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**NEW YORK CITY VOTERS OPPOSE EAST RIVER BRIDGE TOLLS,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
BUT CUTS IN OTHER TOLLS HELP WIN SOME SUPPORT**

New York City voters say 71 – 23 percent that placing tolls on the free East River bridges is a bad idea, with consistent opposition in all five boroughs and among drivers and mass transit users, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

But if tolls on bridges linking boroughs outside of Manhattan are reduced at the same time East River bridge tolls are added, opposition is 49 – 41 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Opinions of this so-called “toll swap” plan by borough are:

- Staten Island voters support it 55 – 43 percent;
- Bronx voters are divided with 49 percent in favor and 46 percent opposed;
- Brooklyn voters are divided with 43 percent in favor and 47 percent opposed;
- Manhattan voters are opposed 54 – 33 percent;
- Queens voters are opposed 52 – 39 percent.

New York City voters who drive to work oppose the toll swap 51 – 43 percent, while mass transit users oppose it 49 – 42 percent.

“Should you have to pay to drive across the East River? New York City voters from every borough reject the idea, as they have for years, even as a possible partial remedy for congestion,” said Quinnipiac University Poll Assistant Director Maurice Carroll.

“Suppose, as some policy wonks suggest, a tradeoff imposing tolls on the free bridges, while cutting tolls on the bridges between the other boroughs. Voters still say no, but not so heavily.”

**-more-**

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A total of 86 percent of New York City voters say traffic congestion in the city is a “very serious” or “somewhat serious” problem. That includes 89 percent of voters who drive to work and 85 percent of mass transit users.

Offered choices of possible funding to maintain roads, bridges and mass transit:

- 18 percent of voters say raise the city sales tax;
- 26 percent prefer raising the state gas tax;
- 23 percent prefer adding tolls on the bridges into Manhattan.

From June 5 – 9, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,033 New York City voters, with a margin of error of +/- 3.1 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](#).**

24. Where do you think New York City should get additional money to maintain roads, bridges and mass transit; raise the city sales tax, raise the state gas tax or add tolls on bridges into Manhattan?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
City sales tax	18%	18%	17%	20%	18%	17%	14%	17%	25%
State gas tax	26	20	27	29	29	24	30	21	23
Tolls/Mnhttn bridges	23	23	25	22	22	24	24	26	25
DK/NA	33	38	31	28	30	35	32	37	27

	AREA.....					GET TO WORK Q27	
	Brnx	Kngs	Man	Qns	StIsl	Drive	PubTrans
City sales tax	20%	18%	12%	23%	11%	18%	20%
State gas tax	12	29	39	23	20	19	30
Tolls/Mnhttn bridges	27	21	24	24	24	23	25
DK/NA	41	33	25	31	45	40	25

25. Some people have suggested that New York City should place tolls on the free East River bridges. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Good idea	23%	20%	25%	23%	26%	21%	24%	24%	27%
Bad idea	71	76	69	72	71	72	69	73	69
DK/NA	5	4	6	4	3	7	7	4	4

	AREA.....					GET TO WORK Q27	
	Brnx	Kngs	Man	Qns	StIsl	Drive	PubTrans
Good idea	23%	21%	23%	22%	41%	24%	24%
Bad idea	72	73	70	74	58	73	71
DK/NA	5	6	7	4	1	3	5

TREND: Some people have suggested that New York City should place tolls on the free East River bridges. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

	Jun 16 2014	Nov 25 2008	Jan 18 2007	Feb 27 2003	Mar 28 2002
Good idea	23	28	17	31	19
Bad idea	71	68	78	65	76
DK/NA	5	4	5	4	6

26. Would you support or oppose a plan to charge tolls on the East River bridges, which go into Manhattan, and at the same time reduce tolls on the bridges between the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	41%	45%	40%	44%	39%	43%	40%	40%	47%
Oppose	49	49	51	46	53	46	49	49	45
DK/NA	9	6	10	10	8	11	11	10	8

	AREA.....					GET TO WORK Q27	
	Brnx	Kngs	Man	Qns	StIsl	Drive	PubTrans
Support	49%	43%	33%	39%	55%	43%	42%
Oppose	46	47	54	52	43	51	49
DK/NA	5	10	13	9	2	6	9

27. How do you get to work; do you take a subway, bus, commuter train or drive?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Subway	28%	13%	32%	30%	32%	24%	27%	27%	36%
Bus	8	12	8	8	5	11	7	10	7
Commuter train	8	7	10	6	8	9	5	10	9
Drive	23	31	19	24	24	23	27	26	19
SUBWAY&BUS (VOL)	11	13	10	12	9	12	6	11	13
DK/NA	22	25	20	20	22	22	28	15	16

AREA.....

	Brnx	Kngs	Man	Qns	StIsl
Subway	27%	33%	39%	18%	2%
Bus	5	6	10	9	13
Commuter train	9	12	6	8	1
Drive	28	19	10	30	51
SUBWAY&BUS (VOL)	10	6	11	16	12
DK/NA	21	23	24	19	21

TREND: How do you get to work; do you take a subway, bus, commuter train or drive?

Jun 16 July 29  
2014 2009

Subway	28	25
Bus	8	11
Commuter train	8	6
Drive	23	23
SUBWAY&BUS (VOL)	11	14
DK/NA	22	21

28. How much of a problem do you think traffic congestion is in New York City; a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not a problem at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Very serious	47%	52%	48%	39%	45%	49%	46%	45%	57%
Smwht serious	39	36	37	48	36	41	44	37	35
Not very serious	9	10	11	9	12	7	7	13	8
Not at all	3	2	4	2	5	1	2	4	1
DK/NA	2	-	1	2	2	1	1	2	-

AREA..... GET TO WORK Q27  
Brnx Kngs Man Qns StIsl Drive PubTrans

Very serious	51%	43%	47%	46%	65%	52%	44%
Smwht serious	36	40	41	40	31	37	41
Not very serious	9	12	7	9	3	9	12
Not at all	3	2	3	4	1	2	4
DK/NA	1	3	1	1	-	1	1

TREND: How much of a problem do you think traffic congestion is in New York City; a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not a problem at all?

Jun 16 Mar 13 Jan 10 Nov 19 Aug 30 May 24 Jan 18  
2014 2008 2008 2007 2007 2007 2007

Very serious	47	52	52	52	55	59	55
Smwht serious	39	37	39	35	34	31	34
Not very serious	9	8	6	9	8	7	6
Not at all	3	1	2	2	1	2	2
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	2	2	2