



WNBC/Marist Poll

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New York State Campaign 2006

Leads for Statewide Democratic Candidates Remain Wide

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

- **Eliot Spitzer continues to outdistance his Republican rival by a wide margin in the race for New York’s next governor:** In his bid to become governor of New York, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has a 48 percentage point lead over his Republican opponent, former Assemblyman John Faso. Spitzer receives the support of 70% of voters likely to vote on Election Day compared with 22% for Faso. 8% of likely voters are undecided. 62% of registered voters approve of the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as attorney general, including a majority of Republicans.

Question Wording: If November’s election for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	John Faso Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
October 2006	22%	70%	8%
With leaners	22%	73%	5%
Registered Voters			
October 2006	22%	66%	12%
September 2006	21%	67%	12%
August 2006	23%	67%	10%
July 2006	20%	69%	11%

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate’s name) somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
October 2006	67%	24%	8%	1%
Faso supporters	66%	23%	10%	1%
Spitzer supporters	67%	24%	8%	1%

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Attorney General Eliot Spitzer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	62%	23%	39%	27%	6%	5%
Party						
Democrat	70%	34%	36%	23%	4%	3%
Republican	56%	15%	41%	31%	8%	5%
Non-enrolled	64%	18%	46%	24%	6%	6%
Previous Polls						
July 2006	63%	18%	45%	21%	7%	9%
May 2006	63%	20%	43%	22%	5%	10%
January 2006	63%	21%	42%	21%	3%	13%
September 2005	61%	18%	43%	22%	4%	13%
April 2005	61%	20%	41%	19%	5%	15%
October 2004	57%	23%	34%	19%	4%	20%
September 2004	54%	18%	36%	25%	5%	16%
April 2004	60%	20%	40%	20%	4%	16%

- In the race for New York State attorney general, Republican Jeanine Pirro has weathered the storm...but she still trails by 20 percentage points among likely voters:** Former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo has the support of 56% of likely voters and former Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro receives 36% in the race to become New York State’s next attorney general. 8% of voters likely to vote on Election Day are undecided. Among registered voters, the match-up between the candidates is similar to a poll done in August prior to the publicity surrounding a federal investigation of Pirro. Still, 47% of likely voters believe Jeanine Pirro did something unethical when she discussed with former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik the secret bugging of her husband's boat to determine if he was having an affair. 19% think she did something illegal. 27% believe she did nothing wrong. Only 7% are unsure. 27% did not have an opinion when the story was first reported.

Question Wording: If November’s election for attorney general of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Jeanine Pirro Republican	Andrew Cuomo Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
October 2006	36%	56%	8%
With leaners	37%	57%	6%
Registered Voters			
October 2006	38%	54%	8%
September 28, 2006	31%	54%	15%
September 8, 2006	33%	56%	11%
August 2006	39%	54%	7%
July 2006	37%	51%	12%

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate’s name) somewhat support him/her, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
October 2006	62%	28%	8%	2%
Pirro supporters	64%	28%	7%	1%
Cuomo supporters	62%	27%	9%	2%

Question Wording: Jeanine Pirro, Republican candidate for New York State attorney general, is under a federal investigation for discussing with former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik the secret bugging of her husband's boat to determine if he was having an affair. Do you think Jeanine Pirro did nothing wrong, did something unethical but not illegal, or do you think she did something illegal?

	Did Nothing Wrong	Did Something Unethical	Did Something Illegal	Unsure
Likely Voters				
October 2006	27%	47%	19%	7%
Registered Voters				
October 2006	25%	49%	19%	7%
September 28, 2006	26%	38%	9%	27%

- Comptroller Alan Hevesi still has a wide lead over his Republican opponent despite ethics issue:** New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi, in his bid for re-election, outpaces Republican Christopher Callaghan by 40 percentage points. Hevesi receives the support of 62% of likely voters compared with 22% for Callaghan. 16% of likely voters are undecided. Yet, most likely voters think Alan Hevesi did something wrong when he used public funds to have a member of his staff act as a driver for his wife. 51% of likely voters think Comptroller Alan Hevesi did

something unethical and an additional 37% believe he did something illegal. Only 7% of likely voters think he did nothing wrong. Although more voters have an opinion about Alan Hevesi as comptroller since last summer, they divide over whether they approve or disapprove of the job he has done.

Question Wording: If the November election for comptroller of New York were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Christopher Callaghan Republican	Alan Hevesi Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
October 2006	22%	62%	16%
With leaners	24%	66%	10%
Registered Voters			
October 2006	25%	57%	18%
September 28, 2006	27%	57%	16%
September 8, 2006	28%	57%	15%
August 2006	27%	60%	13%
July 2006	28%	57%	15%

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate's name) somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
Likely Voters				
October 2006	45%	42%	12%	1%
Callaghan supporters	49%	34%	16%	1%
Hevesi supporters	44%	45%	10%	1%

Question Wording: New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi used public funds to have a member of his staff as a driver for his wife. Do you think Alan Hevesi did nothing wrong, did something unethical but not illegal, or do you think he did something illegal?

	Did Nothing Wrong	Did Something Unethical	Did Something Illegal	Unsure
Likely Voters				
October 2006	7%	51%	37%	5%
Registered Voters				
October 2006	6%	51%	38%	5%
September 28, 2006	18%	30%	22%	30%

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Comptroller Alan Hevesi is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	42%	6%	36%	31%	8%	19%
July 2006	37%	3%	34%	29%	5%	29%
May 2006	36%	6%	30%	24%	6%	34%
January 2006	40%	5%	35%	23%	3%	34%
September 2005	40%	4%	36%	24%	3%	33%
April 2005	36%	5%	31%	22%	6%	36%
October 2004	35%	4%	31%	24%	5%	36%
September 2004	33%	4%	29%	29%	5%	33%
April 2004	36%	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

- Senator Hillary Clinton handily outmatches her Republican opponent in her race for re-election:** Hillary Clinton leads her Republican opponent, former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer, by 37 percentage points among voters likely to vote on Election Day. In addition, Hillary Clinton receives her highest approval rating from registered voters since assuming office. 58% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Hillary Clinton is doing as senator as either excellent or good.

Question Wording: If November’s election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	John Spencer Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
October 2006	30%	67%	3%
With leaners	31%	67%	2%
Registered Voters			
October 2006	32%	63%	5%
September 2006	32%	62%	6%
August 2006	35%	60%	5%
July 2006	34%	61%	5%

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate’s name) somewhat support him/her, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
October 2006	74%	19%	6%	1%
Spencer supporters	67%	26%	7%	<1%
Clinton supporters	77%	16%	6%	1%

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	58%	20%	38%	25%	15%	2%
Party						
Democrat	79%	33%	46%	15%	5%	1%
Republican	35%	8%	27%	32%	31%	2%
Non-enrolled	53%	17%	36%	32%	11%	4%
Region						
Upstate	58%	19%	39%	22%	18%	2%
New York City	63%	23%	40%	24%	11%	2%
Suburbs	52%	18%	34%	30%	16%	2%
Gender						
Men	50%	17%	33%	29%	19%	2%
Women	65%	23%	42%	21%	11%	3%
Previous Polls						
July 2006	52%	13%	39%	27%	19%	2%
May 2006	51%	15%	36%	27%	19%	3%
January 2006	54%	18%	36%	24%	19%	3%
September 2005	54%	18%	36%	22%	20%	4%
August 2005	54%	19%	35%	23%	16%	7%
April 2005	56%	16%	40%	24%	16%	4%
October 2004	57%	18%	39%	21%	18%	4%
September 2004	53%	18%	35%	25%	20%	2%
April 2004	51%	13%	38%	27%	18%	4%
January 2004	55%	18%	37%	23%	17%	5%
September 2003	49%	17%	32%	26%	21%	4%
April 2003	47%	13%	34%	27%	22%	4%
December 2002	44%	10%	34%	28%	20%	8%
April 2002	47%	11%	36%	27%	20%	6%
December 2001	45%	11%	34%	23%	23%	9%
April 2001	35%	9%	26%	26%	22%	17%
February 2001	30%	10%	20%	22%	20%	28%

- **Mostly blue...New York's generic congressional ballot reflects Democratic strength:**

Although these results do not reflect the contests in individual congressional districts, a majority of likely voters in New York State intend to support a Democratic candidate for Congress. 62% of voters likely to vote on Election Day plan to vote for a Democratic candidate for Congress including most non-enrolled or independent voters and nearly one in five Republicans. 27% of likely voters plan to vote for the Republican candidate. In addition, Democrats likely to vote on Election Day are somewhat more enthusiastic about this year's elections than are Republicans.

Question Wording: If November's election for the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, which candidate would you vote for in your congressional district:

	The Democratic Candidate	The Republican Candidate	Other	Unsure
Likely Voters	62%	27%	1%	10%
Party				
Democrat	88%	8%	1%	3%
Republican	19%	66%	1%	14%
Non-enrolled	71%	9%	4%	16%
Registered Voters	58%	30%	2%	10%

Question Wording: This year are you more enthusiastic, less enthusiastic or about as enthusiastic about voting as you have been in previous elections?

	More Enthusiastic	Less Enthusiastic	About as Enthusiastic
Likely Voters	36%	16%	48%
Party			
Democrat	39%	12%	49%
Republican	27%	25%	48%
Non-enrolled	43%	5%	52%
Registered Voters	29%	24%	47%
Party			
Democrat	35%	17%	48%
Republican	21%	30%	49%
Non-enrolled	29%	25%	46%

- Perception of Congress diminished in the aftermath of the Washington page scandal:** Only 47% of registered voters rate the ethics and honesty of their own representative in Congress positively. When voters consider the Congress as a whole or the leadership specifically, even fewer voters, about one in four, characterize their ethics positively. A majority of registered voters still feel their representative should be re-elected even though many voters express the desire to see a change in the members elected to Congress this year.

Question Wording: Would you rate the ethics and honesty of each of the following as excellent, good, fair, or poor:

	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
Registered Voters						
Your representative in Congress	47%	8%	39%	35%	12%	6%
Most members of Congress	27%	3%	24%	47%	24%	2%
The leadership in Congress	24%	3%	21%	40%	34%	2%

Question Wording: Do you think your representative to Congress/most members of Congress deserve to be re-elected, or not?

Registered Voters	Deserve Re-election	Do Not Deserve Re-election	Unsure
Your representative	55%	24%	21%
Most members of Congress	32%	55%	13%

- Iraq and the war on terrorism are what matter most to New Yorkers as they decide their vote:** 82% of registered voters see the war in Iraq or the war on terrorism as major factors in determining their vote this fall. This is followed by 68% who point to President Bush, 64% who are thinking about the situation with North Korea, and 61% who are concerned about which party controls Congress. Only 35% of registered voters in New York consider the handling of the page scandal a major factor in their vote this November.

Question Wording: Please tell me if each of the following is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in your vote this November:

Registered Voters	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not a Factor
The Iraq war	82%	12%	6%
The war on terrorism	82%	12%	6%
President Bush	68%	18%	14%
The situation with North Korea	64%	25%	11%
Whether the Democrats or Republicans control Congress	61%	24%	15%
The handling of the page scandal in Congress	35%	43%	22%

- A majority of voters thinks the state is headed in the wrong direction:** 56% of registered voters think New York State is headed in the wrong direction. This compares with 52% who felt this way in July.

Question Wording: 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?

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
October 2006	35%	56%	9%
Region			
Upstate	26%	66%	8%
New York City	39%	49%	12%
Suburbs	44%	47%	9%

Registered Voters	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
Previous Polls			
July 2006	40%	52%	8%
May 2006	34%	61%	5%
January 2006	39%	54%	7%

- **President’s job performance rating in New York unchanged:** Only 26% of New York’s registered voters rate the job President Bush is doing in office as either excellent or good. This is unchanged from a similar poll conducted in July.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job President George Bush is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	26%	8%	18%	23%	50%	1%
Party						
Democrat	11%	5%	6%	18%	70%	1%
Republican	49%	15%	34%	29%	22%	<1%
Non-enrolled	20%	3%	17%	24%	55%	1%
Previous Polls						
July 2006	26%	8%	18%	24%	49%	1%
May 2006	24%	7%	17%	21%	55%	<1%
January 2006	34%	11%	23%	21%	45%	<1%
September 2005	33%	10%	23%	22%	44%	1%
April 2005	43%	16%	27%	23%	34%	<1%
October 2004	39%	19%	20%	18%	42%	1%
September 2004	40%	19%	21%	21%	39%	<1%
April 2004	38%	14%	24%	22%	39%	1%
January 2004	52%	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	44%	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	58%	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	57%	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%
April 2002	72%	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	79%	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	40%	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

- **Governor Pataki’s job performance still low:** Only 36% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. In July, 39% of registered voters rated him positively.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Governor George Pataki is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	36%	4%	32%	44%	19%	1%
Party						
Democrats	28%	4%	24%	49%	22%	1%
Republicans	49%	5%	44%	38%	13%	<1%
Non-enrolled	32%	2%	30%	39%	29%	<1%
Region						
Upstate	35%	3%	32%	45%	19%	1%
New York City	31%	4%	27%	45%	23%	1%
Suburbs	42%	5%	37%	43%	15%	<1%
Previous Polls						
July 2006	39%	5%	34%	40%	19%	2%
May 2006	30%	3%	27%	47%	20%	3%
January 2006	43%	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
September 2005	38%	5%	33%	42%	17%	3%
April 2005	34%	5%	29%	39%	25%	2%
October 2004	41%	7%	34%	38%	19%	2%
September 2004	43%	6%	37%	38%	17%	2%
April 2004	41%	4%	37%	40%	18%	1%
January 2004	46%	7%	39%	35%	14%	5%
September 2003	40%	6%	34%	41%	17%	2%
May 2003	37%	4%	33%	34%	25%	4%
April 2003	49%	7%	42%	31%	18%	2%
December 2002	57%	12%	45%	31%	10%	2%
October 30, 2002	57%	14%	43%	33%	9%	1%
October 1, 2002	61%	14%	47%	30%	8%	1%
September 2002	60%	12%	48%	31%	7%	2%
May 2002	72%	14%	58%	23%	5%	0%
April 2002	64%	15%	49%	28%	6%	2%
December 2001	65%	15%	50%	27%	4%	4%
April 2001	53%	10%	43%	34%	8%	5%
December 2000	55%	11%	44%	30%	10%	5%
March 2000	51%	9%	42%	35%	11%	3%
September 1999	51%	10%	41%	38%	9%	2%
July 1999	55%	15%	40%	31%	11%	3%
March 1999	61%	12%	49%	28%	10%	1%
October 1998	60%	14%	46%	31%	8%	1%
September 1998	62%	16%	46%	31%	6%	1%
April 1998	59%	11%	48%	33%	7%	1%
February 1998	60%	11%	49%	32%	6%	2%
October 1997	49%	7%	42%	39%	10%	2%
March 1997	47%	6%	41%	38%	12%	3%
November 1996	47%	8%	39%	36%	14%	3%
March 1996	39%	6%	33%	40%	17%	4%

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 1995	39%	5%	34%	38%	17%	6%
March 1995	36%	8%	28%	28%	16%	20%

- **A majority of voters approve of the job Charles Schumer is doing as senator:** Senator Charles Schumer's approval rating is currently 55% among New York State's registered voters.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	55%	19%	36%	32%	8%	5%
July 2006	58%	13%	45%	27%	8%	7%
May 2006	56%	15%	41%	27%	8%	9%
January 2006	57%	15%	42%	23%	12%	8%
September 2005	55%	17%	38%	25%	11%	9%
April 2005	58%	15%	43%	24%	8%	10%
October 2004	61%	19%	42%	21%	8%	10%
September 2004	50%	13%	37%	29%	11%	10%
April 2004	54%	13%	41%	27%	8%	11%
January 2004	58%	14%	44%	23%	7%	12%
September 2003	52%	12%	40%	30%	10%	8%
April 2003	52%	10%	42%	27%	8%	13%
December 2002	53%	11%	42%	28%	8%	11%
April 2002	55%	11%	44%	26%	6%	13%
December 2001	54%	12%	42%	24%	7%	15%
April 2001	49%	12%	37%	26%	8%	17%
December 2000	51%	13%	38%	22%	9%	18%
March 2000	39%	9%	30%	27%	7%	27%
September 1999	44%	9%	35%	31%	8%	17%
March 1999	41%	7%	34%	23%	10%	26%

Nature of the Sample: 773 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 773 New York State registered voters was conducted October 16th through October 18th, 2006. Registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. There are 475 likely voters. Results for this subgroup are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.