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www.siena.edu/sri/snydecember

Siena New York Poll:

Spitzer's Standing with NY Voters Continues to Fall *Clinton & Giuliani Dominate Primaries; Rudy v. Hillary: Getting Tighter* **Voters: Cut Spending, No Tax Hikes; No to Legislative Pay Raise**

Loudonville, NY Governor Eliot Spitzer's standing with New York voters continues to slide, resulting in the lowest favorable/unfavorable rating and worst job performance rating he has ever had, and a majority of voters – including a plurality of Democrats – say they would prefer “someone else” over re-electing the Governor, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of registered voters released today. The Siena New York poll shows that with eight weeks until New York's presidential primaries, Senator Hillary Clinton and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani continue to have overwhelming leads in their respective parties. While Clinton maintains a lead over Giuliani in a general election match-up, he has cut her lead significantly. Voters also told Siena they want the Governor and Legislature to cut spending, not increase taxes, to close any potential budget gaps, and they are overwhelmingly opposed to a legislative pay raise.

“Voters are continuing to lose faith in their Governor,” said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman. “Today, a majority of voters have an unfavorable view of Spitzer. More than two-thirds give him a negative job performance rating. More voters think he's doing a ‘poor’ job than think he's doing an ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ job combined. Even 61 percent of Democrats view his job performance negatively.”

Spitzer's rating is 36 percent favorable, 51 percent unfavorable (down from 41-46 percent in November and 64-22 percent in June). New York City voters rate him favorably by a 45-40 percent margin, while upstate voters rate him unfavorably by a 26-62 percent margin. His job performance rating is 27 percent positive, 70 percent negative (down from 33-64 percent in November and 55-37 percent in June).

“A majority of voters, 56 percent, are not prepared to re-elect the Governor,” Greenberg said. “Only one in three Democrats is prepared to re-elect him, while 42 percent prefer ‘someone else.’ Nearly half of New York City voters, 57 percent of downstate suburban voters, and nearly two-thirds of upstate voters prefer ‘someone else.’ He's dug himself a deep hole and so far has not been able to find a ladder.”

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Heading to New York's February 5 presidential primaries, Giuliani and Clinton continue to dominate their respective fields. Democrats: Clinton 50 percent, Sen. Barack Obama 19 percent, former Sen. John Edwards 10 percent, and Sen. Joseph Biden, Sen. Christopher Dodd, Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and former Gov. Bill Richardson all in single digits, with former Gov. Michael Gravel garnering no support. Republicans: Giuliani 48 percent, Sen. John McCain 15 percent, and former Gov. Mike Huckabee, Rep. Duncan Hunter, Rep. Ron Paul, former Gov. Mitt Romney, and former Sen. Fred Thompson all in single digits, with Rep. Tom Tancredo with no support.

"Voters remain solidly behind their hometown favorites," Greenberg said. "Hillary and Rudy are both poised to win New York big. A New Yorker hasn't carried the presidential banner for a major party since 1948 and clearly voters want to see a repeat of 1944, when both parties had Empire State candidates."

In head to head general election match-ups, Clinton leads Giuliani 50-41 percent, down from 54-36 percent in September. Obama maintains a small lead over Giuliani 47-43 percent, up slightly from September's 45-42 percent lead. Both Clinton and Obama would beat Romney by at least 20 points.

"While Hillary is fighting to keep New York blue, Rudy as the Republican nominee would put New York's 31 electoral votes into play. By an even closer margin than the horserace, 46-40 percent, voters say Clinton would be better for New York than Giuliani. Neither Romney this month, nor any other Republican previously, has shown they can make New York legitimately competitive," Greenberg said.

New Yorkers overwhelmingly want the Governor and Legislature to address deficits by cutting spending (82 percent) rather than increasing taxes (13 percent), including two-thirds of Democrats. If taxes are increased, more than half (53 percent) would prefer business tax increases over income (10 percent) or sales (27 percent) taxes. Two-thirds of voters would prefer to see cuts made in infrastructure expenses rather than education (eight percent) or health (10 percent).

"The voters' clear message to Albany: do not increase our taxes. They would strongly prefer spending cuts, preferably not in health or education," Greenberg said. "And by a margin of 67 to 28 percent, voters are opposed to legislators giving themselves a pay raise. Not surprisingly, more than three-quarters of voters support Governor Spitzer's decision to withdraw his license proposal."

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This SRI survey was conducted December 3-6, 2007 by telephone calls to 625 registered New York State voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.9 percentage points. The survey includes 273 Democrats, with a margin of error ± 5.9 percentage points, and 185 Republicans, with a margin of error of ± 7.2 percentage points. For more information, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: www.siena.edu/sri/snydecember.



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Siena New York Poll Trends – December 2007

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eliot Spitzer?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 36 | 51 | 13 |
| November 2007 | 41 | 46 | 13 |
| October 2007 | 54 | 36 | 10 |
| September 2007 | 56 | 26 | 18 |
| July 2007 | 59 | 28 | 14 |
| June 2007 | 64 | 22 | 15 |
| May 2007 | 67 | 21 | 12 |
| April 2007 | 67 | 20 | 13 |
| March 2007 | 62 | 20 | 18 |
| February 2007 | 74 | 12 | 14 |
| January 2007 | 75 | 10 | 16 |
| November 15, 2006 | 75 | 14 | 12 |
| November 3, 2006 | 74 | 17 | 10 |
| October 2006 | 69 | 20 | 12 |
| September 2006 | 74 | 16 | 10 |
| August 2006 | 71 | 15 | 15 |
| June 2006 | 68 | 16 | 16 |
| May 2006 | 63 | 19 | 19 |
| March 2006 | 62 | 18 | 20 |
| January 2006 | 59 | 19 | 23 |
| November 2005 | 65 | 15 | 20 |
| October 2005 | 61 | 19 | 20 |
| August 2005 | 60 | 14 | 26 |
| July 2005 | 62 | 15 | 22 |
| June 2005 | 59 | 15 | 25 |
| May 2005 | 58 | 17 | 25 |
| April 2005 | 53 | 18 | 29 |
| March 2005 | 50 | 18 | 32 |
| February 2005 | 48 | 17 | 34 |

I know it's a long way off, but if Eliot Spitzer runs for Governor in 2010, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else

| DATE | RE-ELECT | SOMEONE ELSE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 23 | 56 | 21 |
| November 2007 | 25 | 49 | 26 |

Siena New York Poll Trends – December 2007

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How would you rate the job that Eliot Spitzer is doing as Governor – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

| DATE | EXCELLENT | GOOD | FAIR | POOR | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| December 2007 | 3 | 24 | 41 | 29 | 3 |
| November 2007 | 4 | 29 | 37 | 27 | 4 |
| October 2007 | 4 | 37 | 38 | 17 | 4 |
| September 2007 | 5 | 39 | 38 | 11 | 8 |
| July 2007 | 7 | 39 | 34 | 14 | 6 |
| June 2007 | 9 | 46 | 30 | 7 | 8 |
| May 2007 | 11 | 46 | 27 | 9 | 7 |
| April 2007 | 10 | 45 | 31 | 7 | 7 |
| March 2007 | 8 | 39 | 31 | 8 | 13 |
| February 2007 | 15 | 43 | 21 | 3 | 20 |
| January 2007 | 11 | 37 | 15 | 4 | 33 |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| December 2007 | 52 | 29 | 19 |
| November 2007 | 56 | 27 | 17 |
| October 2007 | 54 | 29 | 17 |
| September 2007 | 51 | 26 | 24 |
| July 2007 | 55 | 26 | 19 |
| June 2007 | 49 | 31 | 20 |
| May 2007 | 51 | 32 | 18 |
| April 2007 | 52 | 31 | 18 |
| March 2007 | 50 | 32 | 19 |
| February 2007 | 45 | 35 | 20 |
| January 2007 | 48 | 29 | 23 |
| November 15, 2006 | 50 | 36 | 15 |
| November 3, 2006 | 49 | 36 | 15 |
| October 2006 | 44 | 42 | 15 |
| September 2006 | 50 | 35 | 15 |
| August 2006 | 44 | 35 | 21 |
| June 2006 | 47 | 29 | 24 |
| January 2006 | 45 | 31 | 24 |

State legislators currently receive a base salary of \$79,500, and most make additional money for committee or leadership assignments. Do you support or oppose a pay hike for state legislators?

| DATE | SUPPORT | OPPOSE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|---------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|
| December 2007 | 28 | 67 | 5 |
| May 2007 | 32 | 62 | 7 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 51 | 44 | 5 |
| November 2007 | 55 | 39 | 6 |
| October 2007 | 53 | 41 | 6 |
| September 2007 | 57 | 37 | 7 |
| July 2007 | 59 | 35 | 6 |
| June 2007 | 54 | 39 | 7 |
| May 2007 | 56 | 39 | 5 |
| April 2007 | 50 | 42 | 7 |
| March 2007 | 56 | 37 | 8 |
| February 2007 | 56 | 40 | 5 |
| January 2007 | 60 | 33 | 7 |
| November 15, 2006 | 65 | 29 | 6 |
| November 3, 2006 | 61 | 33 | 6 |
| October 2006 | 56 | 38 | 6 |
| September 2006 | 60 | 37 | 4 |
| August 2006 | 54 | 38 | 7 |
| June 2006 | 54 | 38 | 8 |
| May 2006 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| March 2006 | 55 | 39 | 6 |
| January 2006 | 60 | 37 | 3 |
| November 2005 | 60 | 34 | 6 |
| October 2005 | 59 | 35 | 6 |
| August 2005 | 59 | 37 | 4 |
| July 2005 | 60 | 34 | 6 |
| June 2005 | 60 | 33 | 7 |
| May 2005 | 58 | 35 | 7 |
| April 2005 | 60 | 33 | 6 |
| March 2005 | 58 | 34 | 8 |
| February 2005 | 61 | 33 | 6 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 55 | 30 | 15 |
| September 2007 | 56 | 24 | 20 |
| June 2007 | 53 | 24 | 23 |
| May 2007 | 58 | 22 | 20 |
| April 2007 | 55 | 23 | 22 |
| March 2007 | 52 | 20 | 28 |
| February 2007 | 52 | 21 | 28 |
| January 2007 | 50 | 17 | 34 |
| November 15, 2006 | 48 | 12 | 40 |

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John Edwards?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 48 | 34 | 18 |
| May 2007 | 54 | 28 | 18 |
| April 2007 | 52 | 29 | 20 |
| February 2007 | 44 | 31 | 25 |
| January 2007 | 49 | 25 | 25 |
| November 15, 2006 | 42 | 23 | 35 |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rudy Giuliani?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 48 | 46 | 6 |
| November 2007 | 49 | 41 | 11 |
| September 2007 | 53 | 39 | 9 |
| July 2007 | 53 | 40 | 7 |
| June 2007 | 50 | 42 | 8 |
| May 2007 | 51 | 43 | 6 |
| April 2007 | 56 | 38 | 6 |
| March 2007 | 60 | 33 | 8 |
| February 2007 | 59 | 34 | 7 |
| January 2007 | 63 | 29 | 9 |
| November 15, 2006 | 63 | 32 | 5 |
| April 2005 | 63 | 26 | 10 |
| February 2005 | 61 | 28 | 11 |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Fred Thompson?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 25 | 35 | 39 |
| September 2007 | 27 | 30 | 44 |
| May 2007 | 24 | 23 | 53 |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about John McCain?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 53 | 29 | 18 |
| June 2007 | 43 | 39 | 19 |
| May 2007 | 42 | 44 | 14 |
| April 2007 | 45 | 39 | 15 |
| March 2007 | 45 | 34 | 21 |
| February 2007 | 47 | 33 | 19 |
| January 2007 | 51 | 29 | 21 |
| November 15, 2006 | 56 | 24 | 20 |

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If the Democratic Primary were held today and the candidates for the presidential nomination were (rotate choices) Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama, or Bill Richardson who would you vote for? *(Note: Democrats only; choices rotated. Not all candidates were included in each poll; NA indicates where a candidate was not included.)*

| DATE | BIDEN | CLINTON | DODD | EDWARDS | GORE | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 4 | 50 | 1 | 10 | NA | | | | | |
| September 2007 | 2 | 42 | < 1 | 9 | 11 | | | | | |
| July 2007 | 3 | 48 | 1 | 7 | 10 | | | | | |
| June 2007 | 2 | 43 | 1 | 9 | 19 | | | | | |
| May 2007 | 3 | 42 | < 1 | 7 | 13 | | | | | |
| April 2007 | 2 | 39 | 0 | 11 | 12 | | | | | |
| March 2007 | 1 | 43 | 0 | 7 | 14 | | | | | |
| February 2007 | 4 | 44 | 1 | 8 | 11 | | | | | |
| January 2007 | 4 | 58 | 0 | 9 | NA | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION |
| | GRAVEL | KUCINICH | OBAMA | RICHARDSON | | | | | | |
| December 2007 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 3 | 10 | | | | | |
| September 2007 | NA | 1 | 17 | 3 | 15 | | | | | |
| July 2007 | NA | 2 | 14 | 2 | 13 | | | | | |
| June 2007 | NA | 1 | 11 | 1 | 13 | | | | | |
| May 2007 | NA | 4 | 13 | 3 | 15 | | | | | |
| April 2007 | NA | 1 | 17 | 4 | 13 | | | | | |
| March 2007 | NA | 3 | 11 | 4 | 17 | | | | | |
| February 2007 | NA | 2 | 13 | 2 | 15 | | | | | |
| January 2007 | NA | 1 | 11 | 4 | 13 | | | | | |

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If the Republican Primary were held today and the candidates for the presidential nomination were (rotate choices) Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo, and Fred Thompson, who would you vote for? *(Note: Republicans only; choices rotated. Not all candidates were included in each poll; NA indicates where a candidate was not included.)*

| DATE | GIULIANI | MCCAIN | BROWNBACK | ROMNEY | PATAKI | GINGRICH | GILMORE |
|----------------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| December 2007 | 48 | 15 | NA | 7 | NA | NA | NA |
| September 2007 | 47 | 16 | NA | 6 | NA | 5 | NA |
| July 2007 | 40 | 13 | NA | 7 | NA | 9 | NA |
| June 2007 | 48 | 13 | NA | 6 | NA | 4 | NA |
| May 2007 – 1 | 52 | 14 | 1 | 7 | 0 | NA | 1 |
| May 2007 – 2 | 50 | 12 | NA | 7 | NA | 7 | NA |
| April 2007 | 47 | 16 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 8 | NA |
| March 2007 | 48 | 16 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | NA |
| February 2007 | 45 | 17 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 11 | NA |
| January 2007 | 47 | 20 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 9 | NA |

| | HUCKABEE | HUNTER | PAUL | TANCREDO | FRED THOMPSON | TOMMY THOMPSON | DON'T KNOW/ NO OPINION |
|----------------|----------|--------|------|----------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| December 2007 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 7 | NA | 14 |
| September 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 9 | NA | 17 |
| July 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 11 | NA | 21 |
| June 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 11 | NA | 19 |
| May 2007 – 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | NA | 4 | 17 |
| May 2007 – 2 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 8 | NA | 15 |
| April 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 16 |
| March 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 14 |
| February 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 19 |
| January 2007 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 13 |

If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for (ROTATE CHOICES)?

| DATE | CLINTON | GIULIANI | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| December 2007 | 50 | 41 | 9 |
| September 2007 | 54 | 36 | 10 |
| July 2007 | 57 | 36 | 8 |
| June 2007 | 53 | 40 | 7 |
| May 2007 | 52 | 39 | 9 |
| April 2007 | 48 | 43 | 8 |
| March 2007 | 51 | 39 | 9 |
| November 15, 2006 | 53 | 39 | 8 |
| August 2006 | 42 | 48 | 9 |
| October 2005 | 43 | 48 | 9 |

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If the 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and Rudy Giuliani on the Republican line, who would you vote for (ROTATE CHOICES)?

| DATE | OBAMA | GIULIANI | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 47 | 43 | 10 |
| September 2007 | 45 | 42 | 13 |
| July 2007 | 51 | 40 | 9 |
| June 2007 | 45 | 43 | 12 |
| May 2007 | 50 | 40 | 10 |
| April 2007 | 47 | 43 | 10 |
| March 2007 | 42 | 45 | 13 |
| November 15, 2006 | 41 | 47 | 12 |

Is New York State on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

| DATE | RIGHT TRACK | WRONG DIRECTION | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| December 2007 | 35 | 45 | 21 |
| November 2007 | 32 | 45 | 23 |
| October 2007 | 42 | 36 | 22 |
| September 2007 | 44 | 30 | 26 |
| July 2007 | 37 | 38 | 25 |
| June 2007 | 45 | 28 | 27 |
| May 2007 | 46 | 29 | 25 |
| April 2007 | 47 | 29 | 24 |
| March 2007 | 37 | 37 | 26 |
| February 2007 | 49 | 26 | 25 |
| January 2007 | 45 | 26 | 30 |
| November 15, 2006 | 52 | 30 | 18 |
| November 3, 2006 | 36 | 43 | 21 |
| October 2006 | 29 | 47 | 23 |
| September 2006: | 33 | 39 | 28 |
| August 2006 | 29 | 47 | 25 |
| June 2006 | 29 | 45 | 26 |
| May 2006 | 27 | 52 | 21 |
| March 2006 | 35 | 39 | 26 |
| January 2006 | 34 | 43 | 24 |
| November 2005 | 38 | 41 | 22 |
| October 2005 | 34 | 42 | 24 |
| August 2005 | 36 | 44 | 20 |
| July 2005 | 33 | 41 | 26 |
| June 2005 | 30 | 44 | 26 |
| May 2005 | 29 | 46 | 25 |
| April 2005 | 29 | 44 | 27 |
| March 2005 | 26 | 47 | 27 |
| February 2005 | 32 | 44 | 24 |