



WNBC/Marist Poll

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New York State Campaign for Comptroller 2006 Mired in Controversy...Hevesi's Lead Plummetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

- **Embattled New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi's 40 percentage point lead plummetts to 12 percentage points among likely voters:** After a week of controversy over the use of a member of his staff as a driver for his wife, Alan Hevesi receives the support of just 50% of New Yorkers likely to vote on Election Day compared with 38% for his Republican opponent Christopher Callaghan. 12% of likely voters are undecided. Just one week ago, Hevesi handily outmatched Callaghan with the support of 62% to 22%.

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

	Christopher Callaghan Republican	Alan Hevesi Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
October 27, 2006	38%	50%	12%
October 20, 2006	22%	62%	16%
Registered Voters			
October 27, 2006	37%	50%	13%
October 20, 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?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
October 27, 2006	42%	40%	16%	2%
October 20, 2006	45%	42%	12%	1%
Callaghan supporters				
October 27, 2006	38%	43%	17%	2%
October 20, 2006	49%	34%	16%	1%
Hevesi supporters				
October 27, 2006	45%	38%	15%	2%
October 20, 2006	44%	45%	10%	1%

- The withdrawal of Spitzer’s endorsement may be another blow to Hevesi’s re-election effort:** When voters are told that New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has withdrawn his endorsement of Alan Hevesi, the race for comptroller becomes a dead heat. Hevesi receives the support of 44% of likely voters and Callaghan receives the support of 43%. 13% of likely voters are undecided.

Question Wording: New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has withdrawn his endorsement of Alan Hevesi. If the November election for comptroller of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

When told of Spitzer’s decision	Christopher Callaghan Republican	Alan Hevesi Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters	43%	44%	13%
Registered Voters	44%	44%	12%

- Most voters are aware of the controversy facing Alan Hevesi, and most think he either did something unethical or illegal:** 77% of registered voters in New York State say they have heard or read something about the misuse of staff time by Comptroller Hevesi. In addition, 47% believe he has done something unethical, and 31% think he broke the law.

Question Wording: Question Wording: Have you heard or read anything about New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi using public funds to have a member of his staff as a driver for his wife?

Registered Voters	Aware of Controversy	Not Aware	Unsure
October 27, 2006	77%	23%	<1%
September 28, 2006	39%	60%	1%

Question Wording: Do you think Alan Hevesi did nothing wrong, did something unethical but not illegal, or do you think he did something illegal?

Registered voters	Did Nothing Wrong	Did Something Unethical	Did Something Illegal	Unsure
October 27, 2006	8%	47%	31%	14%
October 20, 2006	6%	51%	38%	5%
September 28, 2006	18%	30%	22%	30%

- **Although a majority of voters are troubled by Hevesi’s actions, many do not want him to resign from office:** 55% of registered voters are troubled by Hevesi’s admission of his misuse of public funds, but 58% do not want him to resign from office.

Question Wording: Does it bother you a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or not at all, that Alan Hevesi as New York State comptroller is involved in something like this?

Registered Voters	A Great Deal/Good Amount	A Great Deal	A Good Amount	Not Very Much	Not At All	Unsure
October 27, 2006	55%	30%	25%	24%	17%	4%
September 28, 2006	37%	24%	13%	25%	26%	12%

Question Wording: Do you think Alan Hevesi should resign as New York State comptroller, or not?

Registered Voters	Should Resign	Should Not Resign	Unsure
October 27, 2006	33%	58%	9%

- **Many voters oppose formal proceedings to remove Hevesi as comptroller:** 61% of registered voters think Governor Pataki should not ask the New York State Senate to begin the process of removing Alan Hevesi from office. 30% believe the governor should take action, and 9% are unsure.

Question Wording: Do you think Governor Pataki should or should not ask the New York State Senate to begin proceedings to remove Alan Hevesi as comptroller of New York State?

Registered Voters	Should Ask to Begin Removal	Should Not Ask to Begin Removal	Unsure
October 27, 2006	30%	61%	9%

Nature of the Sample: 731 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 731 New York State registered voters was conducted on October 26th, 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 $\pm 4\%$. There are 509 likely voters. Results for this subgroup are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.