

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Kennedy Top Choice for New York Democrats**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Caroline Kennedy is the most popular pick with New York Democrats as Hillary Clinton’s replacement in the Senate, the newest survey from Public Policy Polling finds.

44% say she’s their top choice, with another 24% saying she’s their second choice from a list of potential candidates. The only other potential appointee to break double figures is Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who was the top pick for 23% of respondents and the second with 35%. The other six candidates polled, including four members of Congress and two prominent local government officials, were the favored choice with anywhere from 3 to 6% of those surveyed.

Kennedy and Cuomo are each very popular with New York Democrats. Kennedy is viewed favorably by 75% and unfavorably by just 11%. Cuomo has a 76% approval rating in his work as Attorney General with just 9% unhappy with his job performance.

“It’s clear that Caroline Kennedy and Andrew Cuomo are the only candidates under serious consideration who have much name recognition,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The good news for David Paterson is that both of them are very popular with the Democratic base, and he couldn’t really go wrong by appointing either of them.”

One other piece of good news for the Governor is that he has a more than 7:1 approval to disapproval rating with Democrats in the state, at 68-9. Any thought that he would need to appoint Cuomo to avoid a primary challenge in 2010 seems far fetched given his high level of popularity within the party.

PPP surveyed 957 New York Democrats on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at [www.publicpolicypolling.com](http://www.publicpolicypolling.com).

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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## New York Survey Results

**Q1** With Hillary Clinton becoming Secretary of State, Governor David Paterson will have the opportunity to appoint her replacement. Some of the names being mentioned most prominently are Caroline Kennedy, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, and Congressman Brian Higgins. Which of these candidates would be your top choice for Governor Paterson to appoint to replace Senator Clinton? If Caroline Kennedy would be your top choice, press 1. If Andrew Cuomo, press 2. If Kirsten Gillibrand, press 3. If Tom Suozzi, press 4. If Byron Brown, press 5. If Carolyn Maloney, press 6. If Nydia Velazquez, press 7. If Brian Higgins, press 8. If you're not sure or think someone else should be appointed, press 9.

<i>Kennedy</i> .....	44%	<i>Maloney</i> .....	3%
<i>Cuomo</i> .....	23%	<i>Velazquez</i> .....	4%
<i>Gillibrand</i> .....	6%	<i>Higgins</i> .....	5%
<i>Suozzi</i> .....	3%	<i>Not Sure/Someone Else</i> .....	8%
<i>Brown</i> .....	3%		

**Q2** Which of those candidates would be your second choice for Governor Paterson to appoint to replace Senator Clinton? If Caroline Kennedy would be your second choice, press 1. If Andrew Cuomo, press 2. If Kirsten Gillibrand, press 3. If Tom Suozzi, press 4. If Byron Brown, press 5. If Carolyn Maloney, press 6. If Nydia Velazquez, press 7. If Brian Higgins, press 8. If you're not sure or think someone else should be appointed, press 9.

<i>Kennedy</i> .....	24%
<i>Cuomo</i> .....	35%
<i>Gillibrand</i> .....	4%
<i>Suozzi</i> .....	4%
<i>Brown</i> .....	5%
<i>Maloney</i> .....	9%
<i>Velazquez</i> .....	6%
<i>Higgins</i> .....	5%
<i>Not Sure/Someone Else</i> .....	9%

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of Governor David Paterson's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

<i>Approve</i> .....	68%
<i>Disapprove</i> .....	9%
<i>Not Sure</i> .....	23%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Caroline Kennedy? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

<i>Favorable</i> .....	75%
<i>Unfavorable</i> .....	11%
<i>Not Sure</i> .....	14%





**Q5** Do you approve or disapprove of Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Approve* ..... 76%  
*Disapprove*..... 9%  
*Not Sure*..... 15%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Kirsten Gillibrand? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

*Favorable*..... 19%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 12%  
*Not Sure*..... 69%

**Q7** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

*Women* .....60% *Men*.....40%

**Q8** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Democrat* .....100%  
*Republican*..... 0%  
*Other*..... 0%

**Q9** If you are white, press 1. If you are African American, press 2. If you are Hispanic, press 3. If other, press 4.

*White* .....69% *Hispanic*.....11%  
*African American* ....16% *Other*..... 4%

**Q10** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older than 65, press 4.

*18-29*..... 9% *46-65*.....43%  
*30-45*.....12% *Older than 65*.....36%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Top Choice</b>			
<b>Kennedy</b>	44%	46%	41%
<b>Cuomo</b>	23%	24%	23%
<b>Gillibrand</b>	6%	5%	6%
<b>Suozzi</b>	3%	2%	5%
<b>Brown</b>	3%	2%	4%
<b>Maloney</b>	3%	4%	2%
<b>Velazquez</b>	4%	4%	4%
<b>Higgins</b>	5%	5%	6%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Second Choice</b>			
<b>Kennedy</b>	24%	24%	25%
<b>Cuomo</b>	35%	36%	33%
<b>Gillibrand</b>	4%	4%	4%
<b>Suozzi</b>	4%	4%	4%
<b>Brown</b>	5%	5%	4%
<b>Maloney</b>	9%	8%	9%
<b>Velazquez</b>	6%	7%	3%
<b>Higgins</b>	5%	4%	7%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	9%	8%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Paterson Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	68%	64%	73%
<b>Disapprove</b>	9%	9%	9%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	27%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Kennedy Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	75%	77%	72%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	11%	11%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	13%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Cuomo Approval</b>			
Approve	76%	74%	79%
Disapprove	9%	9%	9%
Not Sure	15%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
<b>Gillibrand Favorability</b>			
Favorable	19%	18%	20%
Unfavorable	12%	10%	16%
Not Sure	69%	72%	65%

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Top Choice</b>					
Kennedy	44%	40%	60%	46%	60%
Cuomo	23%	26%	19%	15%	24%
Gillibrand	6%	8%	1%	-	-
Suozzi	3%	4%	4%	-	4%
Brown	3%	2%	7%	-	4%
Maloney	3%	5%	1%	-	-
Velazquez	4%	1%	1%	23%	4%
Higgins	5%	8%	-	-	-
Not Sure/Someone Else	8%	7%	7%	15%	4%

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Second Choice</b>					
Kennedy	24%	25%	29%	15%	24%
Cuomo	35%	32%	36%	54%	36%
Gillibrand	4%	6%	1%	-	4%
Suozzi	4%	4%	2%	8%	-
Brown	5%	3%	13%	-	4%
Maloney	9%	10%	10%	-	8%
Velazquez	6%	3%	2%	23%	16%
Higgins	5%	7%	1%	-	-
Not Sure/Someone Else	9%	11%	6%	-	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Paterson Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	68%	69%	79%	38%	72%
<b>Disapprove</b>	9%	10%	4%	8%	12%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	20%	18%	54%	16%

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Kennedy Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	75%	73%	82%	69%	84%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	12%	11%	8%	4%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	15%	7%	23%	12%

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Cuomo Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	76%	77%	70%	77%	80%
<b>Disapprove</b>	9%	9%	14%	8%	4%
<b>Not Sure</b>	15%	14%	15%	15%	16%

	Base	Race			
		White	African American	Hispanic	Other
<b>Gillibrand Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	19%	23%	12%	-	12%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	10%	20%	15%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	69%	67%	68%	85%	80%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Top Choice</b>					
<b>Kennedy</b>	44%	48%	54%	45%	39%
<b>Cuomo</b>	23%	18%	11%	23%	29%
<b>Gillibrand</b>	6%	4%	3%	6%	6%
<b>Suozzi</b>	3%	2%	6%	4%	3%
<b>Brown</b>	3%	10%	5%	2%	2%
<b>Maloney</b>	3%	2%	5%	4%	3%
<b>Velazquez</b>	4%	9%	3%	4%	3%
<b>Higgins</b>	5%	-	5%	4%	8%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	8%	6%	7%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Second Choice</b>					
<b>Kennedy</b>	24%	36%	14%	23%	26%
<b>Cuomo</b>	35%	25%	41%	35%	35%
<b>Gillibrand</b>	4%	2%	7%	6%	3%
<b>Suozzi</b>	4%	-	3%	4%	5%
<b>Brown</b>	5%	6%	7%	4%	4%
<b>Maloney</b>	9%	4%	10%	9%	9%
<b>Velazquez</b>	6%	22%	2%	6%	2%
<b>Higgins</b>	5%	2%	-	5%	7%
<b>Not Sure/Someone Else</b>	9%	2%	16%	8%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Paterson Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	68%	55%	71%	72%	64%
<b>Disapprove</b>	9%	17%	13%	10%	4%
<b>Not Sure</b>	23%	28%	16%	18%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Kennedy Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	75%	71%	77%	75%	74%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	11%	10%	13%	12%	9%
<b>Not Sure</b>	14%	19%	10%	13%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Cuomo Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>76%</b>	63%	71%	78%	79%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>9%</b>	20%	10%	7%	8%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>15%</b>	17%	19%	15%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-65	Older than 65
<b>Gillibrand Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>19%</b>	21%	20%	19%	17%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>12%</b>	24%	15%	8%	13%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>69%</b>	55%	65%	73%	70%

