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# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL

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## **NEW YORK VOTERS BACK CUOMO'S NO-TAX PRE-K PLAN, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS CLOSER SOUL MATES TO GOV THAN MAYOR DE BLASIO**

By a 47 – 37 percent margin, including 49 – 40 percent among New York City voters, all New York State voters back Gov. Andrew Cuomo's plan for universal pre-kindergarten with no new taxes over New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to fund pre-K with a city income tax hike on high-income families, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Voters support 76 – 20 percent state funding in general of universal pre-K, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds, with support at 59 – 35 percent among Republicans, 91 – 7 percent among Democrats and 73 – 23 percent among independent voters.

A total of 78 percent of voters say universal pre-K would be “very effective” or “somewhat effective” in improving education for all New York State children. A total of 74 percent say universal pre-K would be very or somewhat effective in putting poor children “on a path out of poverty.”

Voters say 55 – 42 percent that pre-kindergarten education should be optional, not mandatory. Women say optional 51 – 46 percent and men say optional 59 – 38 percent.

Backing Gov. Cuomo's no-tax pre-K plan are Republicans, 60 – 20 percent, independent voters 48 – 37 percent, men 44 – 37 percent, women, 49 – 37 percent, upstate voters 43 – 36 percent and suburban voters 50 – 34 percent. Democrats back de Blasio's plan 49 – 39 percent.

“Just about everyone in this most liberal of states likes universal pre-kindergarten and they think – overwhelmingly – that kids will learn and that it will help them out of poverty,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“But voters prefer Gov. Andrew Cuomo's no-new-taxes approach to New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's tax-the-rich plan to pay for those new classes.”

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“The mayor made his argument again in his State-of-the-City speech. It will be interesting to see how a mayor elected with a huge margin of a small turnout fares with up-for-election state officials,” Carroll added.

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, a total of 28 percent of New York State voters list the economy or jobs or wages as the top priority for Gov. Cuomo and the State Legislature. A total of 18 percent list education or education funding. This group includes 1 percent who specifically said pre-Kindergarten or early childhood education.

A total of 12 percent list priorities related to taxes and only 2 percent list income inequality or class inequality.

Environmental concerns outweigh economic benefits as New York State voters oppose 45 – 41 percent drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale. Suburban voters support drilling by a slim 44 – 40 percent margin, while New York City voters are opposed 48 – 35 percent. Upstate voters are divided with 46 percent in favor of drilling and 45 percent opposed.

Cuomo is “dragging his feet” to avoid making a decision on hydraulic fracturing, 35 percent of voters say, while 23 percent say he is “carefully evaluating the issue,” with 37 percent undecided. Upstate voters say 45 – 24 percent the governor is dragging his feet.

### **Cuomo or de Blasio**

Gov. Cuomo most closely represents their political views, 44 percent of New York State voters say, while 27 percent line up with Mayor de Blasio, leaving 28 percent undecided. Cuomo wins more hearts and minds among every party, gender and regional group except New York City voters, who identify with de Blasio 44 – 38 percent.

“Who do voters feel more at home with philosophically? Cuomo has the edge over de Blasio, except in New York City,” Carroll said.

From February 6 – 10, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,488 New York State voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.5 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, Iowa, Ohio, Virginia, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

8. Is your opinion of Bill de Blasio favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Favorable	31%	13%	49%	23%	34%	27%	13%	51%	28%
Unfavorable	24	39	9	29	25	22	18	22	37
Hvn't hrd enough	44	47	41	45	39	48	67	24	33
REFUSED	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	3	2

20. What do you think should be the top priority for Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature in 2014?

	Tot
Economy (General)	5%
Jobs/Unemployment	21
Wages/Minimum Wage	1
Economy (Other)	1
Income inequality	1
Class inequality	1
Budget (General)	3
Government spending	1
Taxes (General)	10
Property taxes	1
Taxes (Other)	1
Education (General)	13
Funding/Spending education	1
Pre-K/Early childhood ed	1
Education (Other)	3
Unions (General)	1
Crime/Safety	1
Gun Issues/Policy/Control	3
Healthcare	3
Social Issues/Soc Services	1
Poverty/Homelessness	1
Housing/Affordable housing	1
Marijuana	2
Roads/Infrastructure	1
Environment	1
Hydro-fracking	2
Caring about people	1
Govt Corruption/Ethics	1
Other	9
DK/NA	8

31. Who do you believe most closely represents your political views, Governor Andrew Cuomo or New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Cuomo	44%	43%	45%	47%	44%	45%	45%	38%	54%
de Blasio	27	13	41	22	29	26	16	44	19
DK/NA	28	44	14	31	28	29	39	18	27

32. Do you support or oppose the state government funding universal pre-K education, so that all New York State children can attend pre-school?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Support	76%	59%	91%	73%	75%	78%	73%	83%	72%
Oppose	20	35	7	23	21	18	23	13	24
DK/NA	4	6	3	4	4	4	4	4	3

33. How effective do you think universal pre-K would be in improving education for New York State children; very effective, somewhat effective, not so effective, or not effective at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Very effective	44%	26%	61%	38%	36%	51%	41%	52%	38%
Smwht effective	34	35	31	37	37	31	35	30	37
Not so effective	9	14	4	12	11	8	11	7	10
Not effective at all	10	21	2	10	12	7	10	7	14
DK/NA	3	4	2	3	4	2	3	4	1

34. How effective do you think universal pre-K would be in helping to put poor children on a path out of poverty; very effective, somewhat effective, not so effective, or not effective at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Very effective	35%	21%	52%	27%	33%	37%	31%	43%	32%
Smwht effective	39	33	39	44	37	41	39	39	39
Not so effective	10	16	4	12	12	8	12	6	14
Not effective at all	13	26	3	14	15	10	15	9	15
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	1

35. Governor Andrew Cuomo wants to pay for pre-K for all New York State children without raising taxes by using existing state funds. New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio wants to pay for pre-K for New York City children by raising New York City income taxes on households earning more than \$500,000 saying that if state funding gets cut, pre-K for New York City children will still be funded. Do you think that New York City should raise these taxes to fund New York City pre-K or do you think that New York State should fund statewide pre-K without raising taxes?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
NYC tax funds pre-K	37%	20%	49%	37%	37%	37%	36%	40%	34%
NYS funds w/no tax	47	60	39	48	44	49	43	49	50
BOTH (VOL)	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	3	3
NEITHER (VOL)	7	13	1	8	9	5	10	3	8
DK/NA	6	4	6	5	6	6	8	6	5

36. Do you think pre-K education should be mandatory or optional?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Mandatory	42%	28%	57%	36%	38%	46%	38%	48%	41%
Optional	55	68	41	61	59	51	59	49	57
DK/NA	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	2

37. 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	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Drilling	41%	66%	28%	41%	50%	33%	46%	35%	44%
No drilling	45	24	56	45	40	49	45	48	40
DK/NA	14	11	15	13	10	17	9	17	16

TREND: 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?

	DRILLING.....						
				High		Low	
	Feb 12	Nov 27	Jun 06	Apr 18	Mar 20	Aug 11	Mar 20
	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2011	2013
Drilling	41	44	46	42	39	47	39
No drilling	45	46	44	46	46	42	46
DK/NA	14	10	9	12	14	12	14

38. Which comes closer to your point of view; Governor Cuomo is carefully evaluating the issue of hydro-fracking, or Governor Cuomo is dragging his feet and trying to avoid making a decision on the issue of hydro-fracking, or don't you have an opinion on that?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AREA.....		
							UpStat	NYC	Sub
Carefully evaluating	23%	15%	31%	19%	24%	22%	24%	22%	23%
Dragging his feet	35	49	23	38	41	29	45	26	32
No opinion	37	31	42	37	30	43	27	45	39
DK/NA	5	5	4	6	5	6	4	7	6

TREND: Which comes closer to your point of view; Governor Cuomo is carefully evaluating the issue of hydro-fracking, or Governor Cuomo is dragging his feet and trying to avoid making a decision on the issue of hydro-fracking, or don't you have an opinion on that?

	Feb 12 2014	Nov 27 2013	Jun 06 2013	Apr 18 2013	Mar 20 2013	Dec 13 2012
Carefully evaluating	23	21	22	24	21	26
Dragging his feet	35	39	36	32	30	25
No opinion	37	38	38	41	46	44
DK/NA	5	3	4	3	3	4