



Resurrecting Spitzer: Can New York's Disgraced Former Governor Make a Political Comeback?

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

A Political Comeback for Spitzer?

Former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's sock-clad sexcapades earned him a place in New York political infamy. But, can he reform himself in the eyes of New York State voters and resurrect his political career?

Nearly six in ten registered voters in New York State -- 58% -- do not want Spitzer to run for statewide office this year. 30%, however, do want him to re-enter the political scene for the upcoming New York State elections, and 12% are unsure.

New York State voters may not have short memories, but fewer members of the electorate, compared with those seven months ago, are now opposed to a Spitzer political comeback. It's not that many more voters have warmed up to the idea of "Candidate Spitzer." It's that more are just unsure. In Marist's September 2009 survey, 69% did not want Spitzer to run in 2010 compared with 27% who did, and 4% who were unsure.

New York State Registered Voters			
Do you want Eliot Spitzer to run for statewide office in New York this year, or not?			
	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2010	30%	58%	12%
September 2009	27%	69%	4%

"Eliot Spitzer's political scars remain, although for some New Yorkers, they may have faded a bit." says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Eventually, voters may go for the idea of Spitzer running for office but not yet."

Although a majority of voters do not want the former governor to run for office this year, the electorate isn't ruling out a political return for Spitzer in the future. When asked if he should ever run for New York State office again, voters divide. 45% think he should hit the campaign trail again while 48% think his political career is over. 7% are unsure.

But, advocating a Spitzer comeback doesn't necessarily mean voters like the former governor. Only 28% of voters have a favorable impression of Spitzer compared with 50% who have an unfavorable view of him. 22% are unsure.

Public vs. Private: The Spitzer Sex Scandal

If Eliot Spitzer runs for public office, should his previous sex scandal be a matter for public debate or left as a private issue? Voters statewide divide. 49% think it should be a public matter while 48% say it should be a private one. 3% are unsure.

It's a Blank Slate

If Spitzer were to make a bid for public office in New York State this year, voters are all over the map when it comes to which office he should seek. 22% say Spitzer should make a bid for New York State Comptroller. 21% think he should attempt to reclaim his gubernatorial post. A fifth of voters would prefer to see him run for an office with which he is very familiar, New York State Attorney General, and 14% believe he should run for U.S. Senate in New York. 23% are unsure.

NYC Voters to Spitzer, "Don't Spoil the Big Apple"

Nearly two-thirds of voters in New York City -- 66% -- do not want Spitzer to enter New York City politics and run for mayor in 2013. 24%, however, think a bid for mayor would be a good idea. 10% are unsure.

Nature of the Sample: 694 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 694 New York State registered voters was conducted on April 12th and 13th, 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 194 registered voters in New York City. The results for this subset are statistically significant at 7.0%. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

**Marist Poll April 2010
NYS Tables**

		Registered Voters		
		Do you want Eliot Spitzer to run for statewide office in New York this year, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		30%	58%	12%
Region	New York City	31%	57%	13%
	Suburbs	21%	63%	16%
	Upstate	34%	56%	10%
Gender	Men	32%	56%	12%
	Women	28%	60%	12%

April 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=694 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Should Eliot Spitzer ever run for public office in New York again, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		45%	48%	7%
Region	New York City	50%	42%	8%
	Suburbs	34%	59%	6%
	Upstate	48%	45%	6%
Gender	Men	46%	48%	7%
	Women	45%	48%	7%

April 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=694 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		In general, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Eliot Spitzer?		
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		28%	50%	22%
Region	New York City	32%	43%	25%
	Suburbs	20%	60%	21%
	Upstate	31%	49%	20%
Gender	Men	33%	49%	18%
	Women	23%	51%	26%

April 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=694 MOE +/- 4%".
Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		If Eliot Spitzer decides to run for public office in New York, do you think his previous sex scandals should be treated as:		
		A public matter	A private matter	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		49%	48%	3%
Region	New York City	53%	41%	6%
	Suburbs	53%	45%	2%
	Upstate	44%	53%	3%
Gender	Men	48%	49%	3%
	Women	49%	47%	4%

April 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=694 MOE +/- 4%".
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		Registered Voters				
		If Eliot Spitzer decides to run for statewide public office in New York this year, for which office would you most prefer he run?				
		Governor	U.S. Senate	Comptroller	Attorney General	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		21%	14%	22%	20%	23%
Region	New York City	16%	12%	26%	25%	21%
	Suburbs	22%	11%	21%	16%	30%
	Upstate	24%	16%	20%	20%	20%
Gender	Men	22%	13%	25%	23%	19%
	Women	20%	15%	20%	18%	27%

April 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=694 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters in NYC		
		Do you want Eliot Spitzer to run in 2013 for New York City mayor, or not?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters in NYC		24%	66%	10%
Gender	Men	21%	70%	10%
	Women	27%	63%	10%

April 2010 Marist Poll New York City Registered Voters "N=194 MOE +/- 7%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.