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**NEW YORK VOTERS OPTIMISTIC 3-1 ABOUT MAYOR DE BLASIO,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
EDUCATION, JOBS, NOT INCOME INEQUALITY, ARE PRIORITIES**

By a 67 – 21 percent margin, New York City voters are optimistic about the next four years with Bill de Blasio as mayor, with everyone feeling good except Republicans, who are divided 44 – 45 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today. Black voters are most optimistic, at 80 – 6 percent, with Hispanic voters optimism at 76 – 9 percent.

Voters approve 53 – 13 percent of the job Mayor de Blasio has done so far, with 34 percent undecided, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds. Approval is lowest among Republicans, 40 – 28 percent, with independent voters at 41 – 14 percent and 45 percent undecided. Highest approval is 71 – 6 percent from black voters.

In an open-ended question, where respondents can give any answer, 20 percent of voters say education should be the top priority for the mayor and City Council, followed by 13 percent for jobs and 9 percent each for crime/safety and housing/affordable housing.

Only 2 percent list “income inequality” or “class inequality.” Another 2 percent list wages/minimum wage.

Voters say 60 – 24 percent that de Blasio will make progress on the priority they listed.

“New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is having a honeymoon. Two thirds of New Yorkers are optimistic about the new City Hall team. Republicans are divided,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

“As warmly as the de Blasio family was greeted in the campaign and on inauguration day, only about a quarter of voters want Chirlane McCray to have a major role at City Hall.”

**-more-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/January 16, 2014 – page 2**

Only 27 percent of New York City voters, including 31 percent of women and 23 percent of men, say the mayor's spouse should have a major role in shaping policy. Another 36 percent, with 34 percent of women and 39 percent of men, say she should have a minor role. And 30 percent of voters, with 28 percent of women and 33 percent of men, say she should have no role.

A total of 83 percent of voters say income inequality is a "very serious" or "somewhat serious" problem. Voters say 66 – 25 percent that New York City government should try to reduce the gap between rich and poor. Voters support 69 – 27 percent increasing the New York City income tax on households making more than \$500,000 per year;

Support is 74 – 23 percent to increase taxes on households making more than \$500,000 per year if the money is used to fund pre-kindergarten for all New York City children.

Support drops to 55 – 37 percent to increase taxes on the wealthy if other funds are found for universal pre-k.

"When we ask New Yorkers what's their top priority, they say education, jobs, crime, housing. Almost no one says, 'income inequality,'" Carroll said. "But when we ask them specifically about income inequality, they want to rewrite 'The Tale of Two Cities.'"

### **Carriage Horses, Police, Bratton**

Don't ban horse-drawn carriages from New York City, voters say 61 – 28 percent, with support for the horses from every group. There is almost no gender gap as women oppose a ban 60 – 28 percent while men support carriage horses 63 – 28 percent.

New York City voters approve 62 – 30 percent of the job police are doing, with white voters approving 78 – 16 percent and Hispanic voters approving 53 – 36 percent and black voters divided with 45 percent approving and 47 percent disapproving. Voters approve 59 – 13 percent of the selection of William Bratton as police commissioner, with all groups approving. Mayor de Blasio can reduce stop and frisk and still make the city safer, voters say 48 – 40 percent.

Voters also say 57 – 8 percent that he can make schools better.

But only 34 percent of voters say the city will have more jobs under de Blasio, while 11 percent expect fewer jobs and 45 percent say the job level will remain the same.

From January 9 – 15, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,288 New York City 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, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, 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](#).**

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill de Blasio is handling his job as Mayor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	53%	40%	64%	41%	49%	57%	43%	71%	55%
Disapprove	13	28	9	14	15	11	21	6	6
DK/NA	34	31	27	45	36	32	36	23	39

2. Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Bill de Blasio as Mayor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Optimistic	67%	44%	78%	56%	67%	67%	53%	80%	76%
Pessimistic	21	45	12	30	23	19	36	6	9
DK/NA	12	11	11	14	10	14	11	13	15

3. What do you think should be the top priority for Mayor de Blasio and the City Council in 2014?

	Tot
Economy (General)	4%
Jobs/Unemployment	13
Wages/Minimum Wage	2
Economy (Other)	1
Income inequality	1
Class inequality	1
Budget (General)	1
Taxes (General)	3
Education (General)	20
Education (Pre-K, early childhood ed)	1
Education (Other)	3
Unions (General)	2
Crime/Safety	9
Police practices/Stop&Frisk	2
Gun Issues/Policy/Control	1
Housing/Affordable housing	9
Healthcare	1
Poverty/Homelessness	2
Elderly Issues	1
Roads/Infrastructure	1
Transportation	1
Other	15
DK/NA	6

4. (If Priority Given q3) Do you believe that the mayor will make progress on that priority or don't you think so?

	PRIORITY GIVEN Q3.....								
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes	60%	40%	70%	46%	57%	62%	49%	71%	67%
No	24	47	14	33	27	21	36	11	17
DK/NA	17	12	15	21	15	18	15	17	15

11. Do you think Mayor de Blasio should or should not ban horse drawn carriages from New York City?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Should	28%	23%	31%	26%	28%	28%	27%	25%	32%
Should not	61	70	58	62	63	60	63	64	60
DK/NA	11	7	11	12	9	12	11	11	8

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the New York City police are doing their job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	62%	79%	58%	65%	65%	60%	78%	45%	53%
Disapprove	30	19	34	28	29	32	16	47	36
DK/NA	7	2	8	7	6	8	6	8	11

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way the New York City police are doing their job?

	APPROVE.....						
	High		Low				
	Jan 16	May 23	Apr 11	Feb 28	Jan 17	Feb 7	Apr 20
	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2002	2000
Approve	62	61	60	61	70	76	43
Disapprove	30	31	32	31	23	18	48
DK/NA	7	8	8	7	7	6	9

13. Do you approve or disapprove of Mayor de Blasio's selection of Bill Bratton to be police commissioner?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	59%	61%	60%	57%	67%	52%	69%	52%	52%
Disapprove	13	14	14	14	14	13	11	18	16
DK/NA	28	25	26	29	19	35	20	30	32

14. Do you think Mayor de Blasio can reduce stop and frisk and still make New York City a safer place to live or will crime go up if he reduces stop and frisk?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Yes/Still safe	48%	24%	59%	38%	45%	51%	35%	66%	50%
No/Crime go up	40	68	28	53	44	37	54	22	35
DK/NA	12	8	13	9	11	13	11	12	15

15. Do you think Mayor de Blasio will make New York City's public schools better, worse, or will he have no effect on the public schools in New York City?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Better	57%	35%	67%	46%	51%	61%	41%	71%	69%
Worse	8	17	5	12	9	7	13	2	6
No effect	21	29	17	26	29	15	29	16	15
DK/NA	14	19	11	17	11	16	16	10	11

16. Do you think under Mayor de Blasio, New York City will have more jobs, less jobs, or about the same number of jobs?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
More	34%	18%	43%	22%	34%	34%	21%	41%	42%
Less	11	25	4	19	15	8	19	4	4
Same	45	49	45	46	44	46	49	42	47
DK/NA	10	8	8	13	8	12	11	12	6

17. Would you support or oppose increasing the New York City income tax on households who earn more than \$500,000 per year?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	69%	33%	78%	69%	69%	69%	61%	77%	76%
Oppose	27	64	18	28	29	25	36	18	18
DK/NA	4	3	4	3	2	6	3	5	6

18. Would you support or oppose increasing the New York City income tax on households who earn more than \$500,000 per year if the money was used to fund pre-kindergarten education for all children in New York City?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	74%	44%	83%	68%	73%	74%	60%	86%	85%
Oppose	23	56	14	29	26	21	37	9	13
DK/NA	3	-	3	3	1	4	2	5	3

19. Suppose pre-kindergarten education for all children in New York City could be funded without raising these taxes. Would you support or oppose increasing the New York City income tax on households who earn more than \$500,000 if the money was used to fund things other than pre-kindergarten education for all New York City children?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	55%	30%	65%	49%	54%	56%	47%	56%	63%
Oppose	37	65	27	42	39	35	46	33	29
DK/NA	8	5	8	8	6	10	7	12	9

20. How serious of a problem do you think income inequality is in New York City; very serious, somewhat serious, not so serious or not serious at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Very serious	58%	38%	64%	54%	55%	60%	43%	70%	63%
Smwht serious	25	25	26	24	23	26	31	22	23
Not so serious	9	26	5	11	13	7	15	3	9
Not serious at all	4	9	1	8	6	3	8	1	3
DK/NA	3	1	3	2	3	3	4	4	1

21. Do you think the New York City government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap between wealthy and less well-off New Yorkers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Should	66%	42%	78%	57%	68%	65%	51%	78%	81%
Should not	25	51	14	34	26	24	39	11	14
DK/NA	9	7	8	9	6	11	10	11	4

22. Do you believe the problem of income inequality is better addressed by the New York City government or by the national government?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
NYC govt	32%	29%	37%	21%	31%	32%	27%	39%	34%
National govt	36	44	35	36	38	34	36	37	35
BOTH (VOL)	13	4	15	16	13	13	13	13	11
NEITHER (VOL)	9	14	3	18	11	9	17	3	1
DK/NA	10	10	9	9	8	12	8	8	19

23. In general, how big a role do you think a Mayor's spouse should have in shaping public policy a major role, a minor role, or no role?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Major role	27%	24%	31%	19%	23%	31%	14%	41%	43%
Minor role	36	32	38	36	39	34	35	36	33
No role	30	43	24	37	33	28	46	16	19
DK/NA	7	1	7	8	5	8	6	7	5