



Budget Blues in Albany

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

This Monday, the New York State Legislature is expected to vote on an emergency spending bill proposed by Governor David Paterson. With the possibility of a government shut down looming, the timing is critical.

But, how much do New York voters care that the budget is late? 72% of registered voters in New York State report it matters at least a good amount to them that this year's budget is not on time. This includes 47% who say it matters a great deal and 25% who report it matters a good amount to them. On the other hand, the missed deadline doesn't bother 19% of voters too much, and 8% aren't upset at all. Just 1% is unsure.

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This sentiment of dissatisfaction crosses party lines. 76% of non-enrolled voters and 75% of those in the state's GOP say it matters at least a good amount to them that the budget deadline has come and gone. 67% of Democrats share this view.

When it comes to Governor Paterson, how do voters think he is handling the state's budget?

More than six in ten registered voters in New York State -- 64% -- disapprove of his budgetary leadership. 31% approve, and 5% are unsure. When Marist last asked about Paterson's handling of the budget in its March 26th survey, similar proportions held these views with 64% disapproving of Paterson's budgetary acumen and 28% approving. At that time, 8% were unsure.

"The lack of Governor Paterson's leadership on the budget worries New York voters," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "They are unhappy with the governor's performance and think the lateness of the budget is troublesome."

No Improvement on Paterson's Job Approval Rating

It's been more than a year since Governor David Paterson has received anything *near* majority support for his job performance. Currently, 19% of registered voters in New York

State think Paterson is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 38% report he is doing a fair job, and 41% think he is performing poorly. Just 2% are unsure.

Little has changed on this question over the past six weeks. When Marist last asked this question in late March, 17% thought the governor was doing an above average job, 39% said he was doing a fair job, and 41% reported he was performing at a subpar level. 3%, at the time, were unsure.

Voters Call for Major Change in Albany

Governor Paterson isn't the only one with whom voters are displeased. The New York State electorate is fed up with the way things are done in Albany. 70% believe state government needs major change while 16% say it is broken beyond repair. 13% think Albany needs minor changes, and just 1% reports no changes are necessary.

In Marist's March 26th survey, similar proportions of the electorate held these views.

More Than Seven in Ten Want NYS Re-directed

Although, most voters in New York think the state is headed in the wrong direction, there has been a *slight* improvement in the proportion of those who think it is on the right track.

72% of voters believe New York State needs to be re-directed, and 22% say the state is traveling in the right direction. 6% are unsure. When Marist last asked about the direction of New York in late March, 78% thought its trajectory was askew while 16% said it was on track. 6%, then, were unsure.

The change has occurred among Democrats and those living in New York City and in the suburbs. 28% of Democratic voters believe the state's compass is accurate while 20% believed that to be true in March. Looking at region, 37% in New York City and 21% in the suburbs report the state is on course. 27% and 11%, respectively, shared this opinion in Marist's March 26th poll.

DiNapoli Stuck In Approval Rating Rut

New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli cannot break through with voters. 29% believe he is doing an excellent or good job in office. 34% report he is doing a fair job, and 9% think he is performing poorly. A notable 28% have either never heard of DiNapoli or are unsure how to rate him.

In Marist's late March poll, 29% gave DiNapoli high marks, 31% rated his job performance as fair, and 9% said he was doing a poor job. 31% had either never heard of him or were unsure how to rate him.

Nature of the Sample: 686 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 686 New York State registered voters was conducted on May 3rd through May 5th, 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 $\pm 4.0\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

**Marist Poll May 2010
NYS Tables**

		Registered Voters				
		The New York State budget was due on April 1st. Does it matter to you a great deal, a good amount, not too much, or not at all that the New York State budget is not on time this year?				
		A great deal	A good amount	Not too much	Not at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		47%	25%	19%	8%	1%
Party Registration	Democrat	43%	24%	24%	8%	1%
	Republican	55%	20%	16%	9%	0%
	Non-enrolled	45%	31%	18%	4%	2%
Political Ideology	Liberal	43%	27%	22%	8%	0%
	Moderate	43%	29%	18%	8%	1%
	Conservative	55%	17%	19%	8%	1%
Region	New York City	35%	29%	20%	14%	2%
	Suburbs	40%	33%	19%	6%	1%
	Upstate	57%	17%	19%	6%	1%
Income	Less \$50,000	40%	28%	24%	7%	1%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	52%	21%	19%	8%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	45%	28%	20%	6%	0%
Income	Less than \$50,000	40%	28%	24%	7%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	24%	19%	7%	0%
Race	White	48%	25%	19%	7%	1%
	Non White	36%	22%	26%	14%	2%
Age	18 to 29	26%	41%	29%	5%	0%
	30 to 44	49%	27%	16%	7%	0%
	45 to 59	51%	22%	18%	8%	1%
	60 or older	50%	17%	20%	10%	3%
Age	Under 45	42%	32%	20%	6%	0%
	45 or older	50%	20%	19%	9%	2%
Gender	Men	50%	21%	20%	7%	1%
	Women	44%	28%	19%	9%	1%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how Governor David Paterson is handling the state's budget?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		31%	64%	5%
Party Registration	Democrat	37%	58%	5%
	Republican	24%	70%	6%
	Non-enrolled	26%	68%	5%
Political Ideology	Liberal	34%	61%	5%
	Moderate	34%	63%	4%
	Conservative	23%	69%	8%
Region	New York City	36%	58%	7%
	Suburbs	21%	75%	4%
	Upstate	33%	62%	6%
Income	Less \$50,000	30%	64%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	35%	62%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	31%	65%	4%
Income	Less than \$50,000	30%	64%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	33%	64%	3%
Race	White	30%	64%	6%
	Non White	38%	60%	2%
Age	18 to 29	53%	42%	4%
	30 to 44	26%	71%	3%
	45 to 59	28%	68%	3%
	60 or older	29%	61%	10%
Age	Under 45	35%	62%	3%
	45 or older	29%	65%	7%
Gender	Men	36%	59%	5%
	Women	26%	69%	6%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job Governor David Paterson is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		2%	17%	38%	41%	2%
Party Registration	Democrat	2%	18%	41%	37%	2%
	Republican	3%	17%	33%	46%	2%
	Non-enrolled	2%	16%	38%	43%	1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	3%	17%	44%	33%	4%
	Moderate	1%	19%	35%	45%	1%
	Conservative	3%	13%	40%	43%	2%
Region	New York City	3%	22%	35%	38%	2%
	Suburbs	1%	7%	45%	44%	4%
	Upstate	3%	20%	36%	41%	1%
Income	Less \$50,000	2%	17%	41%	38%	2%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	2%	23%	36%	39%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	3%	12%	40%	45%	1%
Income	Less than \$50,000	2%	17%	41%	38%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	2%	18%	38%	41%	1%
Race	White	2%	16%	38%	43%	2%
	Non White	4%	26%	40%	30%	0%
Age	18 to 29	0%	35%	49%	17%	0%
	30 to 44	1%	13%	40%	44%	2%
	45 to 59	2%	16%	38%	43%	1%
	60 or older	4%	16%	31%	46%	3%
Age	Under 45	0%	20%	43%	35%	1%
	45 or older	3%	16%	34%	45%	2%
Gender	Men	3%	18%	35%	42%	2%
	Women	2%	17%	41%	40%	1%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters			
		Do you think the way things are done in state government in Albany:			
		Do not need to be changed	Need minor changes	Need major changes	Are broken and beyond repair
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		1%	13%	70%	16%
Party Registration	Democrat	1%	16%	66%	17%
	Republican	0%	9%	73%	18%
	Non-enrolled	1%	13%	71%	14%
Political Ideology	Liberal	3%	12%	78%	7%
	Moderate	0%	12%	69%	18%
	Conservative	1%	12%	67%	21%
Region	New York City	2%	14%	69%	15%
	Suburbs	1%	15%	73%	12%
	Upstate	1%	12%	68%	19%
Income	Less \$50,000	3%	14%	71%	13%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	0%	14%	69%	17%
	\$100,000 or more	1%	12%	69%	18%
Income	Less than \$50,000	3%	14%	71%	13%
	\$50,000 or more	0%	13%	69%	17%
Race	White	1%	11%	71%	17%
	Non White	0%	21%	66%	13%
Age	18 to 29	4%	33%	54%	9%
	30 to 44	1%	13%	73%	13%
	45 to 59	1%	10%	71%	18%
	60 or older	0%	8%	71%	21%
Age	Under 45	2%	19%	67%	12%
	45 or older	0%	9%	71%	20%
Gender	Men	1%	11%	66%	22%
	Women	1%	15%	73%	11%

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		Registered Voters		
		In general, thinking about the way things are going in New York State, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?		
		Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		22%	72%	6%
Party Registration	Democrat	28%	64%	8%
	Republican	12%	84%	3%
	Non-enrolled	20%	75%	5%
Political Ideology	Liberal	29%	63%	7%
	Moderate	18%	77%	5%
	Conservative	17%	78%	5%
Region	New York City	37%	55%	8%
	Suburbs	21%	76%	3%
	Upstate	13%	81%	6%
Income	Less \$50,000	28%	62%	11%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	18%	79%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	25%	73%	2%
Income	Less than \$50,000	28%	62%	11%
	\$50,000 or more	21%	77%	2%
Race	White	18%	77%	5%
	Non White	41%	49%	10%
Age	18 to 29	41%	47%	12%
	30 to 44	21%	78%	2%
	45 to 59	20%	76%	3%
	60 or older	17%	74%	10%
Age	Under 45	27%	68%	5%
	45 or older	19%	75%	6%
Gender	Men	21%	76%	4%
	Women	23%	69%	8%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 MOE +/- 4%". Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli 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%	26%	34%	9%	28%
Party Registration	Democrat	6%	27%	34%	6%	27%
	Republican	2%	29%	37%	9%	23%
	Non-enrolled	1%	19%	35%	12%	33%
Political Ideology	Liberal	5%	26%	37%	4%	28%
	Moderate	2%	30%	30%	10%	28%
	Conservative	3%	23%	38%	10%	26%
Region	New York City	3%	28%	36%	6%	28%
	Suburbs	5%	24%	38%	5%	28%
	Upstate	2%	26%	31%	12%	29%
Income	Less \$50,000	3%	24%	40%	6%	27%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	4%	30%	35%	8%	23%
	\$100,000 or more	2%	28%	35%	12%	23%
Income	Less than \$50,000	3%	24%	40%	6%	27%
	\$50,000 or more	3%	29%	35%	10%	23%
Race	White	3%	27%	32%	9%	28%
	Non White	2%	26%	46%	4%	21%
Age	18 to 29	4%	32%	46%	6%	12%
	30 to 44	0%	18%	44%	10%	28%
	45 to 59	3%	28%	33%	10%	27%
	60 or older	6%	29%	24%	7%	34%
Age	Under 45	1%	22%	44%	9%	23%
	45 or older	4%	28%	29%	8%	30%
Gender	Men	2%	28%	35%	13%	22%
	Women	5%	24%	33%	4%	34%

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