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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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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.

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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 |