

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: Wednesday 6:00 PM April 9, 2008**

**All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll**

- ü **Democrats' "Dream Ticket" is a nightmare against McCain/Rice in New York**
- ü **NYS voters take a wait and see approach to new governor**

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

***Presidential Campaign 2008***

**A McCain/Rice ticket would edge out both a Clinton/Obama or Obama/Clinton ticket for New York's 31, usually true blue, electoral votes:** 49% of registered voters in New York State support a John McCain/Condoleezza Rice ticket compared with 46% who support Hillary Clinton as president and Barack Obama as vice president. The Democrats don't fare any better in New York with Obama at the top of the ticket as president and Clinton as vice president. McCain/Rice receives 49%, and Obama/Clinton has 44%. Although an Obama led Democratic ticket does better against McCain/Rice among non-enrolled voters than a Clinton/Obama ticket, Clinton/Obama is stronger with women against the Republicans.

**Question Wording:** If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Hillary Clinton as president and Barack Obama as vice president for the Democrats and John McCain as president and Condoleezza Rice as vice president for the Republicans? [Choices were rotated]

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Clinton/Obama Democrats</b>	<b>McCain/Rice Republicans</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
April 2008	46%	49%	5%
Democrat	70%	23%	7%
Republican	18%	77%	5%
Non-enrolled	42%	57%	1%
Men	36%	60%	4%
Women	52%	41%	7%

**Question Wording:** If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Barack Obama as president and Hillary Clinton as vice president for the Democrats and John McCain as president and Condoleezza Rice as vice president for the Republicans? [Choices were rotated]

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Obama/Clinton Democrats</b>	<b>McCain/Rice Republicans</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
April 2008	44%	49%	7%
Democrat	64%	27%	9%
Republican	20%	73%	7%
Non-enrolled	47%	50%	3%
Men	40%	57%	3%
Women	47%	42%	11%

**A McCain/Lieberman ticket trails a Clinton/Obama ticket in New York:** Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman is not an asset to McCain against a Clinton/Obama ticket in New York. McCain/Lieberman receives the support of only 40% of New York's registered voters compared with 53% who support a Clinton/Obama ticket. With Lieberman as his running mate, McCain is also behind but competitive in the state against an Obama/Clinton ticket. 45% of registered voters support a McCain/Lieberman ticket compared with 49% who support an Obama/Clinton ticket.

**Question Wording:** If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Hillary Clinton as president and Barack Obama as vice president for the Democrats and John McCain as president and Joe Lieberman as vice president for the Republicans? [Choices were rotated]

Registered Voters	Clinton/Obama Democrats	McCain/Lieberman Republicans	Undecided
April 2008	53%	40%	7%
Democrat	80%	15%	5%
Republican	13%	84%	3%
Non-enrolled	50%	42%	8%
Men	54%	43%	3%
Women	53%	37%	10%

**Question Wording:** If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Barack Obama as president and Hillary Clinton as vice president for the Democrats and John McCain as president and Joe Lieberman as vice president for the Republicans? [Choices were rotated]

Registered Voters	Obama/Clinton Democrats	McCain/Lieberman Republicans	Undecided
April 2008	49%	45%	6%
Democrat	74%	21%	5%
Republican	11%	84%	5%
Non-enrolled	42%	50%	8%
Men	46%	51%	3%
Women	51%	39%	10%

**The bitter Democratic primary process has taken its toll:** When matched head to head against John McCain, both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are in a surprisingly close race in New York. Clinton receives support from 48% of the state's voters compared with 46% for McCain. Obama receives support from 46% of New York's voters compared with 48% for McCain.

**Question Wording:** If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Hillary Clinton the Democrat and John McCain the Republican? [Choices were rotated]

Registered Voters	Clinton Democrat	McCain Republican	Undecided
April 2008	48%	46%	6%
Democrat	74%	18%	8%
Republican	17%	78%	5%
Non-enrolled	43%	54%	3%
Men	40%	54%	6%
Women	55%	38%	7%

March 2007	56%	40%	4%
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**Question Wording:** If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are Barack Obama the Democrat and John McCain the Republican? [Choices were rotated]

Registered Voters	Obama Democrat	McCain Republican	Undecided
April 2008	46%	48%	6%
Democrat	68%	25%	7%
Republican	16%	80%	4%
Non-enrolled	41%	51%	8%
Men	40%	56%	4%
Women	51%	40%	9%

### *Governor Paterson's First Month*

**Nearly one-third of New York's voters are unsure how to rate the new governor:** As Governor Paterson approaches the end of his first month in office, 32% of registered voters are unsure how to assess him. This is down from the 48% who were unable to rate the job he was doing as lieutenant governor just a month ago. 35% rate the job he is doing as excellent or good, unchanged from March. But, 33% describe his performance in office so far as fair or poor nearly double the proportion of voters who shared this view in the previous poll.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Governor David Paterson is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
April 2008	35%	4%	31%	25%	8%	32%
Democrat	42%	6%	36%	20%	3%	35%
Republican	32%	4%	28%	33%	8%	27%
Non-enrolled	28%	2%	26%	28%	13%	31%
Upstate	40%	6%	34%	26%	7%	27%
New York City	36%	3%	33%	22%	8%	34%
Suburbs	24%	2%	22%	30%	8%	38%
March 2008*	35%	5%	30%	15%	2%	48%

**Most voters do not think Governor Paterson's private problems will interfere with his public responsibilities:** 75% of registered voters do not think David Paterson's admission of extra-marital affairs and past drug use will affect his ability to do his job as governor. In addition, 59% of registered voters think Governor Paterson cares about people like themselves, 58% think he is a good leader for New York State, and 55% think as governor he represents all regions of the state. Fewer than half of voters in the state think he is changing the way things work in Albany for the better, but nearly three in ten are unsure about that at this point.

**Question Wording:** I'm going to read you several statements about Governor David Paterson. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one: [Questions were rotated]

Registered Voters	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
He cares about people like you.	59%	20%	21%
He is a good leader for New York State.	58%	20%	22%
He represents all regions of the state.	55%	28%	17%
He is changing the way things work in Albany for the better.	48%	24%	28%
LAST: His admission of extra-marital affairs and past drug use will interfere with his carrying out his responsibilities as governor.	18%	75%	7%

**Many voters think New York State is headed in the wrong direction:** 59% of registered voters think things in New York are moving in the wrong direction. Only 33% see the state heading in the right direction. Last year, more voters felt positively than negatively about how the state was doing.

**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
April 2008	33%	59%	8%
March 2007	49%	43%	8%
October 2006	35%	56%	9%

**Most voters believe the New York State is in an economic recession:** 73% of registered voters think the state is in an economic recession. 24% believe it is not.

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

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2008	73%	24%	3%
Upstate	77%	20%	3%
New York City	70%	26%	4%
Suburbs	68%	30%	2%

**Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno has improved his standing among New York voters:** Although voters divide over the job Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is doing in office, his rating has improved dramatically since last year. 42% of registered voters statewide describe the job he is doing as either excellent or good, and 44% characterize his job performance as fair or poor. Last July, during “Trooper-gate,” only 26% of registered voters approved of the job he was doing in office.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job New York State Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	42%	6%	36%	31%	13%	14%
July 2007	26%	5%	21%	30%	20%	24%

**Nearly four in ten voters approve of the job Sheldon Silver is doing as assembly speaker:** Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has also improved his standing among voters in the state. 38% of registered voters

approve of the job Sheldon Silver is doing as speaker of the New York State Assembly compared with 28% who held this view last July. However, 42% rate the job he is doing in office as fair or poor. 20% do not know enough about him to offer an opinion.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	<b>38%</b>	5%	33%	28%	14%	20%
July 2007	<b>28%</b>	3%	25%	25%	23%	24%

**New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is highest rated statewide public official:** 59% of registered voters rate the job Andrew Cuomo is doing as attorney general as excellent or good. His standing continues to improve. Last July, his approval rating was 52%. This time last year, just months after assuming office, about a quarter of the electorate did not have an opinion of him, and his positive score was 40%.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	<b>59%</b>	13%	46%	25%	9%	7%
July 2007	<b>52%</b>	6%	46%	30%	7%	11%
March 2007	<b>40%</b>	7%	33%	26%	8%	26%

**New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is becoming better known to New Yorkers:** This time last year, 59% of registered voters in New York State were unsure how to rate the job their new comptroller was doing. Now, the proportion of voters who remain unsure how to rate him is down to 33%. DiNapoli has not, however, improved his positive to negative ratio among voters who have an opinion. 32% currently rate the job he is doing as either excellent or good, and 35% describe his performance as fair or poor. Last year, 18% of the state's voters approved of the job he was doing and 23% did not.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	<b>32%</b>	4%	28%	29%	6%	33%
March 2007	<b>18%</b>	2%	16%	20%	3%	59%

**Governor David Paterson and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg are favorites for a gubernatorial run in 2010:** 56% of registered voters would like to see Governor Paterson seek re-election in two years, and 50% of the state's electorate wants Mayor Michael Bloomberg to run for governor of New York in 2010. This compares with 47% who would like to see former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani make a run for the state's highest office, and 44% who want Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to enter the race. Only 21% of New York State voters would like to see Congressman Peter King join the fray, but one-third of the electorate does not know enough about him to offer an opinion.

**Question Wording:** Do you want each of the following to run for governor in 2010: [Candidates were rotated]

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Yes	No	Unsure
Governor David Paterson	56%	28%	16%
Mayor Michael Bloomberg	50%	44%	6%
Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani	47%	51%	2%
NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo	44%	48%	8%
Congressman Peter King	21%	46%	33%

**Matchups for 2010 race for governor:** When matched head to head, Democrat David Paterson is competitive against potential Republican rivals Michael Bloomberg or Rudy Giuliani but does not attract a majority of support from state voters. Andrew Cuomo as the Democratic candidate for governor trails in matchups against either Bloomberg or Giuliani. Both Paterson and Cuomo, as Democrats, have commanding leads over potential Republican competitor Congressman Peter King.

**Question Wording:** If the 2010 election for New York state governor were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: [Questions and choices were rotated]

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Paterson Democrat	Bloomberg Republican	Undecided
April 2008	42%	43%	15%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Paterson Democrat	Giuliani Republican	Undecided
April 2008	48%	44%	8%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Paterson Democrat	King Republican	Undecided
April 2008	59%	23%	18%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Cuomo Democrat	Bloomberg Republican	Undecided
April 2008	38%	54%	8%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Cuomo Democrat	Giuliani Republican	Undecided
April 2008	41%	53%	6%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Cuomo Democrat	King Republican	Undecided
April 2008	59%	31%	10%

**A majority of voters think there should be no reprieve for former Governor Eliot Spitzer:** 63% of registered voters believe prostitution should be illegal in New York State. In addition, even though Eliot Spitzer resigned from office, 58% of voters believe he should still face criminal charges for any wrongdoing.

**Question Wording:** Do you think prostitution should be legal or illegal in New York State?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Legal	Illegal	Unsure
April 2008	30%	63%	7%

**Question Wording:** Eliot Spitzer resigned as governor over his role as a customer of a prostitution ring, do you think he should still face criminal charges, or do you think resigning as governor was punishment enough?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Yes, Face Criminal Charges	No, Resigning Was Enough	Unsure
April 2008	58%	37%	5%

**Half of the New York electorate approves of the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing:** 50% of registered voters in New York State approve of the job Hillary Clinton is doing in the U.S. Senate. Her rating has continued to dip slightly. She received an approval rating of 54% this time last year and was at her highest point of 58% just prior to her re-election in the fall of 2006.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Senator Hillary Clinton is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	<b>50%</b>	18%	32%	25%	23%	2%
March 2007	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	21%	20%	5%
October 2006	<b>58%</b>	20%	38%	25%	15%	2%
July 2006	<b>52%</b>	13%	39%	27%	19%	2%
May 2006	<b>51%</b>	15%	36%	27%	19%	3%
January 2006	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	24%	19%	3%
September 2005	<b>54%</b>	18%	36%	22%	20%	4%
August 2005	<b>54%</b>	19%	35%	23%	16%	7%
April 2005	<b>56%</b>	16%	40%	24%	16%	4%
October 2004	<b>57%</b>	18%	39%	21%	18%	4%
September 2004	<b>53%</b>	18%	35%	25%	20%	2%
April 2004	<b>51%</b>	13%	38%	27%	18%	4%
January 2004	<b>55%</b>	18%	37%	23%	17%	5%
September 2003	<b>49%</b>	17%	32%	26%	21%	4%
April 2003	<b>47%</b>	13%	34%	27%	22%	4%
December 2002	<b>44%</b>	10%	34%	28%	20%	8%
April 2002	<b>47%</b>	11%	36%	27%	20%	6%
December 2001	<b>45%</b>	11%	34%	23%	23%	9%
April 2001	<b>35%</b>	9%	26%	26%	22%	17%
February 2001	<b>30%</b>	10%	20%	22%	20%	28%

**A majority of voters approve of the job Charles Schumer is doing as senator:** Senator Charles Schumer's approval rating remains constant at 57% among New York State's registered voters.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job Senator Charles Schumer is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	<b>57%</b>	15%	42%	27%	10%	6%
March 2007	<b>57%</b>	20%	37%	23%	9%	11%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
October 2006	<b>55%</b>	19%	36%	32%	8%	5%
July 2006	<b>58%</b>	13%	45%	27%	8%	7%
May 2006	<b>56%</b>	15%	41%	27%	8%	9%
January 2006	<b>57%</b>	15%	42%	23%	12%	8%
September 2005	<b>55%</b>	17%	38%	25%	11%	9%
April 2005	<b>58%</b>	15%	43%	24%	8%	10%
October 2004	<b>61%</b>	19%	42%	21%	8%	10%
September 2004	<b>50%</b>	13%	37%	29%	11%	10%
April 2004	<b>54%</b>	13%	41%	27%	8%	11%
January 2004	<b>58%</b>	14%	44%	23%	7%	12%
September 2003	<b>52%</b>	12%	40%	30%	10%	8%
April 2003	<b>52%</b>	10%	42%	27%	8%	13%
December 2002	<b>53%</b>	11%	42%	28%	8%	11%
April 2002	<b>55%</b>	11%	44%	26%	6%	13%
December 2001	<b>54%</b>	12%	42%	24%	7%	15%
April 2001	<b>49%</b>	12%	37%	26%	8%	17%
December 2000	<b>51%</b>	13%	38%	22%	9%	18%
March 2000	<b>39%</b>	9%	30%	27%	7%	27%
September 1999	<b>44%</b>	9%	35%	31%	8%	17%
March 1999	<b>41%</b>	7%	34%	23%	10%	26%

**Most New York voters disapprove of the job George Bush is doing as president:** 77% of registered voters in the state rate the President's job performance as fair or poor including 56% who characterize it as poor.

Only 22% of New York State voters rate the job President Bush is doing in office as either excellent or good.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2008	<b>22%</b>	6%	16%	21%	56%	1%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrat	<b>11%</b>	4%	7%	12%	77%	<1%
Republican	<b>40%</b>	10%	30%	34%	25%	1%
Non-enrolled	<b>19%</b>	5%	14%	20%	61%	<1%
<b>Previous Polls</b>						
March 2007	<b>25%</b>	6%	19%	19%	55%	1%
October 2006	<b>26%</b>	8%	18%	23%	50%	1%
July 2006	<b>26%</b>	8%	18%	24%	49%	1%
May 2006	<b>24%</b>	7%	17%	21%	55%	<1%
January 2006	<b>34%</b>	11%	23%	21%	45%	<1%
September 2005	<b>33%</b>	10%	23%	22%	44%	1%
April 2005	<b>43%</b>	16%	27%	23%	34%	<1%
October 2004	<b>39%</b>	19%	20%	18%	42%	1%
September 2004	<b>40%</b>	19%	21%	21%	39%	<1%
April 2004	<b>38%</b>	14%	24%	22%	39%	1%
January 2004	<b>52%</b>	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	<b>44%</b>	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	<b>58%</b>	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
April 2002	<b>72%</b>	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	<b>79%</b>	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	<b>40%</b>	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

**Nature of the Sample: 576 New York State Registered Voters**

This survey of 576 New York State registered voters was conducted on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. 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. The margin of error is  $\pm 4\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

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\* These results refer to a rating of David Paterson as lieutenant governor in March 2008.