

# New York State Campaign 2006

## Final Poll

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY 6:00 P.M. NOVEMBER 3, 2006**

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

Contact: Dr. Lee M. Miringoff  
Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho  
Marist College  
845.575.5050

This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

- **Mired in controversy, New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi still leads his Republican opponent, but nearly one in six likely voters are on the fence:** Going into the final weekend of the 2006 campaign, Alan Hevesi leads his Republican opponent Christopher Callaghan by twelve points in the race for New York State comptroller. However, there are several factors that point to a competitive outcome on Election Day. Hevesi, for the first time, receives the support of fewer than half the New Yorkers likely to vote next Tuesday. He has the support of 48% of likely voters compared with 36% for Callaghan. In addition, 14% of likely voters remain undecided, a proportion which is considerably higher than it is in the other statewide races. About one in ten voters also say they might vote differently on Election Day, although Callaghan supporters are just as likely to have this view as Hevesi supporters.

**Question Wording:** If next week's election for comptroller of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

|                          | Christopher Callaghan Republican | Alan Hevesi Democrat | Not Voting for Either One (Vol.) | Undecided |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Likely Voters</b>     |                                  |                      |                                  |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 36%                              | 48%                  | 2%                               | 14%       |
| October 27, 2006         | 38%                              | 50%                  | n.a.                             | 12%       |
| October 20, 2006         | 22%                              | 62%                  | n.a.                             | 16%       |
| <b>Registered Voters</b> |                                  |                      |                                  |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 35%                              | 46%                  | 3%                               | 16%       |
| October 27, 2006         | 37%                              | 50%                  | n.a.                             | 13%       |
| October 20, 2006         | 25%                              | 57%                  | n.a.                             | 18%       |
| September 28, 2006       | 27%                              | 57%                  | n.a.                             | 16%       |
| September 8, 2006        | 28%                              | 57%                  | n.a.                             | 15%       |
| August 2006              | 27%                              | 60%                  | n.a.                             | 13%       |
| July 2006                | 28%                              | 57%                  | n.a.                             | 15%       |

**Question Wording:** Would you say that you strongly support (candidate's name) somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

| <b>Likely Voters</b>        | Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Might Vote Differently | Unsure |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|
| November 3, 2006            | 50%              | 38%              | 11%                    | 1%     |
| October 27, 2006            | 42%              | 40%              | 16%                    | 2%     |
| October 20, 2006            | 45%              | 42%              | 12%                    | 1%     |
| <b>Callaghan supporters</b> |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006            | 49%              | 38%              | 10%                    | 3%     |
| October 27, 2006            | 38%              | 43%              | 17%                    | 2%     |
| October 20, 2006            | 49%              | 34%              | 16%                    | 1%     |
| <b>Hevesi supporters</b>    |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006            | 50%              | 38%              | 11%                    | 1%     |
| October 27, 2006            | 45%              | 38%              | 15%                    | 2%     |
| October 20, 2006            | 44%              | 45%              | 10%                    | 1%     |

- **Most voters think Alan Hevesi did something wrong in his role as comptroller:** 52% of registered voters believe New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi did something unethical when he misused public funds to chauffeur his wife, and 35% think he broke the law. Only 6% think he did nothing wrong.

**Question Wording:** New York State comptroller Alan Hevesi used public funds to have a member of his staff as a driver for his wife. Do you think Alan Hevesi did nothing wrong, did something unethical but not illegal, or do you think he did something illegal?

| <b>Registered Voters</b> | Did Nothing Wrong | Did Something Unethical | Did Something Illegal | Unsure |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| November 3, 2006         | 6%                | 52%                     | 35%                   | 7%     |
| October 27, 2006         | 8%                | 47%                     | 31%                   | 14%    |
| October 20, 2006         | 6%                | 51%                     | 38%                   | 5%     |
| September 28, 2006       | 18%               | 30%                     | 22%                   | 30%    |

- **Although a majority of voters are troubled by Hevesi's actions, many still do not want him to resign from office:** 55% of registered voters are troubled by Alan Hevesi's admission of his misuse of public funds, but 57% do not want him to resign from office.

**Question Wording:** Does it bother you a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or not at all, that Alan Hevesi as New York State comptroller is involved in something like this?

| <b>Registered Voters</b> | A Great Deal/Good Amount | A Great Deal | A Good Amount | Not Very Much | Not At All | Unsure |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------|
| November 3, 2006         | <b>55%</b>               | 31%          | 24%           | 29%           | 14%        | 2%     |
| October 27, 2006         | <b>55%</b>               | 30%          | 25%           | 24%           | 17%        | 4%     |
| September 28, 2006       | <b>37%</b>               | 24%          | 13%           | 25%           | 26%        | 12%    |

**Question Wording:** Do you think Alan Hevesi should resign as New York State comptroller, or not?

| <b>Registered Voters</b> | Should Resign | Should Not Resign | Unsure |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------|
| November 3, 2006         | 35%           | 57%               | 8%     |
| October 27, 2006         | 33%           | 58%               | 9%     |

- Eliot Spitzer has a commanding lead over his Republican opponent John Faso in the race for New York’s next governor:** Attorney General Eliot Spitzer leads his Republican opponent, former Assemblyman John Faso by 45 percentage points. Spitzer receives the support of 69% of New Yorkers likely to vote on Election Day compared with 24% for Faso. 7% of likely voters are undecided.

**Question Wording:** If next week’s election for governor of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

|                          | John Faso<br>Republican | Eliot Spitzer<br>Democrat | Undecided |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Likely Voters</b>     |                         |                           |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 24%                     | 69%                       | 7%        |
| October 20, 2006         | 22%                     | 70%                       | 8%        |
| <b>Registered Voters</b> |                         |                           |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 22%                     | 66%                       | 12%       |
| October 20, 2006         | 22%                     | 66%                       | 12%       |
| September 2006           | 21%                     | 67%                       | 12%       |
| August 2006              | 23%                     | 67%                       | 10%       |
| July 2006                | 20%                     | 69%                       | 11%       |

**Question Wording:** Would you say that you strongly support (candidate’s name) somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

| <b>Likely Voters</b>      | Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Might Vote Differently | Unsure |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|
| November 3, 2006          | 72%              | 20%              | 6%                     | 2%     |
| October 20, 2006          | 67%              | 24%              | 8%                     | 1%     |
| <b>Faso supporters</b>    |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006          | 72%              | 14%              | 7%                     | 7%     |
| October 20, 2006          | 66%              | 23%              | 10%                    | 1%     |
| <b>Spitzer supporters</b> |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006          | 71%              | 22%              | 6%                     | 1%     |
| October 20, 2006          | 67%              | 24%              | 8%                     | 1%     |

- Democrat Andrew Cuomo comfortably leads Republican Jeanine Pirro in the race for New York State attorney general:** Former HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo has the support of 58% of likely voters and former Westchester District Attorney Jeanine Pirro receives 37% in the race to become New York State’s next attorney general. 5% of New Yorkers likely to vote on

Election Day are undecided.

**Question Wording:** If next week’s election for attorney general of New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

|                          | Jeanine Pirro<br>Republican | Andrew Cuomo<br>Democrat | Undecided |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Likely Voters</b>     |                             |                          |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 37%                         | 58%                      | 5%        |
| October 20, 2006         | 36%                         | 56%                      | 8%        |
| <b>Registered Voters</b> |                             |                          |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 38%                         | 55%                      | 7%        |
| October 20, 2006         | 38%                         | 54%                      | 8%        |
| September 28, 2006       | 31%                         | 54%                      | 15%       |
| September 8, 2006        | 33%                         | 56%                      | 11%       |
| August 2006              | 39%                         | 54%                      | 7%        |
| July 2006                | 37%                         | 51%                      | 12%       |

**Question Wording:** Would you say that you strongly support (candidate’s name) somewhat support him/her, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

|                         | Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Might Vote Differently | Unsure |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|
| <b>Likely Voters</b>    |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006        | 65%              | 30%              | 4%                     | 1%     |
| October 20, 2006        | 62%              | 28%              | 8%                     | 2%     |
| <b>Pirro supporters</b> |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006        | 63%              | 33%              | 3%                     | 1%     |
| October 20, 2006        | 64%              | 28%              | 7%                     | 1%     |
| <b>Cuomo supporters</b> |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006        | 66%              | 28%              | 5%                     | 1%     |
| October 20, 2006        | 62%              | 27%              | 9%                     | 2%     |

- **Senator Hillary Clinton outdistances her Republican opponent in her race for re-election:**

Hillary Clinton leads her Republican opponent, former Yonkers Mayor John Spencer, by 33 percentage points among New Yorkers likely to vote on Election Day. Hillary Clinton receives the support of 65% of likely voters compared with 32% for John Spencer. 3% of likely voters are undecided.

**Question Wording:** If next week’s election for U.S. Senate in New York State were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

|                          | John Spencer<br>Republican | Hillary Clinton<br>Democrat | Undecided |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Likely Voters</b>     |                            |                             |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 32%                        | 65%                         | 3%        |
| October 20, 2006         | 30%                        | 67%                         | 3%        |
| <b>Registered Voters</b> |                            |                             |           |
| November 3, 2006         | 33%                        | 63%                         | 4%        |

|                  |     |     |    |
|------------------|-----|-----|----|
| October 20, 2006 | 32% | 63% | 5% |
| September 2006   | 32% | 62% | 6% |
| August 2006      | 35% | 60% | 5% |
| July 2006        | 34% | 61% | 5% |

**Question Wording:** Would you say that you strongly support (candidate's name) somewhat support him/her, or do you think that you might vote differently on Election Day?

| Likely Voters             | Strongly Support | Somewhat Support | Might Vote Differently | Unsure |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------|
| November 3, 2006          | 79%              | 18%              | 3%                     | <1%    |
| October 20, 2006          | 74%              | 19%              | 6%                     | 1%     |
| <b>Spencer supporters</b> |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006          | 74%              | 22%              | 4%                     | <1%    |
| October 20, 2006          | 67%              | 26%              | 7%                     | <1%    |
| <b>Clinton supporters</b> |                  |                  |                        |        |
| November 3, 2006          | 81%              | 16%              | 3%                     | <1%    |
| October 20, 2006          | 77%              | 16%              | 6%                     | 1%     |

- New York's generic congressional ballot, although intensely blue, has narrowed by seven percentage points:** Although these results do not reflect the contests in individual congressional districts, many likely voters in New York State intend to support a Democratic candidate for Congress. 60% of New Yorkers likely to vote on Election Day plan to vote for a Democratic candidate for Congress including many non-enrolled or independent voters. 32% of likely voters plan to vote for the Republican candidate. Although the margin between Democrats and Republicans is wide, the margin has narrowed by seven percentage points since a similar poll conducted two weeks ago. Democrats likely to vote on Election Day are still more enthusiastic about this year's elections than are Republicans.

**Question Wording:** If next week's election for the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, which candidate would you vote for in your congressional district:

| Likely Voters            | The Democratic Candidate | The Republican Candidate | Other | Unsure |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| November 3, 2006         | 60%                      | 32%                      | 1%    | 7%     |
| October 20, 2006         | 62%                      | 27%                      | 1%    | 10%    |
| <b>Party</b>             |                          |                          |       |        |
| Democrat                 | 91%                      | 5%                       | <1%   | 4%     |
| Republican               | 16%                      | 75%                      | 1%    | 8%     |
| Non-enrolled             | 59%                      | 31%                      | 3%    | 7%     |
| <b>Registered Voters</b> |                          |                          |       |        |
| November 3, 2006         | 56%                      | 34%                      | 1%    | 9%     |
| October 20, 2006         | 58%                      | 30%                      | 2%    | 10%    |

**Question Wording:** This year are you more enthusiastic, less enthusiastic or about as enthusiastic about voting as you have been in previous elections?

| Likely Voters    | More Enthusiastic | Less Enthusiastic | About as Enthusiastic |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| November 3, 2006 | 46%               | 9%                | 45%                   |
| October 20, 2006 | 36%               | 16%               | 48%                   |

|                          |     |     |     |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Party</b>             |     |     |     |
| Democrat                 | 54% | 7%  | 39% |
| Republican               | 41% | 11% | 48% |
| Non-enrolled             | 39% | 9%  | 52% |
| <b>Registered Voters</b> |     |     |     |
| November 3, 2006         | 35% | 20% | 45% |
| October 20, 2006         | 29% | 24% | 47% |
| <b>Party</b>             |     |     |     |
| Democrat                 | 40% | 16% | 44% |
| Republican               | 33% | 20% | 47% |
| Non-enrolled             | 31% | 26% | 43% |

- **A majority of registered voters still want to see their representative to Congress re-elected:** Even though many registered voters express the desire to see a change in the members elected to Congress this year, a majority still feels their representative should be re-elected.

**Question Wording:** Do you think your representative to Congress/most members of Congress deserve to be re-elected, or not?

| <b>Registered Voters</b>        | Deserve Re-election | Do Not Deserve Re-election | Unsure |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| <b>Your representative</b>      |                     |                            |        |
| November 3, 2006                | 55%                 | 26%                        | 19%    |
| October 20, 2006                | 55%                 | 24%                        | 21%    |
| <b>Most members of Congress</b> |                     |                            |        |
| November 3, 2006                | 30%                 | 58%                        | 12%    |
| October 20, 2006                | 32%                 | 55%                        | 13%    |

- **Iraq tops the list of what matters most to New Yorkers as they head into the final weekend before Election Day:** 85% of registered voters see the war in Iraq as a major factor in determining their vote next week. This is followed by concern about the war on terrorism, corruption in government, taxes, President Bush, the situation with North Korea, and which party controls Congress. Only 34% of registered voters in New York consider the handling of the page scandal in Congress a major factor in their vote next Tuesday.

**Question Wording:** Please tell me if each of the following is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in your vote next week:

| <b>Registered Voters</b>                              | Major Factor | Minor Factor | Not a Factor |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| The Iraq war  | 85%          | 9%           | 6%           |
| The war on terrorism                                  | 80%          | 16%          | 4%           |
| Corruption in government                              | 76%          | 19%          | 5%           |
| Taxes   | 71%          | 22%          | 7%           |
| President Bush  | 68%          | 18%          | 14%          |
| The situation with North Korea                        | 62%          | 27%          | 11%          |
| Whether the Democrats or Republicans control Congress | 62%          | 21%          | 17%          |
| The handling of the page scandal in Congress          | 34%          | 42%          | 24%          |

**Nature of the Sample: 778 New York State Registered Voters**

This survey of 778 New York State registered voters was conducted October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. 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. Results are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$ . There are 503 likely voters. Results for this subgroup are statistically significant at  $\pm 4.5\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.