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# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

## POLL

FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

### **NEW YORK STATE VOTERS BACK \$15 MINIMUM WAGE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; CLEAN HOUSE IN ALBANY TO CURB CORRUPTION, VOTERS SAY**

New York State voters support 62 – 35 percent raising the state’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour over the next several years, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

There is strong support from every party, gender, age and regional group except Republicans, who oppose the idea 65 – 32 percent, and upstate voters who are divided with 50 percent in favor and 47 percent opposed, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

Support is 85 – 13 percent among Democrats, 59 – 38 percent among independent voters, 77 – 21 percent among New York City voters and 61 – 36 percent among suburban voters.

Support for the \$15 minimum wage drops, however, when voters consider four choices:

- 41 percent support increasing the \$8.75 minimum wage to something less than \$15;
- 37 percent support an increase to \$15;
- 11 percent support an increase to more than \$15;
- 8 percent want no increase.

“Gov. Andrew Cuomo caused a bit of a stir when he came out for a \$15 minimum wage. But mainly liberal New York State voters like the idea by a wide margin,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Some wouldn’t go quite as high at \$15. A few would go even higher.

“The political and geographical divisions are equally predictable: Republicans are opposed; Democrats are overwhelmingly in favor.”

Only 26 percent of New York State voters think current state officials “are capable of ending political corruption in Albany,” while 56 percent say, “all current elected officials should be voted out of office so new officials can start with a clean slate.” No party, gender, age or regional group thinks current officials can end political corruption.

**-more-**

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New York State voters say 52 – 33 percent that Gov. Andrew Cuomo is part of the problem of ethics in government, not part of the solution.

U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has not gone far enough investigating corruption in state government, 41 percent of voters say, while 4 percent say he has gone too far and 29 percent say he has handled corruption “about right.”

The so-called “three men in a room” practice in which three state leaders make decisions in secret is the main cause of corruption in Albany, 16 percent of voters say, while 64 percent say it is one of several causes and 13 percent say it is not a cause at all.

If more legislators were directly involved in making important decisions, it would help end Albany corruption, voters say 64 – 29 percent.

Their own state senator deserves reelection 39 percent of voters say, but 46 percent say their senator should be thrown out with all the rest.

By a similar 44 – 38 percent, voters say their state assembly member should be thrown out rather than reelected.

“With former State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver soon to come to trial, voters are focused on state corruption allegations,” Carroll said. “Albany's infamous ‘three men in a room,’ in which the governor and legislative leaders make all the big decisions, is at least partly to blame, voters say.

“They judge Gov. Cuomo to be more part of the problem than part of the solution.”

Only 32 percent of voters say allowing mixed martial arts as a sport in New York State is a good idea, while 21 percent say it’s a bad idea and 44 percent haven’t heard enough about it to form an opinion.

Voters say 54 – 28 percent that New York State should help pay for a new Hudson River rail tunnel. No group opposes helping to pay for the tunnel. Support is 68 – 23 percent in New York City and 60 – 20 percent in the suburbs, with upstate voters divided 38 – 39 percent.

From September 10 – 15, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,366 New York State voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 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](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.**

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	27%	16%	34%	27%	21%	31%	35%	28%	21%	27%
Disapprove	59	69	49	62	66	52	51	59	64	55
DK/NA	15	15	17	11	13	16	14	13	15	17

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Approve	22%	32%	25%
Disapprove	66	51	59
DK/NA	12	17	16

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way your state assembly member is handling their job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	41%	52%	41%	37%	51%	43%	47%	43%	46%
Disapprove	35	45	25	38	44	28	30	35	38	32
DK/NA	20	14	24	20	19	22	27	18	18	22

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Approve	44%	46%	42%
Disapprove	38	32	37
DK/NA	18	22	21

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way your state senator is handling their job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	51%	49%	62%	46%	46%	56%	44%	56%	50%	57%
Disapprove	32	41	21	36	38	27	27	31	37	28
DK/NA	16	10	17	17	16	17	28	13	12	15

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Approve	49%	52%	55%
Disapprove	35	29	33
DK/NA	16	19	12

30. Which comes closer to your view about your state Senator, there are a lot of problems in Albany but your state Senator has done a good job and deserves to be reelected or almost everyone in the State Senate should be thrown out including your state Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Deserves reelection	39%	34%	52%	33%	34%	44%	33%	38%	42%	43%
Shld be thrown out	46	54	31	55	55	39	45	47	47	43
DK/NA	15	11	17	12	11	17	22	15	11	14

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Deserves reelection	37%	42%	38%
Shld be thrown out	49	42	48
DK/NA	14	16	14

31. Which comes closer to your view about your state assembly member, there are a lot of problems in Albany but your state assembly member has done a good job and deserves to be reelected or almost everyone in the State Assembly should be thrown out including your state assembly member?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Deserves reelection	38%	34%	51%	33%	32%	44%	34%	41%	39%	40%
Shld be thrown out	44	51	31	50	51	37	40	44	47	41
DK/NA	18	15	19	17	17	19	26	15	14	19

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Deserves reelection	39%	42%	32%
Shld be thrown out	44	41	49
DK/NA	18	17	19

32. The minimum wage is currently \$8.75 an hour in New York State. Would you support or oppose raising the state's minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour over the next several years?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	62%	32%	85%	59%	58%	67%	63%	61%	64%	62%
Oppose	35	65	13	38	39	31	34	36	34	33
DK/NA	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	5

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Support	50%	77%	61%
Oppose	47	21	36
DK/NA	3	2	3

33. Which comes closest to your point of view regarding raising the state's minimum wage over the next several years: there should be no increase in the minimum wage, there should be an increase in the minimum wage but not as high as \$15.00 an hour, there should be an increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour, or there should be an increase in the minimum wage higher than \$15.00 an hour?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
No increase	8%	16%	1%	9%	10%	6%	11%	9%	7%	7%
Increase < \$15.00	41	59	29	46	43	40	37	42	41	44
Increase to \$15.00	37	19	54	31	31	43	36	34	40	42
Increase > \$15.00	11	3	15	11	13	9	14	14	10	5
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	2

	AREA.....		
	UpStat	NYC	Sub
No increase	13%	4%	7%
Increase < \$15.00	48	35	41
Increase to \$15.00	32	42	39
Increase > \$15.00	6	17	10
DK/NA	2	2	2

34. Do you think New York State should or should not help pay for a new Hudson River rail tunnel?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Should help	54%	44%	62%	55%	57%	51%	63%	54%	53%	46%
Should not	28	40	21	29	29	28	25	27	32	30
DK/NA	17	16	17	16	14	20	12	19	15	24

	AREA.....		
	UpStat	NYC	Sub
Should help	38%	68%	60%
Should not	39	23	20
DK/NA	23	10	20

45. When thinking about the problem of ethics in government, do you think Andrew Cuomo is part of the problem or part of the solution?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Problem	52%	61%	38%	57%	57%	47%	49%	56%	55%	46%
Solution	33	25	46	29	30	36	28	30	35	39
DK/NA	15	14	15	14	13	17	23	14	10	15

	AREA.....		
	UpStat	NYC	Sub
Problem	61%	42%	52%
Solution	24	43	32
DK/NA	15	16	15

46. When it comes to investigating corruption in New York State government, do you think U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has gone too far, has not gone far enough, or has handled this about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Too far	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%
Not far enough	41	40	33	48	46	37	40	44	42	36
About right	29	30	35	27	30	28	31	24	29	33
DK/NA	26	25	30	21	20	31	25	28	25	28

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Too far	3%	4%	6%
Not far enough	44	38	41
About right	23	36	26
DK/NA	29	22	26

47. Do you think New York State elected officials are capable of ending political corruption in Albany or should all current elected officials be voted out of office so new officials can start with a clean slate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Capable	26%	21%	37%	22%	23%	29%	28%	23%	27%	29%
All voted out	56	68	41	63	62	52	53	57	57	54
DK/NA	17	10	22	15	15	19	19	20	16	17

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Capable	24%	31%	22%
All voted out	59	51	61
DK/NA	17	18	16

48. Do you think the so-called Three Men in a Room practice in Albany, where the governor, the leader of the State Assembly and the leader of the State Senate make important decisions in secret and then present these decisions to the legislators, is the main cause of corruption in state government, one of several causes or not a cause at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Main cause	16%	16%	12%	17%	16%	15%	14%	17%	14%	19%
One of several	64	65	64	66	59	68	61	65	65	63
Not a cause at all	13	10	14	13	17	9	18	11	12	9
DK/NA	8	10	9	4	8	8	7	7	9	9

AREA.....  
UpStat NYC Sub

Main cause	18%	14%	16%
One of several	66	61	64
Not a cause at all	11	16	11
DK/NA	6	10	9

49. If more legislators were directly involved in making important decisions, do you think it would help end corruption in state government or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes/End corruption	64%	63%	69%	65%	61%	66%	60%	68%	65%	63%
No	29	31	25	29	34	25	34	30	27	26
DK/NA	7	5	6	6	5	8	6	3	8	11

	AREA.....		
	UpStat	NYC	Sub
Yes/End corruption	66%	66%	57%
No	28	30	32
DK/NA	7	4	11

50. There is a proposal in the state legislature that would allow mixed martial arts as a sport. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea, or haven't you heard enough about it?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Good idea	32%	32%	27%	35%	42%	23%	61%	36%	26%	11%
Bad idea	21	22	22	20	21	20	7	15	28	30
Hvn't hrd enough	44	44	48	41	33	54	30	44	44	57
DK/NA	3	2	4	4	4	3	2	5	2	3

	AREA.....		
	UpStat	NYC	Sub
Good idea	35%	31%	28%
Bad idea	23	21	16
Hvn't hrd enough	39	45	53
DK/NA	3	4	3