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Siena College Poll:

Clinton & Trump Continue to Hold Commanding Leads in New York in Their Respective Party Primaries

Among Republicans, Kasich Runs Strongest in Matchups Against Hillary or Bernie; In Three-Way General Election Contests, Clinton & Sanders Have Double Digit Leads; Bloomberg Runs as Well as Trump

Two-Thirds of New Yorkers Say Senate Should Act on Obama Supreme Court Nominee; Majority Support Keeping Gitmo Open

Loudonville, NY. With his support growing to almost half of New York Republicans, Donald Trump has stretched his lead in a New York Republican primary to 27 points over John Kasich and Marco Rubio, who are tied for second. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton maintains her 21-point lead over Bernie Sanders, 55-34 percent, exactly the same as it was last month, according to a new Siena College poll of New York State registered voters released today.

Sanders leads the four Republicans in Democrat vs. Republican general election match-ups by between 19 and 37 points, while Clinton leads those same Republicans by seven to 25 points. If Michael Bloomberg runs as in independent, he gets about one-quarter of the vote, while Sanders has a 14-point lead and Clinton leads by 16 points.

Trump, viewed favorably by 54 percent of Republicans and unfavorably by 67 percent of all New York voters, has widened his primary lead to a commanding 27 points over Kasich and Rubio, and

34 points over Ted Cruz, said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg. Trump leads by 20 points over Cruz in New York City, 20 points over Kasich upstate, and 26 points over Rubio in the downstate suburbs. He has commanding leads with Republican men and women, as well as Catholics and Protestants.

Favorability						
Democratic Candidates						
Candidate		ALL	Dem	Rep	Men	Women
Hillary Clinton	Fav	48%	68%	12%	40%	54%
	Unfav	48%	28%	86%	56%	42%
Bernie Sanders	Fav	52%	59%	32%	56%	48%
	Unfav	39%	30%	60%	37%	41%
Republican Candidates						
Candidate		ALL	Dem	Rep	Men	Women
Marco Rubio	Fav	27%	21%	43%	22%	31%
	Unfav	59%	64%	48%	65%	53%
Donald Trump	Fav	29%	15%	54%	35%	23%
	Unfav	67%	81%	40%	62%	71%
Ted Cruz	Fav	23%	16%	36%	27%	21%
	Unfav	65%	71%	54%	63%	66%
John Kasich	Fav	41%	31%	56%	51%	32%
	Unfav	29%	33%	25%	28%	30%
Independent Candidate						
Candidate		ALL	Dem	Rep	Men	Women
Michael Bloomberg	Fav	51%	50%	52%	50%	51%
	Unfav	35%	37%	38%	39%	32%

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“While Kasich has the best favorability rating among Republicans and gained the most ground in the primary, he is still far behind Trump, and even further behind among self-identified conservatives, 52 percent of whom support Trump, with 20 percent supporting Rubio and 12 percent Kasich,” Greenberg said.

“Hillary’s lead over Bernie among Democrats is unchanged since last month. She has the support of 55 percent of Democrats in every region of the state, leading him by 21 points in New York City, 24 points in the downstate suburbs and 19 points upstate. She leads by 10 points with men and 28 points with women. While Sanders has a 17-point lead with Democrats under 35, Clinton leads by 39 points with those 55 and older,” Greenberg said.

“Although Sanders has a net 13-point positive favorability rating and Clinton’s is breakeven at 48-48 percent, both have seen little change over the last month and Clinton continues to have a better favorability rating with Democrats,” Greenberg said. “Among Republicans, Kasich and Trump are viewed favorably, while Rubio and Cruz are under water. Kasich is the only one viewed favorably by all New York voters, 41-29 percent. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with a 51-35 percent favorability rating, is the only *potential* candidate viewed favorably by Democrats, Republicans and independents.”

Dems Still Lead All Reps; Kasich Closest; In Three-Way Race, Bloomberg Challenge Trump for 2nd Place

“Clinton leads Trump 57-34 percent, almost identical to Sanders’ 57-33 percent lead over Trump,” Greenberg said. “However, while Sanders leads Rubio by 26 points, Clinton leads him by 21 points. Sanders leads Cruz by 37 points compared to Clinton’s 25-point lead.

“Kasich has made the most headway in general election match-ups against the Democrats. Sanders leads Kasich by 19 points, down from 30 points last month, and he comes within seven points of Clinton, 49-42 percent, down from 26 points in February,” Greenberg said.

“If Bloomberg enters the race as an independent, he carries independent voters in a three-way race involving Trump and either Sanders or Clinton,” Greenberg said. “And while Trump continues to get a majority of Republicans and Clinton or Sanders wins

an even bigger majority of Democrats, Bloomberg picks up enough support to eke out a second place finish over Trump against Sanders and tie for second with Trump against Clinton.”

General Election Horse Races					
Party	Candidate	ALL	Dem	Rep	Ind
Dem	Clinton	56%	81%	17%	43%
Rep	Rubio	35%	13%	76%	43%
Dem	Clinton	58%	82%	17%	50%
Rep	Cruz	33%	12%	75%	36%
Dem	Clinton	57%	80%	19%	45%
Rep	Trump	34%	15%	71%	38%
Dem	Clinton	49%	74%	11%	35%
Rep	Kasich	42%	19%	82%	52%
Dem	Sanders	58%	77%	28%	49%
Rep	Rubio	32%	14%	64%	41%
Dem	Sanders	63%	82%	32%	55%
Rep	Cruz	26%	9%	59%	32%
Dem	Sanders	57%	76%	22%	53%
Rep	Trump	33%	17%	66%	38%
Dem	Sanders	54%	75%	21%	43%
Rep	Kasich	35%	16%	69%	44%
Dem	Clinton	42%	66%	11%	24%
Rep	Trump	25%	10%	56%	26%
Ind	Bloomberg	26%	17%	30%	41%
Dem	Sanders	42%	59%	16%	33%
Rep	Trump	24%	10%	55%	24%
Ind	Bloomberg	28%	25%	26%	36%

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New Yorkers Think U.S. Senate Should Act on Obama Supreme Court Nomination

By an overwhelming 67-28 percent margin, voters think that the Senate should act on a Supreme Court nomination by President Obama, if he makes one. That view is held by more than three-quarters of Democrats and almost two-thirds of independents, Greenberg said. While Republicans and conservatives are closely divided on whether the Senate should or should not act on an Obama Supreme Court nominee, there is no question that the vast majority of other New Yorkers believe the Senate should act on the President's nomination.

Majority Want Gitmo Kept Open, Despite Obama's Plan to Close It

Overall, New Yorkers support keeping the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba open 53-38 percent, Greenberg said. Democrats are closely divided, with a slight plurality agreeing with the President that it should be closed. However, a majority of independents and nearly three-quarters of Republicans disagree with Obama and want Gitmo kept open as a place to keep terrorists. Men favor keeping it open by a narrow four-point margin while women support it staying open by 24 points.

Half of New Yorkers Believe Apple Should Develop Way to Unlock Phone Belonging to Terrorist

New Yorkers are closely divided, with 50 percent saying the government is right that Apple should develop a means to unlock the phone of a terrorist in the recent San Bernardino terrorist attack, while 42 percent say that Apple shouldn't find a way to unlock the phone because of the precedent it would create, Greenberg said. Democrats are closely divided on the question, with 53 percent of Republicans and 58 percent of independents wanting Apple to find a way to unlock the phone. A majority of younger voters oppose Apple unlocking the phone, while a plurality of older voters supports it.

Majority Continue to View Obama Favorably and Say Country Is Headed in Wrong Direction

Obama's favorability rating, 59-36 percent, is virtually unchanged from 59-38 percent last month. He continues to be viewed favorably by more than three-quarters of Democrats and a majority of independents, while nearly three-quarters of Republicans view him unfavorably, Greenberg said.

With 52 percent of voters thinking the country is headed in the wrong direction and 35 percent saying America is on the right track, there's been no movement since February, Greenberg said. Democrats are closely divided, independents are negative and Republicans are strongly negative about the country's direction.

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This Siena College Poll was conducted February 28-March 3, 2016 by telephone calls conducted in English to 800 New York State registered voters, including 368 Democrats and 229 Republicans. Respondent sampling was initiated by asking for the youngest male in the household. It has an overall margin of error of ± 4.1 percentage points including the design effects resulting from weighting. The margin of error is ± 6.2 percentage points for Democrats and ± 6.7 percentage points for Republicans. Sampling was conducted via a stratified dual frame probability sample of both landline and cell phone telephone numbers (from Survey Sampling International) 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. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	48	48	4
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. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Bernie Sanders?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	52	39	9
February 2016	51	35	13
September 2015	38	41	20
HIGHEST EVER	52 (3/16)	41 (9/15)	20 (9/15)
LOWEST EVER	38 (9/15)	35 (2/16)	9 (3/16)

Q. 11 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
March 2016	55	34	NA	10
February 2016	55	34	NA	11
September 2015	45	23	24	7
HIGHEST EVER	55 (3/16, 2/16)	34 (3/16, 2/16)	24 (9/15)	11 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	45 (9/15)	23 (9/15)	24 (9/15)	7 (9/15)

Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Ted Cruz?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	23	65	12
February 2016	26	59	16
September 2015	22	58	20
April 2015	22	41	38
HIGHEST EVER	26 (2/16)	65 (3/16)	46 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	19 (12/14)	35 (12/14)	12 (3/16)

Q.7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Kasich?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	41	29	30
February 2016	23	34	43
September 2015	21	41	38
HIGHEST EVER	41 (3/16)	41 (9/15)	43 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	21 (9/15)	29 (3/16)	30 (3/16)

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Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Marco Rubio?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	27	59	14
February 2016	34	45	21
September 2015	33	47	20
April 2015	30	32	38
HIGHEST EVER	34 (2/16)	59 (3/16)	44 (12/14)
LOWEST EVER	24 (12/14)	32 (4/15, 12/14)	14 (3/16)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	29	67	4
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. 12 **REPUBLICANS ONLY:** If the Republican Primary for President were held today in New York, would you vote for Ted Cruz, John Kasich, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, or someone else? (CHOICES WERE ROTATED; IN FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER, JEB BUSH AND CHRIS CHRISTIE WERE INCLUDED; IN SEPTEMBER, BEN CARSON, CARLY FIORINA, GEORGE PATAKI, AND SCOTT WALKER WERE INCLUDED)

CANDIDATE	MARCH 2016	FEBRUARY 2016	SEPTEMBER 2015	HIGHEST EVER	LOWEST EVER
Donald Trump	45	34	34	45 (3/16)	34 (2/16, 9/15)
Marco Rubio	18	16	5	18 (3/16)	5 (9/15)
John Kasich	18	4	4	18 (3/16)	4 (2/16, 9/15)
Ted Cruz	11	16	3	16 (2/16)	3 (9/15)
Chris Christie	NA	11	9		
Jeb Bush	NA	7	11		
Ben Carson	NA	NA	14		
Carly Fiorina	NA	NA	8		
George Pataki	NA	NA	3		
Scott Walker	NA	NA	0		
Other/None/No Opinion	8	12	11	12 (2/16)	8 (3/16)

Q. 13 **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	MARCH 2016	FEBRUARY 2016	SEPTEMBER 2015	HIGHEST EVER	LOWEST EVER
Donald Trump	33	32	25	33 (3/16)	25 (9/15)
Ted Cruz	30	11	6	30 (3/16)	6 (9/15)
Marco Rubio	18	5	4	18 (3/16)	4 (9/15)
John Kasich	14	14	5	14 (3/16, 2/16)	5 (9/15)
Jeb Bush	NA	23	22		
Chris Christie	NA	11	10		
George Pataki	NA	NA	10		
Ben Carson	NA	NA	3		
Carly Fiorina	NA	NA	3		
Scott Walker	NA	NA	1		
Don't Know/No Opinion	5	4	11	11 (9/15)	4 (2/16)

Q.14 If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Marco Rubio on the Republican line, would you vote for Rubio or Clinton? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CLINTON	RUBIO	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
March 2016	56	35	10
February 2016	54	37	8
HIGHEST EVER	56 (3/16)	37 (2/16)	10 (3/16)
LOWEST EVER	54 (2/16)	35 (3/16)	8 (2/16)

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Q.15 If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Ted Cruz on the Republican line, would you vote for Cruz or Clinton? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CLINTON	CRUZ	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
March 2016	58	33	9
February 2016	57	34	9
HIGHEST EVER	58 (3/16)	34 (2/16)	9 (3/16, 2/16)
LOWEST EVER	57 (2/16)	33 (3/16)	9 (3/16, 2/16)

Q.16 If the election for President were held today 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
March 2016	57	34	10
February 2016	57	32	11
September 2015	55	36	10
HIGHEST EVER	57 (3/16, 2/16)	36 (9/15)	11 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	55 (9/15)	32 (2/16)	10 (3/16, 9/15)

Q.17 If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and John Kasich on the Republican line, would you vote for Kasich or Clinton? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	CLINTON	KASICH	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
March 2016	49	42	9
February 2016	57	31	12
HIGHEST EVER	57 (2/16)	42 (3/16)	12 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	49 (3/16)	31 (2/16)	9 (3/16)

Q.18 If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Bernie Sanders on the Democratic line and Marco Rubio on the Republican line, would you vote for Rubio or Sanders? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	SANDERS	RUBIO	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
March 2016	58	32	10
February 2016	56	34	10
HIGHEST EVER	58 (3/16)	34 (2/16)	10 (3/16, 2/16)
LOWEST EVER	56 (2/16)	32 (3/16)	10 (3/16, 2/16)

Q.19 If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Bernie Sanders on the Democratic line and Ted Cruz on the Republican line, would you vote for Cruz or Sanders? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	SANDERS	CRUZ	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
March 2016	63	26	11
February 2016	60	30	10
HIGHEST EVER	63 (3/16)	30 (2/16)	11 (3/16)
LOWEST EVER	60 (2/16)	26 (3/16)	10 (2/16)

Q.20 If the election for President were held today 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
March 2016	57	33	10
February 2016	63	30	8
September 2015	52	38	10
HIGHEST EVER	63 (2/16)	38 (9/15)	10 (3/16, 9/15)
LOWEST EVER	52 (9/15)	30 (2/16)	8 (2/16)

Q.21 If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Bernie Sanders on the Democratic line and John Kasich on the Republican line, would you vote for Kasich or Sanders? (CANDIDATES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	SANDERS	KASICH	OTHER/NO VOTE/NO OPINION
March 2016	54	35	11
February 2016	59	29	12
HIGHEST EVER	59 (2/16)	35 (3/16)	12 (2/16)
LOWEST EVER	54 (3/16)	29 (2/16)	11 (3/16)

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	59	36	4
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)

Q.3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Joe Biden?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	59	30	10
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. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Michael Bloomberg?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
March 2016	51	35	14
February 2016	52	38	10
November 2013	51	41	8
HIGHEST EVER	67 (3/08)	42 (3/13)	21 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	51 (3/16, 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
March 2016	35	52	13
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.