

Maurice Carroll, Director
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute

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

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

POLL

FOR RELEASE: JANUARY 14, 2009

KENNEDY FADES AS NEW YORKERS BACK CUOMO FOR SENATE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; MORE VOTERS DON'T THINK KENNEDY IS QUALIFIED

New York State voters have cooled on Caroline Kennedy and more voters now prefer State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo 31 – 24 percent for Hillary Clinton’s U.S. Senate seat, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney gets 6 percent, with 5 percent for U.S. Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand, 2 percent for U.S. Rep. Steve Israel, 18 percent for someone else and 14 percent undecided.

Still, voters say 38 – 33 percent that Gov. David Paterson will appoint Ms. Kennedy to the U.S. Senate.

Cuomo leads Kennedy 31 – 20 percent among upstate voters and 36 – 22 percent in the suburbs, while Kennedy gets 31 percent of New York City voters to Cuomo’s 29 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds. Men back Cuomo 32 – 23 percent while women back him 31 – 25 percent.

New York State voters say 48 – 37 percent that Kennedy is not qualified to be a U.S. Senator and 40 – 37 percent that she would not be a good Senator. Democrats say 47 – 35 percent that she is qualified, while Republicans say 65 – 24 percent that she is not qualified. Independent voters say 51 – 34 percent that she is not qualified.

“Caroline Kennedy’s stumbling start in her first interviews may have cost her the lead,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “It’s close, but Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is No. 1 among voters in the race for Hillary Clinton’s Senate seat.”

“There’s only one New Yorker whose opinion counts, of course, Gov. David Paterson. And a plurality of the rest of us still think that Paterson will pick Kennedy. So far, at least, Reps. Gillibrand, Maloney and Israel have no more than local recognition. All three get just a smattering of support.”

-more-

Quinnipiac University Poll/January 14, 2009 – page 2

New York State voters approve 69 – 16 percent of the job Cuomo is doing, compared to a 72 – 14 percent approval rating December 23, 2008. Cuomo gets a 57 – 10 percent favorability rating, with 32 percent who haven't heard enough to form an opinion.

Kennedy gets a 39 – 29 percent favorability, with 31 percent who haven't heard enough to form an opinion. This compares to a 46 – 17 percent favorability December 23.

By a 48 – 35 percent margin, New York State voters say they were not surprised by Kennedy's widely reported verbal tics, such as the use of 'you know,' in conversation. And by a 58 – 32 percent margin, voters were not surprised that news stories focused on these tics.

"You know, New Yorkers weren't particularly surprised at Kennedy's verbal tics. And they sort of expected the media to, you know, emphasize them," Carroll said.

New York State voters approve 68 – 26 percent of the way Hillary Clinton handled her job as U.S. Senator. Democrats approve 89 – 8 percent, as do independent voters, 60 – 29 percent, while Republicans disapprove 54 – 39 percent.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer gets a 57 – 24 percent approval rating.

"As she gets ready to be Secretary of State, Clinton gets high marks from New Yorkers on how she did her Senate job," Carroll said.

From January 8 – 12, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,664 New York State registered voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.4 percentage points.

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

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

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Charles Schumer is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	57%	42%	71%	52%	55%	59%
Disapprove	24	41	10	27	29	19
DK/NA	19	17	19	20	16	22

	UpState.....		UpState		
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	Sub
Approve	50%	54%	53%	63%	56%
Disapprove	27	25	25	18	30
DK/NA	23	21	22	20	14

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Charles Schumer is handling his job as United States Senator? (* also 69% on 10/02/01)

	Jan 14	Dec 23	Aug 6	Jun 12	Apr 17	Highest	Lowest
	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	Approve	Approve
						Dec 8	Apr 15
						2004*	1999
Approve	57	63	61	66	65	69	51
Disapprove	24	22	23	21	18	16	22
DK/NA	19	15	16	14	17	15	28

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hillary Clinton handled her job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	68%	39%	89%	60%	61%	73%
Disapprove	26	54	8	29	31	22
DK/NA	6	7	3	11	8	5

	UpState.....		UpState		
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	Sub
Approve	59%	63%	62%	78%	63%
Disapprove	34	30	31	18	29
DK/NA	7	7	7	4	9

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hillary Clinton is handling her job as United States Senator? (* handled her job)

	Jan 14	Dec 23	Aug 6	Jun 12	Apr 17	Highest	Lowest
	2009*	2008	2008	2008	2008	Approve	Approve
						Dec 14	Feb 14
						2006	2001
Approve	68	70	66	66	62	72	38
Disapprove	26	25	29	28	31	23	30
DK/NA	6	5	5	5	8	5	33

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Andrew Cuomo is handling his job as State Attorney General?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	69%	65%	73%	69%	68%	70%
Disapprove	16	20	12	16	17	14
DK/NA	15	16	15	15	15	16

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Approve	70%	67%	68%	70%	72%
Disapprove	11	18	16	15	15
DK/NA	20	15	16	15	14

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Andrew Cuomo is handling his job as State Attorney General?

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008	Aug 6 2008	Jun 12 2008	Apr 17 2008	Highest	Lowest
						Approve Dec 23 2008	Approve Feb 13 2007
Approve	69	72	68	69	65	72	42
Disapprove	16	14	13	15	13	14	16
DK/NA	15	14	19	17	21	14	42

10. As you may know, Senator Hillary Clinton has been nominated to be Secretary of State and Governor Paterson will pick her replacement in the Senate. Who do you think Governor Paterson should pick to replace Hillary Clinton in the United States Senate - Caroline Kennedy, Andrew Cuomo, Kirsten Gillibrand, Carolyn Maloney, Steve Israel or Someone else?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Kennedy	24%	16%	31%	21%	23%	25%
Cuomo	31	32	32	30	32	31
Gillibrand	5	6	4	6	5	5
Maloney	6	3	6	8	4	7
Israel	2	2	1	3	3	1
Someone else	18	26	11	21	21	15
DK/NA	14	15	15	10	12	16

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Kennedy	22%	20%	20%	31%	22%
Cuomo	30	32	31	29	36
Gillibrand	5	11	10	2	1
Maloney	2	2	2	10	5
Israel	-	1	-	1	6
Someone else	28	20	22	13	17
DK/NA	14	15	14	15	12

TREND: As you may know, Senator Hillary Clinton has been nominated to be Secretary of State and Governor Paterson will pick her replacement in the Senate. Who do you think Governor Paterson should pick to replace Hillary Clinton in the United States Senate - Caroline Kennedy, Andrew Cuomo, Kirsten Gillibrand, Carolyn Maloney, Steve Israel or someone else? (* na = Not Asked)

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008*
Kennedy	24	33
Cuomo	31	29
Gillibrand	5	4
Maloney	6	na
Israel	2	na
Someone else	18	24
DK/NA	14	10

11. Is your opinion of Andrew Cuomo favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	57%	53%	61%	55%	57%	56%
Unfavorable	10	14	8	9	12	8
Hvn't hrd enough	32	31	30	34	28	35
REFUSED	2	2	2	3	3	1

	UpState.....		UpState		
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	Sub
Favorable	49%	54%	53%	56%	65%
Unfavorable	5	12	10	9	10
Hvn't hrd enough	45	32	35	32	23
REFUSED	1	2	2	2	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Andrew Cuomo favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008
Favorable	57	55
Unfavorable	10	11
Hvn't hrd enough	32	32
REFUSED	2	2

12. Is your opinion of Caroline Kennedy favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	39%	24%	53%	33%	35%	42%
Unfavorable	29	46	16	31	34	25
Hvn't hrd enough	31	29	29	34	29	32
REFUSED	2	2	2	1	2	1

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Favorable	33%	31%	31%	49%	38%
Unfavorable	41	33	35	18	33
Hvn't hrd enough	24	35	32	31	27
REFUSED	2	2	2	2	1

TREND: Is your opinion of Caroline Kennedy favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008
Favorable	39	46
Unfavorable	29	17
Hvn't hrd enough	31	36
REFUSED	2	1

13. Do you think Caroline Kennedy would be a good United States Senator or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	37%	24%	50%	31%	34%	40%
No	40	55	27	45	45	37
DK/NA	22	21	23	24	22	23

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Yes	34%	31%	32%	46%	34%
No	48	44	45	32	46
DK/NA	17	25	23	22	21

TREND: Do you think Caroline Kennedy would be a good United States Senator or not?

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008
Yes	37	46
No	40	30
DK/NA	22	24

14. Do you think Caroline Kennedy is qualified to be a United States Senator or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	37%	24%	47%	34%	35%	38%
No	48	65	35	51	51	45
DK/NA	15	11	18	15	14	17

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Yes	31%	31%	31%	45%	33%
No	51	53	53	38	55
DK/NA	18	15	16	17	12

TREND: Do you think Caroline Kennedy is qualified to be a United States Senator or not?

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008
Yes	37	40
No	48	41
DK/NA	15	19

15. Do you think Governor Paterson will pick Caroline Kennedy to replace Hillary Clinton in the Senate or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	38%	47%	36%	36%	43%	35%
No	33	33	30	36	31	34
DK/NA	29	21	34	28	26	31

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Yes	32%	36%	35%	38%	46%
No	34	37	36	32	27
DK/NA	34	27	29	30	27

TREND: Do you think Governor Paterson will pick Caroline Kennedy to replace Hillary Clinton in the Senate or not?

	Jan 14 2009	Dec 23 2008
Yes	38	48
No	33	25
DK/NA	29	27

16. Stories about Caroline Kennedy emphasized her repeated use of 'you know' in answers. Were you surprised at her use of 'you know'?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	35%	42%	33%	35%	34%	37%
No	48	42	50	49	49	47
DK/NA	17	16	17	16	17	16

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Yes	33%	36%	35%	31%	41%
No	42	47	46	52	46
DK/NA	25	17	19	17	12

17. Were you surprised that news stories focused on this?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	32%	30%	33%	32%	30%	33%
No	58	59	58	59	59	58
DK/NA	10	11	9	9	10	9

	UpState.....		UpState		Sub
	Urban	Othr	Total	NYC	
Yes	36%	32%	33%	31%	31%
No	51	60	58	57	61
DK/NA	13	8	9	11	8