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Siena College Poll:

Hillary Leads Bernie By 21 Points Among NY Dems; Trump Has Strong Lead Over Rubio & Cruz with NY Reps

Blue New York Appears Likely to Stay Blue; Clinton Leads All Reps By at Least 17 Points, While Sanders Leads Them All By at Least 22 Points

Nearly Half of New Yorkers Think Clinton Will Be the Next President

Jobs/Economy & Keeping America Safe Continue to be Top Issues for the Next President, According to Nearly Three-Quarters of New Yorkers

Loudonville, NY. Hillary Clinton, who has a better favorability rating than Bernie Sanders among Democrats but a weaker favorability rating among all voters, leads Sanders 55-34 percent in a head-to-head matchup with New York Democrats. On the Republican side, Donald Trump has the support of 34 percent of New York GOPers, while Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz each have the support of 16 percent and Chris Christie is the only other Republican in double digits with 11 percent support, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Clinton leads six leading Republicans by between 17 and 26 points, while Sanders runs up even bigger leads of between 22 and 33 points. Almost half of New Yorkers — including nearly two-thirds of Democrats — think Clinton will be the next President. Jobs (42 percent) and keeping America safe (30 percent) are the top issues.

Hillary, with a small uptick in her favorability rating since September, has a solid 21-point lead over Bernie with Democrats, despite a significant increase in his favorability rating, said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. Sanders has a net 13-point better favorability rating with all voters than Clinton, while she has a net nine-point better rating among Democrats, —

Favorability						
Democratic Candidate Favorability						
Candidate		ALL	Dem	Rep	Men	Women
Hillary Clinton	Fav	50%	73%	14%	46%	53%
	Unfav	47%	25%	84%	52%	42%
Bernie Sanders	Fav	51%	63%	29%	53%	50%
	Unfav	35%	24%	57%	37%	34%
Republican Candidate Favorability						
Candidate		ALL	Dem	Rep	Men	Women
Marco Rubio	Fav	34%	26%	55%	38%	31%
	Unfav	45%	54%	31%	47%	44%
Donald Trump	Fav	25%	12%	51%	32%	20%
	Unfav	71%	87%	43%	65%	75%
Chris Christie	Fav	36%	29%	54%	34%	38%
	Unfav	54%	62%	38%	56%	52%
Jeb Bush	Fav	26%	20%	42%	23%	28%
	Unfav	63%	70%	47%	69%	57%
Ted Cruz	Fav	26%	16%	44%	28%	23%
	Unfav	59%	68%	46%	62%	56%
John Kasich	Fav	23%	23%	28%	31%	17%
	Unfav	34%	35%	33%	33%	35%
Siena College Poll – February 8, 2016						

“Hillary’s lead among women is 31 points, while her lead among men is seven. She leads by 24 points in New York City and 32 points in the downstate suburbs, while only leading by eight points upstate,” Greenberg said. “And while Democrats under 35 are evenly divided, those 55 and older favor Clinton by 31 points.

“Trump’s overall 18-point lead is even larger among New York City Republicans, who give him a 26-point lead over Rubio, and downstate suburbanites, who give him a 27-point lead over Rubio. For upstate Republicans, this is a barnburner with Trump at 24 percent, followed by Cruz with 20 percent, Christie at 18 percent and Rubio with 17 percent,” Greenberg said. “Self-identified conservatives give Trump a 40-26 percent lead over Cruz, with Rubio in a distant fourth place with seven percent support.

“While six Republicans tested each have unfavorable ratings with all New York voters, only three are positive with Republicans: Rubio, plus 24 points, Christie, plus 16 points, and Trump plus eight. Rubio, Cruz and Christie are the only ones viewed favorably by conservatives,” Greenberg said.

NY Hasn’t Gone Republican in Presidential Race Since Reagan ’84; Not Likely to Break the Streak in ’16

“Rubio and Christie run best among Republicans against either Sanders or Clinton. Clinton leads those two by 17 and 19 points, respectively, while Sanders leads them by 22 and 23 points,” Greenberg said. “Clinton leads the other Republicans by between 23 and 26 points, while Sanders tops them even bigger, between 30 and 33 points.

“Clinton does slightly better than Sanders in each of the matchups against the Republican candidates with Democrats, however, Sanders does considerably better with Republican and independent voters than does Clinton in the matchups with these Republican candidates,” Greenberg said.

General Election Horse Races					
Party	Candidate	ALL	Dem	Rep	Ind
Dem	Clinton	54%	81%	13%	45%
Rep	Rubio	37%	14%	80%	41%
Dem	Clinton	57%	84%	15%	48%
Rep	Cruz	34%	12%	77%	36%
Dem	Clinton	57%	83%	15%	51%
Rep	Trump	32%	11%	70%	34%
Dem	Clinton	57%	83%	16%	51%
Rep	Bush	33%	13%	76%	34%
Dem	Clinton	57%	81%	17%	51%
Rep	Kasich	31%	12%	69%	34%
Dem	Clinton	55%	82%	14%	45%
Rep	Christie	36%	14%	81%	40%
Dem	Sanders	56%	77%	18%	55%
Rep	Rubio	34%	15%	75%	33%
Dem	Sanders	60%	80%	23%	59%
Rep	Cruz	30%	12%	68%	29%
Dem	Sanders	63%	82%	28%	62%
Rep	Trump	30%	11%	63%	31%
Dem	Sanders	61%	80%	24%	62%
Rep	Bush	30%	14%	68%	28%
Dem	Sanders	59%	78%	29%	55%
Rep	Kasich	29%	15%	58%	30%
Dem	Sanders	58%	77%	21%	58%
Rep	Christie	35%	18%	72%	33%

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New York Dems See the Race as a Fait Accompli

öNearly two-thirds of Democrats, 65 percent, think Hillary will be the next President, as do a plurality of independents, 40 percent. Republicans, however, are more spread out, with 32 percent thinking Trump will be the next President, compared to 22 percent who say Clinton and 12 percent who say Cruz,ö Greenberg said.

öOverall, 48 percent of New York voters think Clinton will be elected, compared to 19 percent who think it will be Trump and 10 percent Sanders, with the other candidates in single digits.ö

Economy & Safety Dominate; Health Care, Immigration and Judicial Selection Are Distant Issues

öOverall, and among all partisan, geographic, racial, gender and age demographics, jobs and the economy and keeping America safe are the top two issues. Jobs beats out safety overall and with most demographic groups, excepting Republicans, conservatives and Jewish voters, while older voters are tied between safety and jobs,ö Greenberg said. öNearly three-quarters of all voters, 72 percent, said jobs and the economy was one of their top two issues, while 51 percent said keeping America safe was one of their top two.ö

Obama & Biden Viewed Favorably; Direction of Country Improved but Still Under Water

öAs he begins his final year in office, President Obama has a 59-38 percent favorability rating, up from 53-42 percent in December. He is viewed favorably by 84 percent of Democrats and 51 percent of independents, while 78 percent of Republicans view him unfavorably. While white voters are evenly divided, black voters view Obama favorably 92-7 percent,ö Greenberg said.

öVice President Joe Biden, who considered running for President has a better favorability rating than Clinton or Sanders at 60-32 percent. He's viewed favorably by 78 percent of Democrats, 50 percent of independents and even 36 percent of Republicans,ö Greenberg said.

öWhile 52 percent of New Yorkers think the country is headed in the wrong direction, compared to 36 percent who say America is on the right track, that's significantly better than in December when it was 59-32 percent saying wrong direction,ö Greenberg said. öDemocrats, by 11 points, are positive about the country's direction, while New York City voters are virtually evenly divided. However, a majority of independents, downstate suburbanites and upstaters, as well as three-quarters of Republicans, think the country is headed in the wrong direction.ö

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This Siena College Poll was conducted January 31-February 3, 2016 by telephone calls conducted in English to 930 New York State registered voters, including 434 Democrats and 235 Republicans. Respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest male in the household. It has an overall margin of error of ± 3.8 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. The margin of error is ± 5.6 percentage points for Democrats and ± 7.0 percentage points for Republicans. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of landline (from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc.) and cell phone (from Survey Sampling International) telephone numbers from within New York State weighted to reflect known population patterns. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, region and gender to ensure representativeness. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in NYS. SRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey cross-tabs: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Q. 3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	50	47	3
September 2015	46	51	3
July 2015	56	40	4
April 2015	58	38	5
March 2015	59	38	3
February 2015	62	33	5
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	51 (9/15)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	46 (9/15)	23 (12/12)	2 (many)

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bernie Sanders?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	51	35	13
September 2015	38	41	20
HIGHEST EVER	51 (2/16)	41 (9/15)	20 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	38 (9/15)	35 (2/16)	13 (2/16)

Q. 13 DEMOCRATS ONLY: If the Democratic Primary for President were held today in New York, would you vote for Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, or someone else? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED; IN SEPTEMBER, JOE BIDEN WAS INCLUDED)

DATE	CLINTON	SANDERS	BIDEN	OTHER/NONE/NO OPINION
February 2016	55	34	NA	11
September 2015	45	23	24	7
HIGHEST EVER	55 (2/16)	34 (2/16)	24 (9/15)	11 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/15)	23 (9/15)	24 (9/15)	7 (9/15)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeb Bush?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	26	63	12
September 2015	30	64	6
April 2015	33	49	18
HIGHEST EVER	33 (4/15)	64 (9/15)	22 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	26 (2/16)	47 (12/14)	6 (9/15)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chris Christie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	36	54	10
September 2015	32	59	8
July 2015	37	49	14
April 2015	41	47	12
HIGHEST EVER	63 (11/13, 12/12)	59 (9/15)	18 (12/12)
LOWEST EVER	32 (9/15)	18 (12/12)	8 (9/15)

Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ted Cruz?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	26	59	16
September 2015	22	58	20
April 2015	22	41	38
HIGHEST EVER	26 (2/16)	59 (2/16)	46 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	19 (12/14)	35 (12/14)	16 (2/16)

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Q.8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Kasich?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	23	34	43
September 2015	21	41	38
HIGHEST EVER	23 (2/16)	41 (9/15)	43 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	21 (9/15)	34 (2/16)	38 (9/15)

Q.9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Marco Rubio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	34	45	21
September 2015	33	47	20
April 2015	30	32	38
HIGHEST EVER	34 (2/16)	47 (9/15)	44 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	24 (12/14)	32 (4/15, 12/14)	20 (9/15)

Q.10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	25	71	4
September 2015	33	65	2
July 2015	25	71	4
February 2014	31	62	7
HIGHEST EVER	38 (1/14)	71 (2/16, 7/15)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	25 (2/16, 7/15)	57 (1/14)	2 (9/15)

Q.14 **REPUBLICANS ONLY:** If the Republican Primary for President were held today in New York, would you vote for Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, John Kasich, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, or someone else? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED; IN SEPTEMBER, BEN CARSON, CARLY FIORINA, GEORGE PATAKI, AND SCOTT WALKER WERE INCLUDED)

CANDIDATE	FEBRUARY 2016	SEPTEMBER 2015	HIGHEST EVER	LOWEST EVER
Donald Trump	34	34	34 (2/16, 9/15)	34 (2/16, 9/15)
Marco Rubio	16	5	16 (2/16)	5 (9/15)
Ted Cruz	16	3	16 (2/16)	3 (9/15)
Chris Christie	11	9	11 (2/16)	9 (9/15)
Jeb Bush	7	11	11 (9/15)	7 (2/16)
John Kasich	4	4	4 (2/16, 9/15)	4 (2/16, 9/15)
Ben Carson	NA	14		
Carly Fiorina	NA	8		
George Pataki	NA	3		
Scott Walker	NA	0		
Other/None/No Opinion	12	11	12 (2/16)	11 (9/15)

Q.15 **REPUBLICANS ONLY:** Of those candidates (SAME CANDIDATE NAMES, ROTATED, WERE OFFERED) which would you least like to see be the Republican nominee for President?

CANDIDATE	FEBRUARY 2016	SEPTEMBER 2015	HIGHEST EVER	LOWEST EVER
Donald Trump	32	25	32 (2/16)	25 (9/15)
Jeb Bush	23	22	23 (2/16)	22 (9/15)
John Kasich	14	5	14 (2/16)	5 (9/15)
Chris Christie	11	10	11 (2/16)	10 (9/15)
Ted Cruz	11	6	11 (2/16)	6 (9/15)
Marco Rubio	5	4	5 (2/16)	4 (9/15)
George Pataki	NA	10		
Ben Carson	NA	3		
Carly Fiorina	NA	3		
Scott Walker	NA	1		
Don't Know/No Opinion	4	11	11 (9/15)	4 (2/16)

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Q.18 If the election for President were held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Donald Trump on the Republican line, would you vote for Trump or Clinton? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CLINTON	TRUMP	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
February 2016	57	32	11
September 2015	55	36	10
HIGHEST EVER	57 (2/16)	36 (9/15)	11 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	55 (9/15)	32 (2/16)	10 (9/15)

Q.19 If the election for President were held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Jeb Bush on the Republican line, would you vote for Bush or Clinton? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CLINTON	BUSH	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
February 2016	57	33	10
September 2015	53	36	11
HIGHEST EVER	57 (2/16)	36 (9/15)	11 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	53 (9/15)	33 (2/16)	10 (2/16)

Q.24 If the election for President were held tomorrow and the candidates were Bernie Sanders on the Democratic line and Donald Trump on the Republican line, would you vote for Trump or Sanders? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	SANDERS	TRUMP	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
February 2016	63	30	8
September 2015	52	38	10
HIGHEST EVER	63 (2/16)	38 (9/15)	10 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	52 (9/15)	30 (2/16)	8 (2/16)

Q.25 If the election for President were held tomorrow and the candidates were Bernie Sanderson the Democratic line and Jeb Bush on the Republican line, would you vote for Bush or Sanders? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	SANDERS	BUSH	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
February 2016	61	30	9
September 2015	52	33	14
HIGHEST EVER	61 (2/16)	33 (9/15)	14 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	52 (9/15)	30 (2/16)	9 (2/16)

Q. 28 Of the following five issues, which one do you think is the most important for the next President to work on? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

ISSUE	FEBRUARY 2016	SEPTEMBER 2015	HIGHEST EVER	LOWEST EVER
Jobs and economy	42	40	42 (2/16)	40 (/15)
Keeping America safe	30	30	30 (2/16, 9/15)	30 (2/16, 9/15)
Health Care	12	10	12 (2/16)	10 (9/15)
Selecting judges	7	6	7 (2/16)	6 (9/15)
Immigration	7	11	11 (9/15)	7 (2/16)
Other/No Opinion	1	2	2 (9/15)	1 (2/16)

Q. 2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Barack Obama?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	59	38	3
December 2015	53	42	5
September 2015	54	42	4
July 2015	58	39	3
April 2015	52	45	3
March 2015	57	41	3
February 2015	56	42	2
HIGHEST EVER	81 (1/09)	46 (9/14, 10/31/10)	40 (11/06)
LOWEST EVER	48 (11/06)	10 (1/09)	1 (7/14, 1/13, 8/12)

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Q.11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	60	32	8
September 2015	54	40	6
HIGHEST EVER	62 (10/27/08)	40 (9/15)	28 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	46 (9/08)	26 (9/08)	6 (9/15, 8/12)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Michael Bloomberg?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	52	38	10
November 2013	51	41	8
HIGHEST EVER	67 (3/08)	42 (3/13)	21 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	51 (11/13, 3/13)	16 (9/08)	7 (3/13)

Q. 1 Is the United States on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
February 2016	36	52	11
December 2015	32	59	9
September 2015	32	59	9
July 2015	40	51	9
April 2015	37	55	8
March 2015	40	52	9
February 2015	42	51	8
January 2015	38	55	7
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/11)	17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13, 10/08)	24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

Poll Trend Notes: * All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of July thru October 2014, August/October 2012, October 2010, September/October 2008, and September/October 2006, which are polls of likely voters. Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005. Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2015. "Highest Ever" and "Lowest Ever" is provided at the bottom of each question.
^ Inconsequential wording change.