



The State of New York's Economy & President Obama's Approval Rating

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College
845.575.5050

This Marist Poll Reports:

NYS Economy: Overall, Voters Have Brighter Outlook, But Upstate...

President Barack Obama will visit Buffalo, New York tomorrow. The topic: the economy. With a majority of registered voters upstate -- 57% -- saying the state's economy is getting worse, the president's timing couldn't be better. In fact, just 11% upstate believe New York's economy is improving, and one-third report it is about the same as it has been. Upstate voters' perceptions of the economy have not changed much since Marist last asked about the state's economy in early April.

Overall, though, fewer voters statewide believe the state's economy is getting worse. 48%, now, think the economy is deteriorating compared with a majority -- 54% -- in Marist's April 8th survey. However, voters are tempering their optimism. Nearly four in ten -- 37% -- believe the economy is staying about the same while just 15% report it is getting better. When Marist last asked this question in early April, similar proportions shared these views with 34% responding the economy was status quo and 12% saying it was improving.

Pessimism has waned in the suburbs and New York City. 44% of voters in the suburbs think New York State's economy is getting worse, and 39% believe it is staying about the same. This compares with 58% in the region who thought the economy had taken a turn for the worse and 32% who thought it was status quo in April. In fact, the proportion of those who believe the economy is getting better has marginally increased. 17% of those in the suburbs say that's the case now compared with 10% in Marist's early April survey.

While 36% of voters in New York City report the economy is getting worse, that proportion has decreased since early April. At that time, 43% held this view. As for those who think the economy is not changing, 43% in New York City believe this to be true while 40% said the same when Marist last asked this question. And, currently, more than one-fifth -- 21% -- say the economy is improving. In April that proportion stood at 17%.

Voters are also a little more optimistic about their own family finances. While a majority of voters in New York believe their personal financial situation will stay about the same in the coming year, there has been a slight increase in those who believe it will get better. More

than one-quarter -- 27% -- think their wallets are about to get a little fatter while 22% thought that way in April. 54% report their finances will stay about the same while 59% felt that way last month. And, the proportion who say their family finances will get worse remains constant at 19%.

Once again, voters in New York City and in the suburbs have a brighter outlook than do those upstate. 41% of those in the Big Apple and 30% of those in the suburbs believe their family finances will improve. This compares with 32% and 15%, respectively, who reported the same in Marist's April survey. There has been little change among those upstate. Only 17% think their personal finances will improve. 19% said the same in April.

Obama Approval Rating at 55%

President Barack Obama's approval rating among registered voters in New York State is steady. 55% of voters think the president is doing either an excellent or good job in office. 22% report he is doing a fair job, and 23% say he is performing poorly. [Click Here for Complete May 12, 2010 Poll Release and Tables](#)

Little has changed for president Obama since Marist's March 29th survey. 53%, then, thought President Obama was doing an above average job, 21% said he was doing an average job, and 26% reported he was performing at a subpar level.

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		
		Right now, do you think the New York State economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?		
		Getting better	Getting worse	Staying about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		15%	48%	37%
Region	New York City	21%	36%	43%
	Suburbs	17%	44%	39%
	Upstate	11%	57%	33%
Income	Less than \$50,000	14%	45%	41%
	\$50,000 or more	17%	46%	36%
Race	White	14%	50%	36%
	Non White	20%	35%	45%
Age	Under 45	16%	38%	46%
	45 or older	15%	54%	31%
Gender	Men	17%	51%	32%
	Women	12%	45%	42%

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

		Registered Voters		
		In the coming year, do you expect your personal family finances to get better, get worse, or stay about the same?		
		Get better	Get worse	Stay about the same
		Row %	Row %	Row %
Registered Voters		27%	19%	54%
Region	New York City	41%	16%	43%
	Suburbs	30%	17%	54%
	Upstate	17%	23%	60%
Income	Less than \$50,000	33%	21%	46%
	\$50,000 or more	26%	17%	57%
Race	White	19%	20%	61%
	Non White	56%	12%	32%
Age	Under 45	40%	17%	44%
	45 or older	19%	21%	60%
Gender	Men	28%	20%	52%
	Women	25%	19%	55%
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 President Barack Obama 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%	33%	22%	23%	<1%
Party Registration	Democrat	29%	44%	17%	10%	0%
	Republican	7%	22%	27%	43%	0%
	Non-enrolled	22%	30%	26%	21%	0%
Political Ideology	Liberal	38%	44%	14%	4%	0%
	Moderate	18%	33%	30%	18%	0%
	Conservative	11%	25%	19%	44%	1%
Region	New York City	29%	36%	17%	18%	0%
	Suburbs	20%	27%	25%	26%	1%
	Upstate	18%	35%	23%	24%	0%
Income	Less \$50,000	19%	42%	20%	18%	0%
	\$50,000-\$99,999	25%	29%	24%	21%	1%
	\$100,000 or more	21%	33%	23%	24%	0%
Income	Less than \$50,000	19%	42%	20%	18%	0%
	\$50,000 or more	23%	31%	23%	22%	0%
Race	White	18%	31%	24%	27%	0%
	Non White	36%	44%	14%	5%	0%
Age	18 to 29	38%	34%	25%	3%	0%
	30 to 44	20%	36%	25%	18%	1%
	45 to 59	15%	34%	21%	29%	0%
	60 or older	23%	30%	18%	29%	0%
Age	Under 45	26%	35%	25%	14%	1%
	45 or older	19%	32%	20%	29%	0%
Gender	Men	21%	32%	20%	26%	0%
	Women	22%	34%	24%	20%	0%

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