



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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New York State: The Presidential Contest

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Life in a blue state...the presidential election in New York:** U.S. Senator John Kerry has a wide lead over President George Bush in the campaign for New York's 31 electoral votes. Kerry receives the support of 54% of the state's registered voters compared with 38% for Bush. Ralph Nader receives 2%, and 6% are undecided. Among likely voters, Kerry has 56% and Bush has 38%. Nader receives 1%, and 5% are undecided.

Question Wording: If next week's presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered voters	Bush/Cheney Republican	Kerry/Edwards Democrat	Nader/Camejo Independent	Undecided
October 2004	38%	54%	2%	6%
September 2004	40%	48%	4%	8%
Party				
Democrats	14%	83%	1%	2%
Republicans	74%	16%	1%	9%
Non-enrolled	33%	56%	5%	6%
Region				
Upstate	42%	46%	3%	9%
New York City	29%	66%	1%	4%
Suburbs	43%	52%	2%	3%

Likely voters	Bush/Cheney Republican	Kerry/Edwards Democrat	Nader/Camejo Independent	Undecided
October 2004	38%	56%	1%	5%
w/ Leaners	39%	57%	1%	3%
September 2004	40%	51%	3%	6%
w/ leaners	41%	52%	3%	4%

- **Most voters are firmly committed to their candidate:** 75% of New York State registered voters are strongly committed to their choice for president. 78% of Bush backers are strongly committed to him, not statistically different from the 75% of Kerry supporters who say they are firmly committed to their candidate.

Question Wording: Would you say you strongly support (candidate), somewhat support him, or do you think you might vote differently on election day?

Registered voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
October 2004	75%	19%	5%	1%
George Bush	78%	17%	5%	<1%
John Kerry	75%	19%	4%	2%
September 2004	68%	24%	7%	1%

- **Interest in campaign is strong in New York:** 81% of registered voters in New York express an interest in the presidential election. This is 12 points higher than it was this time four years ago.

Question Wording: Using the numbers 1 to 5, with 1 meaning very interested and 5 meaning not interested at all, how interested are you in the presidential election?

Registered voters	Very Interested 1	2	3	4	Not Interested at All 5
October 2004	71%	10%	10%	4%	5%
October 2000	54%	15%	18%	7%	6%

- **New York State voters think it is likely there will be problems at the polls this Election Day:** 53% of registered voters think many votes will not be counted this Election Day. Democrats and Independents are more likely to feel this way than are Republicans. African American and Latino voters in the state are especially concerned.

Question Wording: Do you think it is very likely, likely, not very likely, or not likely at all that many votes will not actually be counted?

	Very Likely or Likely	Very Likely	Likely	Not Very Likely	Not Likely at All	Unsure
Registered voters						
October 2004	53%	21%	32%	27%	14%	6%
Party						
Democrats	62%	29%	33%	23%	10%	5%
Republicans	38%	12%	26%	35%	21%	6%
Independents	63%	22%	41%	23%	11%	3%
Race						
White	50%	18%	32%	30%	15%	5%
African American	77%	39%	38%	12%	7%	4%
Latino	67%	26%	41%	21%	7%	5%

- **President Bush’s approval rating remains low in New York:** Only 39% of New York State’s registered voters rate the president’s job performance positively.

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

	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
Registered voters						
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%

- **Domestic issues top concern:** Domestic issues such as health care and education are what many New York voters want to hear about in the presidential campaign. The economy is next, followed by the situation in Iraq, the war on terrorism, and homeland security.

Question Wording: Which of the following issues are you most interested in hearing about during the presidential campaign?

Registered voters	Domestic Issues	Economy	Situation in Iraq	War on Terrorism	Homeland Security	Unsure
October 2004	29%	22%	17%	15%	13%	4%

- **Direction of New York State:** A majority of registered voters, 54%, think the state is headed in the wrong direction. 40% of registered voters express a positive outlook about the direction of New York State.

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 2004	40%	54%	6%
Region			
Upstate	31%	63%	6%
New York City	46%	47%	7%
Suburbs	49%	45%	6%
Previous Polls			
September 2004	40%	54%	6%
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
January 2004	42%	46%	12%
September 2003	39%	54%	7%
April 2003	40%	53%	7%
December 2002	39%	52%	9%
October 30, 2002	51%	40%	9%
October 1, 2002	55%	37%	8%
September 2002	56%	38%	6%
May 2002	65%	28%	7%
April 2002	66%	28%	6%
December 2001	65%	25%	10%
December 2000	64%	30%	6%
September 1999	65%	25%	10%
October 1998	68%	23%	9%
October 1997	58%	33%	9%
November 1996	51%	37%	12%
September 1995	35%	48%	17%
November 1994	25%	62%	13%
November 1993	26%	59%	15%
September 1990	28%	56%	16%

- **Many voters still think New York State is in a recession:** 62% of registered voters think New York State is currently in a recession.

Question Wording: Do you think that New York State is currently in a recession, or not?

Registered voters	Yes	No	Unsure
October 2004	62%	33%	5%
Region			
Upstate	65%	30%	5%
New York City	63%	31%	6%
Suburbs	55%	40%	5%
Previous Polls			
September 2004	58%	37%	5%
April 2004	62%	34%	4%
January 2004	56%	33%	11%
September 2003	64%	31%	5%
April 2003	74%	22%	4%
December 2002	71%	26%	3%
October 1, 2002	71%	26%	3%
September 2002	71%	25%	4%
May 2002	62%	33%	5%
April 2002	68%	28%	4%
December 2001	76%	19%	5%
September 1998	23%	71%	6%
October 1997	36%	58%	6%
November 1996	48%	45%	7%
September 1995	56%	34%	10%
October 1994	67%	27%	6%
March 1991	84%	13%	3%

- **Senator Schumer’s re-election prospects:** Senator Schumer has overwhelming support among New York State registered voters for his re-election effort. Schumer receives the support of 72% of registered voters. 16% support Republican challenger Howard Mills, and 6% favor Conservative Party candidate Marilyn O’Grady. The results are similar among likely voters.

Question Wording: If next week’s election for U.S. Senate were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Howard Mills Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Marilyn O’Grady Conservative	Undecided
Registered voters				
October 2004	16%	72%	6%	6%
September 2004	17%	65%	7%	11%

Registered voters	Howard Mills Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Marilyn O'Grady Conservative	Undecided
Party				
Democrats	3%	91%	2%	4%
Republicans	38%	46%	11%	5%
Non-enrolled	10%	75%	6%	9%
Region				
Upstate	20%	65%	9%	6%
New York City	7%	83%	3%	7%
Suburbs	21%	68%	6%	5%

Likely voters	Howard Mills Republican	Charles Schumer Democrat	Marilyn O'Grady Conservative	Undecided
October 2004	17%	72%	6%	5%
w/Leaners	17%	73%	6%	4%

- **Senator Schumer at highest rating since assuming office:** Senator Charles Schumer's approval rating is currently 61% among New York State's registered voters. In a similar poll conducted in September, his approval rating was 50%.

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 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%

- **Senator Clinton at highest rating since assuming office:** Senator Hillary Clinton's approval rating is 57% among New York State's registered voters.

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 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%

- **New York State voters rate Governor Pataki:** 41% of New York State’s registered voters rate the job Governor Pataki is doing in office as excellent or good. 57% rate the job the governor is doing as fair or poor.

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 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%

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

- **New York State voters rate Attorney General Spitzer:** 57% of registered voters rate the job Eliot Spitzer is doing as Attorney General as either excellent or good.

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 2004	57%	23%	34%	19%	4%	20%
September 2004	54%	18%	36%	25%	5%	16%
April 2004	60%	20%	40%	20%	4%	16%

- **New York State voters rate Comptroller Alan Hevesi:** Comptroller Alan Hevesi's job performance rating is 35%. 29% rate his job performance as either fair or poor. 36% of registered voters say they are unsure how to rate him.

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 2004	35%	4%	31%	24%	5%	36%
September 2004	33%	4%	29%	29%	5%	33%
April 2004	36%	4%	32%	27%	3%	34%

- **Couldn't resist asking....** New York voters squarely divide over whether they want Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008. 47% would like to see him make a run and 47% would not. Only 19% of voters in New York State want Governor Pataki to run for the highest office in the land. If there is a contest for the

Democratic nomination in 2008, 44% want Senator Hillary Clinton to run for president and 51% want her to sit it out.

Question Wording: Do you want George Pataki/Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008 or not? If there is a contest for the Democratic nomination for president in 2008, do you want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered voters	Yes, run	No, don't run	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	47%	47%	6%
Hillary Clinton	44%	51%	5%
George Pataki	19%	76%	5%

Nature of the Sample: 817 NYS Registered Voters

The survey of 817 registered voters was conducted on October 25th and 26th, 2004.

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.

There are 636 likely voters. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$ for registered voters and $\pm 4\%$ for likely voters. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.