



Spitzer's Political Future

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

“Stay Out of Politics, Spitz,” Says Majority of NYS Voters

Nearly two-thirds of registered New York State voters -- 66% -- do not want former Governor Eliot Spitzer to run for statewide office this year. Only 28% want him to throw his hat into the political ring. 6% are unsure.

More New York State voters are against a political comeback for their former governor this year than when Marist last asked this question in its April 14th survey. At that time, 58% ruled out a 2010 Spitzer run while 30% thought a 2010 political campaign should be in the cards. 12% were unsure.

“Eliot Spitzer’s attempt to reconnect with New York voters is not paying off in the short-run,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “He has become more visible lately but not more electable.”

And, what about voters’ opinions on Spitzer’s political future? A majority of registered voters in New York now give a thumbs-down to any idea of a candidate Spitzer. 52% do not want the former governor to ever run for public office in the future while 43% do. 5% are unsure.

In Marist’s previous poll, voters in New York were more divided. 48% did not want Spitzer to ever return to politics while 45% did. 7%, at the time, were unsure.

Regardless of a possible political comeback, what are New York voters’ impressions of their former governor? A majority -- 54% -- have an unfavorable view of him, a slight increase from the 50% of the electorate who had this view in Marist’s previous poll. The proportion of voters who have a favorable impression of Spitzer -- 36% -- has also increased. When Marist last asked this question in mid-April, 28% had a favorable view of Spitzer. As a result, more voters have an opinion about Spitzer now. Only 10% are unsure how to rate him compared with 22% who said they didn’t have a clear impression of him in April.

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		
		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		28%	66%	6%
Region	New York City	34%	59%	7%
	Suburbs	23%	74%	3%
	Upstate	27%	65%	7%
Gender	Men	33%	61%	6%
	Women	23%	70%	6%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 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		43%	52%	5%
Region	New York City	47%	47%	6%
	Suburbs	37%	62%	1%
	Upstate	43%	50%	7%
Gender	Men	51%	44%	5%
	Women	34%	60%	5%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 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		36%	54%	10%
Region	New York City	37%	53%	9%
	Suburbs	32%	58%	10%
	Upstate	36%	52%	11%
Gender	Men	44%	48%	8%
	Women	27%	60%	13%

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