job. At that time, 25% were unsure how to rate her.

Schumer Approval Rating Rebounds

Senator Chuck Schumer's job performance rating has taken a turn for the better. In The Marist Poll's latest survey in New York State, 53% of registered voters statewide report Schumer is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 28% say he is doing a fair job while just 15% think he is doing poorly. 4% are unsure.

This is a good sign for Schumer. When Marist last asked about his approval rating in early February, Schumer received his lowest approval rating in nearly nine years -- 47%. At that time, 31% said he was doing an average job, and 17% thought he wasn't making the grade. 5% were unsure.

"Senator Schumer has picked up support in New York City. His base is more solid than it was in the last poll, and he's maintained his suburban and upstate appeal," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion.

Schumer Leads Kudlow By Nearly Three-to-One

Senator Gillibrand isn't the only one who faces the electorate come November. New York's senior senator, Chuck Schumer, is facing re-election. When matched up against CNBC anchor Larry Kudlow, Schumer outpaces Kudlow, 69% to 24%, respectively. 7% are unsure. Little has changed on this question since Marist's previous survey last month.

How the Survey was Conducted:

This release presents findings from two, separate surveys.

The first survey of 646 New York State registered voters was conducted on February 22nd and, due to snow, February 24th, 2010. 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. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. In an effort to increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The land-line and cell phone samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 4.0\%$. There are 291 Democrats. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

The second survey of 543 New York State registered voters was conducted on March 1st, 2010. 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. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. In an effort to increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The land-line and cell phone samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. There are 233 Democrats. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

There are a total of 524 Democrats for both surveys. The results for this subset are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$.

**Marist Poll March 2010
NYS Tables**

		Democrats			
		If this year's Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:			
		Kirsten Gillibrand	Harold Ford Jr.	Jonathan Tasini	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Democrats		50%	19%	3%	28%
Political Ideology	Liberal	52%	18%	4%	26%
	Moderate	51%	21%	2%	26%
	Conservative	37%	25%	3%	36%
Region	New York City	46%	24%	2%	28%
	Suburbs	46%	12%	9%	33%
	Upstate	58%	15%	1%	26%
Income	Less than \$50,000	44%	23%	2%	31%
	\$50,000 or more	53%	20%	3%	25%
Race	White	56%	16%	3%	25%
	Non White	39%	26%	3%	32%
Age	Under 45	49%	21%	3%	28%
	45 or older	50%	18%	3%	28%
Gender	Men	48%	22%	1%	29%
	Women	50%	17%	4%	28%

March 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Democrats "N=524 MOE +/- 4.5%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	George Pataki, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		45%	48%	7%
Party Registration	Democrat	68%	28%	5%
	Republican	18%	75%	6%
	Non-enrolled	35%	57%	8%
Political Ideology	Liberal	66%	26%	7%
	Moderate	48%	48%	5%
	Conservative	23%	71%	6%
Region	New York City	52%	43%	5%
	Suburbs	40%	54%	6%
	Upstate	44%	49%	8%
Income	Less \$50,000	54%	40%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	44%	50%	5%
	\$100,000 or more	41%	54%	4%
Income	Less than \$50,000	54%	40%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	52%	5%
Race	White	42%	52%	6%
	Non White	55%	38%	7%
Age	18 to 29	33%	64%	2%
	30 to 44	42%	53%	5%
	45 to 59	46%	47%	7%
	60 or older	51%	40%	8%
Age	Under 45	39%	57%	4%
	45 or older	49%	44%	8%
Gender	Men	35%	61%	5%
	Women	55%	37%	8%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	Mort Zuckerman, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		59%	26%	15%
Party Registration	Democrat	83%	9%	8%
	Republican	31%	50%	19%
	Non-enrolled	48%	28%	25%
Political Ideology	Liberal	79%	7%	15%
	Moderate	61%	24%	15%
	Conservative	40%	48%	12%
Region	New York City	68%	24%	7%
	Suburbs	56%	25%	19%
	Upstate	56%	27%	18%
Income	Less \$50,000	60%	25%	15%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	60%	25%	15%
	\$100,000 or more	64%	28%	8%
Income	Less than \$50,000	60%	25%	15%
	\$50,000 or more	62%	26%	12%
Race	White	53%	31%	15%
	Non White	82%	6%	12%
Age	18 to 29	69%	22%	9%
	30 to 44	59%	25%	16%
	45 to 59	61%	24%	16%
	60 or older	54%	30%	16%
Age	Under 45	62%	24%	14%
	45 or older	58%	27%	16%
Gender	Men	54%	31%	15%
	Women	64%	21%	15%

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		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Kirsten Gillibrand, the Democratic candidate	Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		58%	28%	14%
Party Registration	Democrat	85%	8%	7%
	Republican	25%	56%	19%
	Non-enrolled	45%	32%	23%
Political Ideology	Liberal	78%	8%	14%
	Moderate	61%	22%	16%
	Conservative	35%	55%	10%
Region	New York City	71%	22%	7%
	Suburbs	51%	31%	18%
	Upstate	53%	29%	18%
Income	Less \$50,000	62%	25%	14%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	53%	31%	16%
	\$100,000 or more	62%	29%	9%
Income	Less than \$50,000	62%	25%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	57%	30%	13%
Race	White	53%	32%	15%
	Non White	75%	14%	11%
Age	18 to 29	57%	34%	9%
	30 to 44	58%	25%	18%
	45 to 59	57%	27%	16%
	60 or older	58%	29%	13%
Age	Under 45	57%	28%	15%
	45 or older	57%	28%	15%
Gender	Men	53%	33%	15%
	Women	62%	23%	14%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		3%	22%	38%	15%	22%
Party Registration	Democrat	5%	28%	36%	11%	20%
	Republican	1%	16%	39%	20%	24%
	Non-enrolled	5%	21%	36%	17%	21%
Political Ideology	Liberal	4%	24%	41%	8%	24%
	Moderate	4%	25%	40%	10%	22%
	Conservative	3%	17%	35%	28%	17%
Region	New York City	3%	25%	39%	13%	20%
	Suburbs	3%	20%	34%	15%	29%
	Upstate	4%	21%	40%	17%	19%
Income	Less \$50,000	5%	24%	35%	12%	24%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	20%	40%	16%	22%
	\$100,000 or more	4%	25%	43%	13%	15%
Income	Less than \$50,000	5%	24%	35%	12%	24%
	\$50,000 or more	3%	22%	41%	15%	19%
Race	White	3%	21%	40%	15%	20%
	Non White	4%	27%	29%	14%	25%
Age	18 to 29	7%	7%	64%	5%	17%
	30 to 44	0%	26%	34%	16%	24%
	45 to 59	2%	25%	38%	16%	18%
	60 or older	6%	23%	33%	18%	21%
Age	Under 45	2%	20%	44%	12%	22%
	45 or older	4%	24%	35%	17%	20%
Gender	Men	4%	19%	41%	18%	18%
	Women	3%	25%	35%	12%	25%

February 22 & 24, 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=646 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		12%	41%	28%	15%	4%
Party Registration	Democrat	19%	48%	24%	6%	3%
	Republican	5%	35%	32%	25%	4%
	Non-enrolled	9%	38%	29%	18%	7%
Political Ideology	Liberal	15%	52%	22%	6%	5%
	Moderate	16%	45%	26%	10%	4%
	Conservative	4%	31%	33%	28%	3%
Region	New York City	21%	45%	21%	12%	2%
	Suburbs	10%	44%	28%	15%	3%
	Upstate	8%	38%	31%	16%	6%
Income	Less \$50,000	12%	41%	29%	12%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	13%	45%	28%	12%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	13%	43%	24%	16%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	12%	41%	29%	12%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	13%	44%	27%	14%	3%
Race	White	11%	40%	28%	16%	5%
	Non White	17%	46%	26%	8%	3%
Age	18 to 29	6%	34%	42%	8%	10%
	30 to 44	11%	45%	25%	16%	2%
	45 to 59	12%	42%	29%	15%	3%
	60 or older	17%	41%	23%	16%	4%
Age	Under 45	10%	41%	31%	13%	5%
	45 or older	14%	41%	26%	15%	4%
Gender	Men	13%	33%	32%	19%	3%
	Women	12%	50%	23%	10%	5%

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		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Charles Schumer, the Democratic candidate	Larry Kudlow, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		69%	24%	7%
Party Registration	Democrat	88%	8%	4%
	Republican	45%	45%	11%
	Non-enrolled	63%	29%	9%
Political Ideology	Liberal	93%	4%	3%
	Moderate	74%	18%	8%
	Conservative	42%	50%	8%
Region	New York City	83%	16%	1%
	Suburbs	70%	24%	6%
	Upstate	59%	30%	11%
Income	Less \$50,000	68%	24%	9%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	71%	23%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	71%	25%	4%
Income	Less than \$50,000	68%	24%	9%
	\$50,000 or more	71%	24%	5%
Race	White	64%	28%	8%
	Non White	87%	10%	3%
Age	18 to 29	74%	23%	4%
	30 to 44	66%	26%	8%
	45 to 59	70%	22%	9%
	60 or older	68%	25%	7%
Age	Under 45	69%	25%	7%
	45 or older	69%	24%	8%
Gender	Men	63%	30%	7%
	Women	74%	18%	8%

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