

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cuomo Leads Paladino Comfortably for NY Gov.

Raleigh, N.C. – A few polls in the last week have suggested the once presumably safe and almost uncontested gubernatorial and Senate races in traditionally solid blue New York are more competitive than imagined. PPP’s first look at the state this cycle, however, shows that the race to replace incumbent Governor David Paterson, while closer than before the GOP primary, is still Andrew Cuomo’s to lose. He leads outspoken Republican nominee Carl Paladino, 53-38.

Paladino leads with independents, 46-40, but they make up only 21% of the electorate. Among the 48% plurality of Democrats, Cuomo has an 81-13 lead, and he pulls 19% of the 31%-minority Republicans, holding the Republican to 73% of his own party’s support. Paladino earns only 13% of Democrats.

Part of the unexpectedly close race is that New York is showing just as large an enthusiasm gap as in some Midwestern and Southern states where Election Night results are going to be particularly bad for Democrats next month. President Obama won the Empire State by more than 25 points two years ago, but this year’s electorate voted for him over John McCain by only 14—an 11-point pro-Republican shift. If Obama voters turned out at the same level as they did in that election, Cuomo would have an insurmountable 58-35 lead.

Cuomo is reasonably popular, with a 49-39 personal favorability rating, but he bests Paladino’s 34-51 mark by 27 points on the margin. Remarkably, Paladino has almost closed the name recognition gap with Cuomo, a statewide officeholder, former Clinton cabinet secretary, and son of the former three-term governor Mario Cuomo.

“Andrew Cuomo’s not going to win by the kind of lofty margins he was posting in polls earlier this year,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But he’s still headed for a pretty comfortable victory in this race. Paladino is not turning out to be a particularly formidable opponent.”

PPP surveyed 592 likely New York voters from October 1st to 3rd. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



New York Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for Governor are Democrat Andrew Cuomo and Republican Carl Paladino. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Andrew Cuomo 53%
Carl Paladino 38%
Undecided..... 8%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Andrew Cuomo?

Favorable 49% *Not sure* 12%
Unfavorable..... 39%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Carl Paladino?

Favorable 34% *Not sure* 16%
Unfavorable..... 51%

Q4 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 40%
Barack Obama..... 54%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q5 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 27%
Moderate..... 40%
Conservative..... 33%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

Q7 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 48%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 21%

Q8 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 6%
White 75%
African-American 13%
Other..... 6%

Q9 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 7%
30 to 45..... 23%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cuomo/Paladino				
Andrew Cuomo	53%	14%	84%	37%
Carl Paladino	38%	79%	9%	37%
Undecided	8%	7%	7%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Andrew Cuomo Favorability				
Favorable	49%	13%	77%	35%
Unfavorable	39%	76%	11%	43%
Not sure	12%	11%	11%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paladino Favorability				
Favorable	34%	65%	10%	29%
Unfavorable	51%	19%	75%	46%
Not sure	16%	16%	15%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Cuomo/Paladino				
Andrew Cuomo	53%	90%	61%	13%
Carl Paladino	38%	4%	30%	78%
Undecided	8%	6%	9%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Andrew Cuomo Favorability				
Favorable	49%	80%	56%	15%
Unfavorable	39%	7%	33%	74%
Not sure	12%	13%	11%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Paladino Favorability				
Favorable	34%	10%	20%	68%
Unfavorable	51%	74%	63%	17%
Not sure	16%	15%	17%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cuomo/Paladino			
Andrew Cuomo	53%	58%	48%
Carl Paladino	38%	33%	45%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Andrew Cuomo Favorability			
Favorable	49%	53%	44%
Unfavorable	39%	34%	45%
Not sure	12%	12%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paladino Favorability			
Favorable	34%	28%	39%
Unfavorable	51%	54%	48%
Not sure	16%	18%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cuomo/Paladino				
Andrew Cuomo	53%	81%	19%	40%
Carl Paladino	38%	13%	73%	46%
Undecided	8%	7%	7%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Andrew Cuomo Favorability				
Favorable	49%	74%	18%	38%
Unfavorable	39%	14%	71%	49%
Not sure	12%	11%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paladino Favorability				
Favorable	34%	14%	60%	38%
Unfavorable	51%	71%	24%	45%
Not sure	16%	15%	16%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Cuomo/Paladino					
Andrew Cuomo	53%	68%	48%	82%	42%
Carl Paladino	38%	21%	45%	6%	42%
Undecided	8%	11%	7%	12%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Andrew Cuomo Favorability					
Favorable	49%	63%	43%	82%	42%
Unfavorable	39%	26%	45%	9%	50%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%	9%	8%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Paladino Favorability					
Favorable	34%	32%	37%	12%	37%
Unfavorable	51%	37%	50%	62%	53%
Not sure	16%	32%	13%	26%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cuomo/Paladino					
Andrew Cuomo	53%	58%	44%	56%	55%
Carl Paladino	38%	31%	47%	37%	36%
Undecided	8%	11%	9%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Andrew Cuomo Favorability					
Favorable	49%	54%	38%	51%	53%
Unfavorable	39%	42%	46%	38%	36%
Not sure	12%	4%	16%	11%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paladino Favorability					
Favorable	34%	34%	41%	32%	30%
Unfavorable	51%	49%	41%	55%	53%
Not sure	16%	17%	18%	13%	17%

