



WNBC/Marist Poll

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ♦ Phone 845.575.5050 ♦ Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu

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
Likely Voters				
November 3, 2006	36%	48%	2%	14%
October 27, 2006	38%	50%	n.a.	12%
October 20, 2006	22%	62%	n.a.	16%

	Christopher Callaghan Republican	Alan Hevesi Democrat	Not Voting for Either One (Vol.)	Undecided
Registered Voters				
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?

Likely Voters	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%
Callaghan supporters				
November 3, 2006	49%	38%	10%	3%
October 27, 2006	38%	43%	17%	2%
October 20, 2006	49%	34%	16%	1%
Hevesi supporters				
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?

Registered Voters	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?

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

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

Registered Voters	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 Republican	Eliot Spitzer Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
November 3, 2006	24%	69%	7%
October 20, 2006	22%	70%	8%
Registered Voters			
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?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
November 3, 2006	72%	20%	6%	2%
October 20, 2006	67%	24%	8%	1%
Faso supporters				
November 3, 2006	72%	14%	7%	7%
October 20, 2006	66%	23%	10%	1%
Spitzer supporters				
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 Republican	Andrew Cuomo Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
November 3, 2006	37%	58%	5%
October 20, 2006	36%	56%	8%
Registered Voters			
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?

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
November 3, 2006	65%	30%	4%	1%
October 20, 2006	62%	28%	8%	2%
Pirro supporters				
November 3, 2006	63%	33%	3%	1%
October 20, 2006	64%	28%	7%	1%
Cuomo supporters				
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 Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Undecided
Likely Voters			
November 3, 2006	32%	65%	3%
October 20, 2006	30%	67%	3%
Registered Voters			
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%

Likely Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
Spencer supporters				
November 3, 2006	74%	22%	4%	<1%
October 20, 2006	67%	26%	7%	<1%
Clinton supporters				
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%
Party				
Democrat	91%	5%	<1%	4%
Republican	16%	75%	1%	8%
Non-enrolled	59%	31%	3%	7%
Registered Voters				
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%
Party			
Democrat	54%	7%	39%
Republican	41%	11%	48%
Non-enrolled	39%	9%	52%
Registered Voters			
November 3, 2006	35%	20%	45%
October 20, 2006	29%	24%	47%
Party			
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?

Registered Voters	Deserve Re-election	Do Not Deserve Re-election	Unsure
Your representative			
November 3, 2006	55%	26%	19%
October 20, 2006	55%	24%	21%
Most members of Congress			
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:

Registered Voters	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 30th through November 1st, 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.