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Siena New York Poll:

Circuit Breaker & Gas Tax Cut Top Property Tax Cap

Gov 2010: Rudy Crushes Bloomberg with Reps; Paterson Beats Cuomo with Dems; Bloomberg Strongest in General Election

While Most New Yorkers Plan to Remain in NY, Many Want Out

Loudonville, NY. While New York voters strongly support both a property tax cap and a property tax “circuit breaker,” which ensures that property taxes do not exceed a certain percentage of a homeowner’s income, when forced to choose between the two, a majority prefer the circuit breaker, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll released today. More voters would rather see New York eliminate 32 cents of state gas taxes than cap property tax increases. In the 2010 gubernatorial race, Republicans support former Mayor Rudy Giuliani over current Mayor Mike Bloomberg; Democrats prefer Governor David Paterson to Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, and Bloomberg leads either Democrat, while both Democrats best Giuliani.

The new Siena Poll also shows that while most New Yorkers are not planning on leaving the state anytime soon – if at all – a significant number of voters would like to leave as soon as possible, or if conditions in New York do not improve. The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Senator Barack Obama, continues to have a double digit lead over Senator John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, with supporters of both candidates reasonably certain they will not change their minds before November.

“New Yorkers overwhelmingly want tax relief. Property tax cap to limit increases? Yes, 69 percent. Circuit breaker to limit what they pay in property taxes? Yes, 75 percent,” said Steven Greenberg, spokesman for the Siena New York Poll. “But if they can only have one form of property tax relief, 52 percent – including a majority of Democrats, Republicans, upstaters and downstaters – say they want the circuit breaker. Yet, only one-third of voters are confident the Governor and Legislature will tackle the property tax issue this year.

“When asked their preference between a property tax cap and a 32-cent per gallon reduction of state gas taxes, voters are almost evenly divided with 49 percent saying eliminate the gas tax and 45 percent wanting a property tax cap. Democrats and New York City voters prefer gas tax reductions. Republicans and downstate suburbanites want the property tax cap. Upstaters are evenly divided,” Greenberg said.

“Looking ahead to 2010, Paterson has opened a 30 point lead over Cuomo among Democrats, up from 12 points last month,” Greenberg said. “On the Republican side, Mayor Rudy has a 35 point lead over Mayor Mike.

“But among all voters, Bloomberg beats Paterson

by eight points and Cuomo by 12 points, while Giuliani loses to Paterson by seven points and Cuomo by five points. Where Bloomberg wins handily among independent voters and captures a sizeable number of Democrats against Paterson or Cuomo, Giuliani does better than Bloomberg with Republicans, but doesn’t do nearly as well with Democrats or independents,” Greenberg said.

Paterson has a 57-15 percent favorable/unfavorable rating, virtually unchanged from last month. His job performance rating is up to 48 percent positive to 39 percent negative. Cuomo’s 57-23 percent favorable rating is also virtually unchanged, as is his 55-35 percent job performance rating. Bloomberg’s favorable rating, 64-20 percent, is also consistent from last month. Giuliani has a 51-39 percent favorable rating, comparable to last September and up from 44-48 percent in January at the end of his presidential campaign.

Obama’s lead over McCain is 50-37 percent, down from 51-33 percent in June. Seventy three percent of Obama voters say they are absolutely certain not to switch to McCain, with another 22 percent fairly certain, while 61 percent of McCain voters say they are absolutely certain not to switch to Obama, with another 30 percent fairly certain. Obama has a 57-32 percent favorable rating and McCain has a 45-42 percent rating.

Seventeen percent of voters say they will never move out of New York; 37 percent say they currently have no plans to move; 27 percent say they may move in retirement but not before; nine percent say they will move if conditions in New York do not get better; and seven percent would like to move out as quickly as possible.

“While 81 percent of voters do not plan on leaving New York, seven percent would love to leave tomorrow,” Greenberg said. “If seven percent of New Yorkers left the state, it would be an exodus of well over one million people, with nearly two million more threatening to leave if conditions in the state do not improve.

“Despite tough economic conditions and falling consumer confidence, nearly as many voters, 36 percent, think the state is on the right track as feel the state is headed in the wrong direction, 39 percent,” Greenberg said. “Only six percent of those who think the state is on the right track want to leave New York now or if conditions don’t improve, while 24 percent who feel the state is headed in the wrong direction want out.”

2010 Gubernatorial Horseraces			
Democratic Primary		Republican Primary	
Cuomo	21%	Bloomberg	26%
Paterson	51%	Giuliani	61%
General Election Matchups			
Paterson	37%	Cuomo	36%
Bloomberg	45%	Bloomberg	48%
Paterson	47%	Cuomo	47%
Giuliani	40%	Giuliani	42%

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Siena New York Poll Trends – July, 2008

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about David Paterson?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	57	15	28
June 2008	57	17	25
May 2008	48	17	35
April 2008	48	18	34
March 24, 2008	58	10	31
January 2007	17	8	76

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

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	7	41	34	5	13
June 2008	6	38	31	6	19
May 2008	5	35	28	4	29
April 2008	4	30	30	4	32

I know it's a long way off, but if David Paterson runs for Governor in 2010, would you vote to elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	ELECT	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	34	27	40
June 2008	30	30	40
May 2008	29	25	47

If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson on the Democratic line and Michael Bloomberg on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	PATERSON	BLOOMBERG	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	37	45	18
June 2008	34	45	21
May 2008	36	45	20
April 2008	34	48	18

(DEMS ONLY): Looking ahead to 2010 and the next election for Governor. If the Democratic primary for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson or Andrew Cuomo, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED) (NOTE: In April 2008, Tom Suozzi was included as a choice)

DATE	PATERSON	CUOMO	SUOZZI	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	51	21	NA	28
June 2008	43	31	NA	26
May 2008	42	29	NA	29
April 2008	35	30	7	28

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	64	20	16
June 2008	64	21	16
May 2008	65	19	16
April 2008	63	21	16
March 24, 2008	67	18	15
January 2008	59	24	17
October 2007	68	20	12
July 2007	65	19	17
June 2007	62	20	18

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	18	12	70
April 2008	14	12	74
January 2008	11	16	73
November 2007	15	11	74
July 2007	14	12	74
June 2007	7	13	80
May 2007	7	18	75
April 2007	11	14	76
March 2007	9	14	78
February 2007	9	15	76

How would you rate the job that Tom DiNapoli is doing as State Comptroller – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	3	20	25	6	47
April 2008	2	22	28	6	42
January 2008	2	17	24	5	52
March 2007	1	12	25	3	59

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	51	39	10
January 2008	44	48	8
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

– more –

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	57	23	21
June 2008	57	22	21
May 2008	56	25	20
April 2008	55	24	21
March 24, 2008	53	25	22
January 2008	51	29	20
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

How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Attorney General – excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	13	42	30	6	10
June 2008	10	44	26	6	14
May 2008	7	44	29	6	13
April 2008	10	42	30	8	11
January 2008	8	39	32	6	14
October 2007	7	42	35	6	12
September 2007	8	41	28	7	17
July 2007	11	41	27	6	14
June 2007	7	39	27	9	18
May 2007	9	41	26	9	16
April 2007	8	39	29	9	15
March 2007	5	35	29	8	23
January 2007	11	37	15	4	33

Governor Paterson has endorsed the findings of a special commission, and has asked the Legislature to pass a law that for most areas of the state would cap property tax increases to no more than four percent per year. Do you support or oppose such a cap?

DATE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	69	20	11
June 2008	74	15	11

– more –

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	22	32	47
March 24, 2008	24	31	44
October 2007	22	37	42
July 2007	24	34	42
March 2007	23	35	42
January 2007	20	37	43
May 2006	24	31	45
July 2005	28	34	38
April 2005	19	30	50

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	55	38	7
June 2008	56	38	6
May 2008	52	43	5
April 2008	48	46	6
March 24, 2008	52	43	5
March 3, 2008	54	39	7
February 2008	53	43	4
January 2008	60	35	5
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

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Currently, Democrats have an overwhelming majority in the State Assembly. Republicans have a small 32-30 majority in the State Senate. The Governor is a Democrat. Which statement comes closest to your opinion (CHOICES WERE ROTATED): I agree with those who claim it is important for Republicans to keep control of the Senate, providing checks and balances so one party does not control all of state government, or I agree with those who claim that if Democrats gain control of the Senate, it would end the gridlock and make state government more effective.

DATE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATIC	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	40	48	12
June 2008	41	48	12
May 2008	39	48	13
March 2008	47	45	9

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	57	32	12
June 2008	58	30	13
May 2008	55	34	11
April 2008	54	34	12
March 24, 2008	56	32	13
March 3, 2008	56	31	13
February 2008	60	30	10
January 2008	57	28	15
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

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

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	45	42	13
June 2008	42	47	11
May 2008	49	39	12
April 2008	54	35	11
March 24, 2008	54	34	12
March 3, 2008	48	41	11
February 2008	55	34	11
January 2008	56	27	17
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 2008 presidential election were held today and the candidates were Barack Obama on the Democratic line and John McCain on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (CANDIDATE CHOICES WERE ROTATED)

DATE	OBAMA	MCCAIN	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
July 2008	50	37	13
June 2008	51	33	17
May 2008	49	38	14
April 2008	45	40	15
February 2008	47	40	13
January 2008	44	42	15
June 2007	49	35	16
May 2007	50	33	18
April 2007	50	37	13
March 2007	47	39	14
November 15, 2006	39	40	21

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
July 2008	36	39	25
June 2008	30	46	23
May 2008	32	43	26
April 2008	33	48	20
March 24, 2008	34	41	26
February 2008	33	43	24
January 2008	39	38	23
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