Maurice Carroll, Director,
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute
(203) 582-5334

Rubenstein Associates, Inc.
Public Relations
Contact: Pat Smith (212) 843-8026

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

FOR RELEASE: AUGUST 11, 2011

NEW YORK VOTERS BACK FRACKING, DESPITE CONCERNS, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; MORE WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT MEANS FEWER SEX SCANDALS

By a 47 – 42 percent margin, New York State voters like the economic benefits of drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale more than they fear possible environmental concerns, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Support for drilling is 51 – 39 percent among upstate voters and 52 – 35 percent among suburban voters. New York City voters are opposed 50 – 38 percent. Support is 67 – 20 percent among Republicans, while independent voters are divided 47 – 45 percent. Democrats are opposed 52 – 35 percent.

New York State voters believe 75 – 17 percent that natural gas drilling will create jobs, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds, with strong support among all groups and in all regions of the state.

While many voters know little about hydro-fracking, voters believe 52 – 15 percent that this process will damage the environment, with 33 percent undecided. All groups feel this way.

"Drill for the jobs, New Yorkers say, even though they're worried about the environmental effects of hydro-fracking," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "And while we're drilling for natural gas, let's tax those drilling companies, voters say 59 – 29 percent. Even Republicans support this tax.

"There's no natural gas in New York City, where voters are opposed to the drilling."

There should be more women in high political office, 56 percent of New York State voters say, while 29 percent say there are enough women now. There obviously is a large gender gap as women voters say 65 – 22 percent that more sisters are needed, while men feel that way 46 – 36 percent.

-more-

There is almost no gender gap as 78 percent of all voters say women officials are less likely than men to be involved in sex scandals, while 18 percent say there is not much difference.

Women officials are more likely than men to have the right priorities, voters say 22 – 5 percent, but 69 percent say there is not much difference. Women are better problem solvers, voters say 32 – 6, but 59 percent say not much difference.

"Let's have more women in political office, New Yorkers say," Carroll said. "Men and women would be pretty much the same in making the right political decisions, voters think.

"But they look at the headlines and say – overwhelmingly – that women in politics would be far less likely than male politicians to get involved in sex scandals."

District lines from which members of the U.S. Congress and the State Legislature are elected should be created by an independent commission, 50 percent of voters say, while 13 percent say the State Legislature should continue to draw the lines and 26 percent want an independent commission with some input from the State Legislature.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo should veto any legislative redistricting plan that is not created by an independent commission, voters say 49 – 30 percent. Voters in all political groups agree.

"Remember all those candidate pledges that former Mayor Ed Koch won about a non-partisan commission to draw legislative and congressional district lines? Most New Yorkers endorse the idea," Carroll said. "If the lines aren't drawn by an independent commission – an entity, it should be noted, that doesn't happen to exist – voters say Cuomo should erase them."

Also on redistricting, voters say 60 – 25 percent that prison inmates should be counted as residents of their home districts, not of where they're imprisoned. Republican and upstate voters support counting inmates in their homes, not their prisons.

From August 3 – 8, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,640 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.4 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

For more data or RSS feed– http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on Twitter.

22. Do you support or oppose New York State's new law that allows same-sex couples to get married?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	54%	38%	66%	53%	48%	60%
Oppose	38	54	27	38	43	32
DK/NA	8	8	7	9	9	8

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Support	50%	55%	61%	53%
Oppose	43	36	31	39
DK/NA	8	8	8	8

23. Some people say there should be drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale because of the economic benefits.
Others say there should not be drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale because of the environmental impact.
Which comes closer to your point of view?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Drilling	47%	67%	35%	47%	56%	38%
No drilling	42	20	52	45	34	48
DK/NA	12	13	13	8	10	14

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Drilling	51%	38%	52%	48%
No drilling	39	50	35	41
DK/NA	10	12	14	11

24. Do you support or oppose a new tax on companies drilling for natural gas in the state's Marcellus Shale?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	59%	46%	68%	60%	58%	60%
Oppose	29	41	19	31	34	24
DK/NA	12	13	13	9	8	15

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Support	57%	65%	55%	67%
Oppose	29	25	35	25
DK/NA	14	11	10	8

25. Do you think that drilling for natural gas in the state's Marcellus Shale will create jobs or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	75%	82%	71%	76%	80%	71%
No	17	12	19	17	15	19
DK/NA	8	6	10	7	5	10

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Yes	76%	72%	79%	73%
No	16	20	13	21
DK/NA	8	8	7	6

26. Have you heard or read anything about hydro-fracking?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	57%	59%	48%	65%	65%	49%
No	42	40	51	34	34	49
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Yes	75%	42%	49%	63%
No	24	57	49	37
DK/NA	1	1	2	-

27. Natural gas drilling companies want to practice hydro-fracking in New York State. Hydro-fracking is the process of pumping water and chemicals into the ground under high pressure to fracture rocks. This releases natural gas trapped in the rocks which is then collected. Do you think hydro-fracking will cause environmental damage or not, or don't you know?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Will damage	52%	42%	61%	49%	45%	58%
No/Won't Damage	15	23	7	17	23	8
Don't Know	33	35	31	34	31	35
REFUSED	-	1	-	-	1	-

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds	Yes Q26
Yes/Will damage	51%	54%	49%	55%	60%
No/Won't Damage	19	9	16	19	20
Don't Know	29	36	34	26	20
REFUSED	1	-	-	-	-

28. Who do you think should draw the district lines by which members of the state legislature and Congress are elected - the state legislature or a commission that has no connection to the state legislature or an independent commission with some legislative input?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
State legislature	13%	9%	16%	11%	12%	13%
Commissn/No connect	50	56	45	55	52	49
Commissn/legis input	26	27	28	26	27	26
DK/NA	11	9	11	9	9	13

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
State legislature	9%	18%	9%	13%
Commissn/No connect	56	40	59	59
Commissn/legis input	25	30	23	21
DK/NA	10	13	9	7

TREND: Who do you think should draw the district lines by which members of the state legislature and Congress are elected: the state legislature, a commission that has no connection to the state legislature, or an independent commission with some legislative input?

	Aug 11 2011	Jun 28 2011	Jun 02 2011	Apr 14 2011
State legislature	13	14	13	12
Commissn/No connect	50	42	46	51
Commissn/legis input	26	34	31	29
DK/NA	11	10	10	7

29. Do you think Governor Cuomo should veto a redistricting plan that is not created by an independent commission or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	49%	44%	50%	56%	55%	44%
No	30	33	26	31	30	30
DK/NA	21	23	24	13	15	26

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Yes	48%	49%	53%	55%
No	31	30	28	29
DK/NA	21	22	19	16

30. When determining district population sizes for purposes of allocating members of Congress, the state Legislature, and other elected officials, prison inmates in New York State are counted as residents of the district in which their prison is located.
Do you think
A) Prison inmates should be counted as residents of the districts in which their prison is located?
Or do you think
B) Prison inmates should be counted as residents of their home districts?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
A) In prison location	25%	24%	24%	25%	22%	28%
B) In home districts	60	55	64	63	64	57
DK/NA	15	20	12	13	15	16

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
A) In prison location	25%	27%	20%	26%
B) In home districts	56	62	64	63
DK/NA	19	11	16	12

31. As you may know the MTA is the agency which provides rail and bus service in the NY Metropolitan area. Do you think the state government should provide additional funds to the MTA, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	44%	29%	59%	38%	41%	48%
No	48	63	34	54	53	44
DK/NA	8	8	6	8	6	9

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Yes	30%	62%	41%	43%
No	58	33	55	51
DK/NA	12	5	4	5

32. Currently, employers in New York City and the suburban areas served by the MTA pay a special tax to help the transit agency. Do you think that tax should be increased, remain the same, decreased, or eliminated?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Increased	13%	12%	15%	13%	14%	12%
Remain the same	42	34	48	38	40	43
Decreased	10	12	9	8	8	12
Eliminated	26	31	19	31	31	22
DK/NA	9	10	9	10	8	11

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Increased	14%	15%	10%	14%
Remain the same	42	46	33	41
Decreased	7	12	11	8
Eliminated	21	22	40	29
DK/NA	16	5	5	8

33. Thinking about the number of women who hold high level political office in the United States today such as governors and members of Congress - would you say that there should be more, should be fewer, or is the number about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Should be more	56%	37%	73%	50%	46%	65%
Should be fewer	3	5	2	3	2	3
About right	29	44	18	32	36	22
DK/NA	12	13	8	16	15	10

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Should be more	52%	61%	55%	57%
Should be fewer	3	3	1	3
About right	31	27	26	27
DK/NA	13	9	17	14

34. Who do you think are more likely to have the right priorities - male elected officials or female elected officials or is there not much difference between them?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Male officials	5%	8%	3%	6%	5%	5%
Female officials	22	17	26	22	16	28
Not much difference	69	72	66	68	74	63
DK/NA	4	4	5	3	5	4

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Male officials	5%	7%	2%	3%
Female officials	23	22	20	19
Not much difference	68	67	71	73
DK/NA	4	3	6	4

35. Who do you think are more likely to be problem solvers - male elected officials or female elected officials or is there not much difference between them?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Male officials	6%	11%	4%	5%	7%	5%
Female officials	32	27	37	32	22	41
Not much difference	59	60	55	61	67	51
DK/NA	3	2	4	2	3	3

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Male officials	5%	8%	5%	8%
Female officials	35	29	32	27
Not much difference	58	60	59	64
DK/NA	3	3	4	2

36. Who do you think are more likely to have sex scandals - male elected officials or female elected officials or is there not much difference between them?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Male officials	78%	77%	80%	78%	75%	80%
Female officials	1	-	2	1	1	1
Not much difference	18	22	15	18	20	16
DK/NA	3	1	3	4	4	3

	UpStat	NYC	Sub	Union HsHlds
Male officials	78%	75%	82%	80%
Female officials	-	2	2	-
Not much difference	19	19	14	17
DK/NA	3	4	2	3