



Politics in New York State:
The Races for Governor and U.S. Senate

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This Marist Poll Reports:

Cuomo Approval Rating Solid

New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's job approval rating may have briefly dipped a couple of months ago, but it's back on solid ground. 64% of registered voters in New York State say Cuomo is doing either an excellent or good job in office. This includes 22% who believe Cuomo is excelling in the position and 42% who think his performance is a good one. 27% describe the job he is doing as fair. And, just 6% give him a poor grade. 3% are unsure.

Cuomo has inched upwards since Marist last asked voters about Cuomo's job performance in its March 26th survey. At that time, 61% gave him above average marks. 26% thought his performance was average, and 8% reported he was operating at a subpar level. 5% were unsure.

Satisfaction with Cuomo's job performance crosses party lines. While it's not surprising that 70% of Democratic voters think he is doing either an excellent or good job in office, nearly six in ten Republican voters -- 58% -- share this view. 63% of non-enrolled voters agree.

"Andrew Cuomo is by far the most popular statewide elected official. Of course, some suggest that's not saying much given the public's displeasure with Albany," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "But, his numbers would stand out even if the state's government was viewed positively."

Cuomo Outpaces Competition in Hypothetical Gubernatorial Contests

If Andrew Cuomo seeks the Democratic nomination for governor, as expected, he would be a force to be reckoned with. When matched up against former U.S. Representative Rick Lazio, Cuomo leads with 65% to Lazio's 25%. One-tenth of registered voters in New York State are unsure. Cuomo's lead has even widened since Marist last pitted Cuomo against Lazio in late March. In that survey, 61% supported Cuomo while 30% backed Lazio. 9% were unsure.

Cuomo has an equally impressive lead when he faces off against Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy in a hypothetical contest. 63% of voters say they would cast their ballot for Cuomo while 25% report they would throw their support behind Levy. 12% are unsure. In Marist's March 26th survey, Cuomo led with 65% to Levy's 26%. 9% were unsure.

And, how does businessman Carl Paladino fare against Cuomo? Once again, Cuomo leaves the competition in the dust. Nearly seven in ten voters -- 67% -- report they will back Cuomo while 22% will support Paladino. 11% are unsure.

Lazio Loses Support with Paladino in the GOP Picture

In the race for the Republican nomination for governor, Rick Lazio's lead has shrunk. Currently, Lazio receives support from 38% of GOP voters while Steve Levy garners 22%, and Carl Paladino nets 13%. 27% are unsure.

When Marist last asked this question in late March, Paladino was not included. And, his presence makes a difference. At that time, Lazio received majority support -- 53% -- from Republican voters statewide. 21% backed Levy, and 26% were unsure.

Gillibrand Approval Rating Stuck at 27%... Leads Challengers in Election Bid

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's approval rating needs a jumpstart. Only 27% of registered voters in New York State think Gillibrand is doing either an excellent or good job in office. This includes 3% who say she is excelling and 24% who believe she is doing a good job. 37% rate New York's junior senator as fair, and 14% say she is performing poorly. More than one-fifth -- 22% -- are unsure.

Gillibrand has had a difficult time punching through with the statewide electorate. When Marist last asked this question in its March 29th survey, an identical proportion -- 27% -- gave Gillibrand high marks. Included here were 2% who reported she was doing an excellent job in office and 25% who said she was doing a good job. 34% thought her performance was average, and 17% described her job performance as poor. 22% were unsure.

"Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's low approval rating hasn't hurt her," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "The political adage, 'You have to beat somebody with somebody,' still holds true, and that somebody hasn't emerged."

Even a majority within Gillibrand's own party isn't overjoyed with her performance. About one-third of Democrats -- 34% -- say Gillibrand is doing either an excellent or good job in office. This compares with 23% of Republicans and 21% of non-enrolled voters who share this view.

Despite Gillibrand's less than stellar job approval rating, the senator leads her Republican challengers in the race for her U.S. Senate seat. When pitted against Bruce Blakeman, Gillibrand receives 52% of voters' support to Blakeman's 28%. One-fifth are unsure.

When it comes to Joseph DioGuardi, Gillibrand has a 20 percentage point lead. 50% of voters support Gillibrand while 30% are behind DioGuardi. Here, too, one-fifth are unsure.

And, if David Malpass were to win the Republican nomination and face Gillibrand in November, the sitting senator leads here as well. 52% of registered voters in New York State say they would vote for Gillibrand while 28% report they will back Malpass. 20% are unsure.

In all of these contests, little has changed since Marist last asked about these matchups in its March 29th poll.

DioGuardi Widens Lead in GOP Primary Contest, But More Than Four in Ten Unsure

While Joseph DioGuardi leads the field of Republican candidates in the race for U.S. Senate against Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a large proportion of GOP voters -- 44% -- are unsure. If the Republican primary were held today, 31% say they would cast their ballot for DioGuardi. Bruce Blakeman nets 13% of GOP voters, and 12% report they would back David Malpass.

DioGuardi's support has grown since Marist's late March survey. At that time, 18% reported they backed DioGuardi, 10% supported Blakeman, and 9% were behind Malpass. Nearly six in ten Republican voters -- 59% -- were unsure. Included in that survey was Dan Senor who later announced he would not seek the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in New York. He received support from 4% of Republicans.

Schumer Approval Rating at 50%

Half of the New York State electorate approves of the job Senator Chuck Schumer is doing. This includes 14% who believe he is doing an excellent job and 36% who say he is doing a good job. 31% rate Schumer's performance as fair, and 16% think he is doing poorly in his role. 3% are unsure.

When Marist last asked about Schumer's job performance in its March 29th survey, he received similar ratings. 51% thought he was doing either an excellent or good job in office. 28% reported he was doing fairly well, and 17% believed he was doing poorly. 4% were unsure.

Schumer Leads Townsend

In case you haven't noticed, New York's senior senator will face voters this fall, and despite his approval rating of just 50%, Schumer is far ahead of his competition. Political consultant Jay Townsend recently announced he will oppose Schumer in November's race.

If the election were held today, Schumer would receive 66% of New York's registered voters while Townsend would garner the support of 27%. 7% of voters are unsure.

Overwhelmingly, Democrats are pulling for Schumer with 87% saying they will support him and just 6% reporting they are behind his Republican challenger. And, while Townsend receives the backing of a majority -- 53% -- of Republicans, 41% of the state's GOP are in Schumer's corner. Looking at non-enrolled voters statewide, nearly six in ten -- 59% -- want Schumer to remain in office while 34% want Townsend to replace 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 $\pm 4.0\%$. There are 177 Republicans. The results for this subset are statistically significant at $\pm 7.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Marist Poll May 2010 NYS Tables

		Registered Voters				
		Would you rate the job New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?				
		Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		22%	42%	27%	6%	3%
Party Registration	Democrat	25%	45%	23%	4%	4%
	Republican	17%	41%	33%	7%	3%
	Non-enrolled	24%	39%	28%	6%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	33%	44%	18%	3%	2%
	Moderate	21%	46%	25%	5%	3%
	Conservative	15%	36%	36%	9%	4%
Region	New York City	21%	47%	28%	2%	3%
	Suburbs	24%	46%	21%	6%	3%
	Upstate	22%	38%	29%	7%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	25%	40%	27%	5%	3%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	19%	47%	26%	4%	4%
	\$100,000 or more	23%	41%	27%	8%	1%
Income	Less than \$50,000	25%	40%	27%	5%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	20%	44%	27%	6%	3%
Race	White	23%	41%	26%	5%	4%
	Non White	16%	46%	31%	6%	1%
Age	18 to 29	21%	51%	25%	3%	0%
	30 to 44	16%	45%	29%	6%	4%
	45 to 59	15%	41%	34%	6%	3%
	60 or older	31%	39%	19%	6%	5%
Age	Under 45	17%	47%	28%	5%	3%
	45 or older	23%	40%	27%	6%	4%
Gender	Men	23%	39%	28%	8%	3%
	Women	21%	46%	25%	3%	4%

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

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for Governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Andrew Cuomo, the Democratic candidate	Rick Lazio, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		65%	25%	10%
Party Registration	Democrat	87%	8%	5%
	Republican	39%	53%	8%
	Non-enrolled	62%	26%	12%
Political Ideology	Liberal	92%	4%	3%
	Moderate	67%	22%	11%
	Conservative	42%	47%	11%
Region	New York City	70%	21%	9%
	Suburbs	68%	27%	5%
	Upstate	61%	27%	12%
Income	Less \$50,000	73%	18%	9%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	69%	24%	7%
	\$100,000 or more	60%	33%	6%
Income	Less than \$50,000	73%	18%	9%
	\$50,000 or more	65%	28%	7%
Race	White	61%	30%	9%
	Non White	84%	7%	8%
Age	18 to 29	78%	8%	14%
	30 to 44	71%	25%	3%
	45 to 59	55%	34%	11%
	60 or older	65%	24%	11%
Age	Under 45	73%	20%	7%
	45 or older	60%	29%	11%
Gender	Men	65%	27%	8%
	Women	66%	23%	11%

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

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for Governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Andrew Cuomo, the Democratic candidate	Steve Levy, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		63%	25%	12%
Party Registration	Democrat	84%	9%	7%
	Republican	39%	50%	11%
	Non-enrolled	56%	28%	16%
Political Ideology	Liberal	88%	6%	5%
	Moderate	63%	24%	12%
	Conservative	42%	43%	15%
Region	New York City	69%	19%	11%
	Suburbs	63%	28%	9%
	Upstate	59%	27%	14%
Income	Less \$50,000	73%	16%	11%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	62%	26%	12%
	\$100,000 or more	61%	32%	7%
Income	Less than \$50,000	73%	16%	11%
	\$50,000 or more	62%	29%	10%
Race	White	58%	30%	12%
	Non White	86%	8%	6%
Age	18 to 29	62%	25%	13%
	30 to 44	66%	26%	8%
	45 to 59	58%	30%	12%
	60 or older	66%	20%	14%
Age	Under 45	65%	26%	10%
	45 or older	62%	25%	13%
Gender	Men	60%	28%	11%
	Women	65%	22%	13%

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

		Registered Voters		
		If November's election for Governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:		
		Andrew Cuomo, the Democratic candidate	Carl Paladino, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		67%	22%	11%
Party Registration	Democrat	85%	9%	6%
	Republican	45%	42%	14%
	Non-enrolled	65%	22%	13%
Political Ideology	Liberal	92%	2%	6%
	Moderate	71%	18%	11%
	Conservative	43%	42%	14%
Region	New York City	73%	21%	6%
	Suburbs	72%	18%	10%
	Upstate	61%	24%	15%
Income	Less \$50,000	76%	13%	11%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	67%	23%	10%
	\$100,000 or more	67%	27%	6%
Income	Less than \$50,000	76%	13%	11%
	\$50,000 or more	67%	25%	8%
Race	White	63%	25%	12%
	Non White	88%	8%	4%
Age	18 to 29	75%	16%	9%
	30 to 44	77%	16%	7%
	45 to 59	57%	29%	13%
	60 or older	66%	21%	13%
Age	Under 45	77%	16%	8%
	45 or older	62%	25%	13%
Gender	Men	66%	22%	12%
	Women	69%	21%	10%

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

		Republicans			
		If this year's New York State Republican primary for Governor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:			
		Rick Lazio	Steve Levy	Carl Paladino	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans		38%	22%	13%	27%
Age	Under 45	33%	38%	7%	23%
	45 or older	40%	17%	16%	28%
Gender	Men	32%	30%	11%	27%
	Women	43%	14%	15%	28%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Republicans "N=177 MOE +/- 7.5%". 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%	24%	37%	14%	22%
Party Registration	Democrat	4%	30%	37%	8%	21%
	Republican	1%	22%	38%	25%	14%
	Non-enrolled	3%	18%	39%	12%	28%
Political Ideology	Liberal	6%	31%	36%	9%	17%
	Moderate	2%	29%	35%	11%	23%
	Conservative	1%	14%	40%	23%	22%
Region	New York City	3%	22%	39%	12%	23%
	Suburbs	2%	18%	41%	13%	26%
	Upstate	3%	28%	33%	17%	19%
Income	Less \$50,000	1%	21%	42%	10%	25%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	3%	32%	28%	16%	20%
	\$100,000 or more	3%	22%	47%	12%	16%
Income	Less than \$50,000	1%	21%	42%	10%	25%
	\$50,000 or more	3%	28%	36%	14%	18%
Race	White	3%	26%	37%	15%	19%
	Non White	2%	20%	38%	10%	29%
Age	18 to 29	0%	40%	40%	1%	19%
	30 to 44	3%	22%	40%	10%	25%
	45 to 59	3%	24%	35%	19%	20%
	60 or older	4%	21%	34%	19%	22%
Age	Under 45	2%	28%	40%	7%	23%
	45 or older	3%	22%	35%	19%	21%
Gender	Men	2%	26%	37%	19%	16%
	Women	3%	22%	37%	10%	28%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 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	Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		52%	28%	20%
Party Registration	Democrat	74%	6%	19%
	Republican	28%	59%	13%
	Non-enrolled	46%	29%	26%
Political Ideology	Liberal	77%	7%	16%
	Moderate	52%	23%	24%
	Conservative	32%	51%	17%
Region	New York City	57%	27%	15%
	Suburbs	45%	33%	22%
	Upstate	53%	25%	22%
Income	Less \$50,000	57%	23%	20%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	60%	22%	18%
	\$100,000 or more	48%	32%	20%
Income	Less than \$50,000	57%	23%	20%
	\$50,000 or more	55%	27%	19%
Race	White	47%	31%	21%
	Non White	75%	12%	13%
Age	18 to 29	64%	13%	23%
	30 to 44	61%	24%	15%
	45 to 59	44%	33%	22%
	60 or older	48%	31%	21%
Age	Under 45	62%	20%	18%
	45 or older	46%	32%	21%
Gender	Men	55%	28%	17%
	Women	49%	28%	23%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 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	Joseph DioGuardi, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		50%	30%	20%
Party Registration	Democrat	76%	7%	17%
	Republican	20%	66%	14%
	Non-enrolled	44%	30%	26%
Political Ideology	Liberal	79%	8%	13%
	Moderate	47%	26%	27%
	Conservative	32%	53%	15%
Region	New York City	56%	30%	14%
	Suburbs	43%	32%	25%
	Upstate	50%	29%	21%
Income	Less \$50,000	61%	23%	16%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	52%	27%	20%
	\$100,000 or more	47%	36%	17%
Income	Less than \$50,000	61%	23%	16%
	\$50,000 or more	50%	31%	19%
Race	White	46%	34%	21%
	Non White	73%	16%	10%
Age	18 to 29	59%	20%	21%
	30 to 44	57%	28%	15%
	45 to 59	43%	35%	22%
	60 or older	50%	30%	20%
Age	Under 45	57%	26%	17%
	45 or older	46%	33%	21%
Gender	Men	51%	31%	18%
	Women	50%	29%	21%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Voters "N=686 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	David Malpass, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		52%	28%	20%
Party Registration	Democrat	74%	7%	19%
	Republican	27%	60%	13%
	Non-enrolled	47%	27%	26%
Political Ideology	Liberal	79%	8%	13%
	Moderate	51%	24%	25%
	Conservative	33%	49%	18%
Region	New York City	61%	26%	14%
	Suburbs	46%	28%	26%
	Upstate	51%	28%	21%
Income	Less \$50,000	60%	22%	17%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	58%	24%	18%
	\$100,000 or more	49%	32%	19%
Income	Less than \$50,000	60%	22%	17%
	\$50,000 or more	54%	28%	19%
Race	White	48%	32%	20%
	Non White	75%	10%	15%
Age	18 to 29	64%	18%	18%
	30 to 44	59%	24%	17%
	45 to 59	45%	34%	21%
	60 or older	51%	28%	21%
Age	Under 45	61%	22%	17%
	45 or older	48%	31%	21%
Gender	Men	55%	30%	14%
	Women	49%	25%	26%

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

		Republicans			
		If this year's Republican primary for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:			
		Bruce Blakeman	Joseph DioGuardi	David Malpass	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
Republicans		13%	31%	12%	44%
Age	Under 45	13%	32%	27%	28%
	45 or older	13%	31%	6%	49%
Gender	Men	12%	27%	19%	42%
	Women	15%	35%	4%	46%

May 2010 Marist Poll New York Registered Republicans "N=177 MOE +/- 7.5%". 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		14%	36%	31%	16%	3%
Party Registration	Democrat	21%	37%	29%	11%	3%
	Republican	5%	37%	34%	22%	2%
	Non-enrolled	13%	32%	35%	17%	3%
Political Ideology	Liberal	25%	41%	26%	6%	1%
	Moderate	14%	39%	34%	11%	3%
	Conservative	6%	27%	33%	31%	3%
Region	New York City	15%	34%	33%	15%	2%
	Suburbs	19%	32%	31%	16%	2%
	Upstate	11%	39%	30%	17%	4%
Income	Less \$50,000	11%	34%	36%	13%	6%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	13%	39%	32%	14%	2%
	\$100,000 or more	17%	37%	24%	20%	2%
Income	Less than \$50,000	11%	34%	36%	13%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	15%	38%	29%	17%	2%
Race	White	14%	37%	29%	17%	3%
	Non White	11%	33%	42%	10%	3%
Age	18 to 29	5%	48%	41%	5%	1%
	30 to 44	11%	31%	40%	15%	3%
	45 to 59	10%	37%	29%	21%	3%
	60 or older	23%	34%	21%	18%	3%
Age	Under 45	9%	37%	40%	12%	2%
	45 or older	16%	36%	25%	19%	3%
Gender	Men	15%	34%	28%	22%	2%
	Women	13%	38%	34%	11%	3%

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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	Jay Townsend, the Republican candidate	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		66%	27%	7%
Party Registration	Democrat	87%	6%	6%
	Republican	41%	53%	6%
	Non-enrolled	59%	34%	8%
Political Ideology	Liberal	93%	4%	4%
	Moderate	67%	27%	6%
	Conservative	44%	46%	10%
Region	New York City	74%	22%	5%
	Suburbs	68%	28%	4%
	Upstate	61%	29%	11%
Income	Less \$50,000	71%	19%	10%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	66%	28%	6%
	\$100,000 or more	68%	29%	3%
Income	Less than \$50,000	71%	19%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	67%	28%	5%
Race	White	62%	31%	8%
	Non White	87%	10%	4%
Age	18 to 29	74%	26%	0%
	30 to 44	67%	27%	6%
	45 to 59	59%	31%	10%
	60 or older	68%	23%	8%
Age	Under 45	69%	26%	4%
	45 or older	63%	27%	9%
Gender	Men	65%	29%	6%
	Women	67%	24%	8%

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