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PDF version; crosstabs; website:

http://www.siena.edu/sri/results/2006/06_Oct_NYPoll.htm

Siena New York Poll:

AG Race Tightens As Cuomo & Pirro Unfavorables Rise

Callaghan Cuts Hevesi Lead by 6 Points; Hevesi Still Leads by 27

Spitzer Up by 46 Points; Clinton Up by 27; Cuomo Up By 13

Most NYers Aware of Pirro & Hevesi Controversies

Neither Issue Seems To Move a Lot of Voters

Loudonville, NY – With three weeks until Election Day, the race for Attorney General has tightened to a 13-point lead for former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo over former Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro, according to a new Siena (College) Research Institute poll of likely voters released today. While former Saratoga County Treasurer Chris Callaghan has cut Comptroller Alan Hevesi's lead by six points, Hevesi still maintains a 27-point lead. Eliot Spitzer and Hillary Clinton appear to be coasting to easy victories.

“By far the tightest statewide election this year, the Attorney General's race has tightened to a 13-point Cuomo lead over Pirro,” said Steven Greenberg, Siena New York Poll spokesman. “Pirro has a small lead in the downstate suburbs, Cuomo has a small lead upstate, and he has a big lead in New York City.

“Four out of five likely voters have heard about Pirro's admission that she is being investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office, however, nearly half believe that it is a personal issue and none of the public's business. And while Pirro's unfavorable rating continues to grow, Cuomo's unfavorable rating has grown as well. Cuomo holds a 50-37 percent lead over Pirro, but it's down from 17 points a month ago.”

Cuomo's favorable/unfavorable rating is 44-42 percent, down from 50-35 percent last month. Pirro's rating is 32 percent favorable, 41 percent unfavorable. It was 29-32 percent last month.

In the race for State Comptroller, Hevesi's lead has dropped from 33 points in September to 27 points now. Hevesi leads Callaghan 52-25 percent.

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“More than half of voters have heard about Hevesi’s admission of having a state employee chauffer his wife, however, most think that while it was inappropriate, Hevesi apologized and reimbursed the state. Nearly as many voters think it is no big deal as believe that Hevesi should resign,” Greenberg said. “Unfortunately for Callaghan, he remains unknown to more that four of five likely voters, while Hevesi has a two-to-one favorable rating.”

Hevesi’s favorable/unfavorable rating is 40-21 percent. It was 40-14 percent last month. Callaghan’s rating is 10-8 percent, virtually unchanged from last month’s 8-6 percent.

“Although there are still three weeks until Election Day, John Faso is going to need to complete a ‘Hail Mary’ pass everyday and close the gap by 15 points every week just to make it close,” Greenberg said. “With a 68-22 point lead, Eliot Spitzer seems virtually assured of being elected Governor. The good news for Faso is that he’s now leading – albeit barely – among Republicans. The bad news is that he is still unknown to more than half of likely voters and he doesn’t get more than one-quarter of the vote in any region of the state.”

Spitzer’s favorable/unfavorable rating is 69-20 percent, down from 74-16 percent last month. Faso has 23-26 percent rating, up slightly from 19-24 percent last month.

In the race for United States Senate, Clinton leads former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer 59-32 percent, down slightly from a 62-33 percent lead last month.

“Hillary is coasting to a re-election victory against an opponent who continues to be unknown to more than two-thirds of likely voters,” Greenberg said. “With little money, little name recognition, and only three weeks to go, Spencer is facing a loss in every region of the state.”

Clinton has a 50-point lead in New York City, a 15-point lead in the downstate suburbs, and a 19-point lead upstate. Her favorable/unfavorable rating is 56-38 percent (down slightly from 60-37 percent last month). Spencer’s rating is 17-15 percent, virtually unchanged from last month’s 19-18 percent rating.

“Election Day is coming, and so are some big Democratic victories,” Greenberg said. “The AG race remains the one to watch and the only competitive statewide race.”

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This SRI survey was conducted October 9-12, 2006 by telephone calls to 620 likely New York State voters. It has a margin of error of ± 3.9 percentage points. For more information or comments, please call Steven Greenberg at 518-469-9858. Survey cross-tabulations and frequencies can be found at: http://www.siena.edu/sri/results/2006/06_Oct_NYPoll.htm



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Siena New York Poll Trends – October 2006

RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2006 ARE LIKELY VOTERS; ALL OTHER RESULTS ARE REGISTERED VOTERS

If the election for Governor were held tomorrow and the candidates were John Faso on the Republican line and Eliot Spitzer on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices) *

| DATE | FASO | SPITZER | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|------|---------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 22 | 68 | 9 |
| September 2006 | 21 | 72 | 8 |
| August 2006 | 17 | 70 | 12 |
| June 2006 | 21 | 67 | 13 |
| May 2006 | 17 | 64 | 18 |
| March 2006 | 20 | 62 | 18 |
| October 2005 | 19 | 63 | 19 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 23 | 26 | 52 |
| September 2006 | 19 | 24 | 57 |
| August 2006 | 16 | 15 | 68 |
| June 2006 | 18 | 17 | 65 |
| May 2006 | 12 | 12 | 76 |
| March 2006 | 15 | 11 | 74 |
| October 2005 | 11 | 11 | 78 |

– more –

* In October and September 2006, candidates were identified with all of the lines they will be on in the November Election

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If the election for United States Senate was held tomorrow and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and John Spencer on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices) *

| DATE | CLINTON | SPENCER | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 59 | 32 | 10 |
| September 2006 | 62 | 33 | 5 |
| August 2006 | 58 | 32 | 10 |
| June 2006 | 58 | 32 | 10 |
| May 2006 | 58 | 33 | 10 |
| March 2006 | 57 | 32 | 11 |
| January 2006 | 58 | 31 | 11 |
| November 2005 | 59 | 27 | 14 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 17 | 15 | 69 |
| September 2006 | 19 | 18 | 64 |
| August 2006 | 11 | 10 | 79 |
| June 2006 | 11 | 8 | 81 |
| May 2006 | 13 | 11 | 76 |
| March 2006 | 14 | 9 | 77 |
| January 2006 | 12 | 9 | 79 |
| November 2005 | 13 | 7 | 80 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |

– more –

* In September 2006, the candidates were identified with all of the lines they will be on in the November Election

Siena New York Poll Trends – October 2006

RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2006 ARE LIKELY VOTERS; ALL OTHER RESULTS ARE REGISTERED VOTERS

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If the election for State Attorney General was held tomorrow and the candidates were Jeanine Pirro on the Republican line and Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices) *

| DATE | PIRRO | CUOMO | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 37 | 50 | 13 |
| September 2006 | 36 | 53 | 10 |
| August 2006 | 35 | 50 | 15 |
| June 2006 | 28 | 54 | 19 |
| January 2006 | 36 | 49 | 16 |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeanine Pirro?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 32 | 41 | 27 |
| September 2006 | 29 | 32 | 39 |
| August 2006 | 30 | 29 | 42 |
| June 2006 | 25 | 25 | 50 |
| January 2006 | 26 | 30 | 45 |
| November 2005 | 26 | 22 | 52 |
| October 2005 | 24 | 25 | 51 |
| July 2005 | 27 | 12 | 61 |
| June 2005 | 23 | 12 | 65 |
| May 2005 | 20 | 12 | 68 |

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

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |

If the election for State Comptroller was held tomorrow and the candidates were Alan Hevesi on the Democratic line and Chris Callaghan on the Republican line, for whom would you vote? (Rotate choices) *

| DATE | HEVESI | CALLAGHAN | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|--------|-----------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 52 | 25 | 22 |
| September 2006 | 56 | 23 | 21 |
| June 2006 | 50 | 21 | 29 |

– more –

* In September 2006, the candidates were identified with all of the lines they will be on in the November Election

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Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Alan Hevesi?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 40 | 21 | 39 |
| September 2006 | 40 | 15 | 45 |
| June 2006 | 40 | 14 | 47 |
| May 2006 | 37 | 10 | 53 |
| July 2005 | 46 | 12 | 42 |

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chris Callaghan?

| DATE | FAVORABLE | UNFAVORABLE | DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| October 2006 | 10 | 8 | 82 |
| September 2006 | 8 | 6 | 86 |
| June 2006 | 7 | 5 | 89 |

What one issue should the new governor make his top priority when he takes office on January first?

| DATE | TAXES | JOB CREATION | STATE SPENDING | CRIME |
|----------------|-------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| October 2006 | 28 | 12 | 12 | 5 |
| September 2006 | 24 | 17 | 12 | 5 |
| August 2006 | 24 | 15 | 10 | 3 |

| DATE | ENERGY | PUBLIC EDUCATION | HEALTH CARE | DK/NO OPINION |
|----------------|--------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| October 2006 | 2 | 15 | 21 | 5 |
| September 2006 | 2 | 15 | 20 | 5 |
| August 2006 | 6 | 16 | 20 | 5 |

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 |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |