Maurice Carroll, Director,
Quinnipiac University Polling Institute
(203) 582-5334

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

QUINNIPIAC
UNIVERSITY
P O L L

FOR RELEASE: AUGUST 29, 2013

STRINGER – SPITZER COMPTROLLER RACE IS DEAD HEAT, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS CAN'T NAME A PUBLIC ADVOCATE CANDIDATE

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer has wiped out former Gov. Eliot Spitzer's 19-point lead in the Democratic primary for New York City comptroller and now is locked in a 46 – 46 percent dead heat, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 56 – 37 percent Spitzer lead in an August 14 survey of likely Democratic primary voters by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Today, there still is no gender gap: 48 percent of women back Stringer while 45 percent back Spitzer. Men go 47 percent for Spitzer and 45 percent for Stringer. White voters back Stringer 58 – 35 percent, compared to 53 – 43 percent August 14. Black voters back Spitzer 52 – 40 percent, compared to 68 – 21 percent two weeks ago.

Among Stringer voters, 77 percent say they definitely will vote for him, compared to 72 percent of Spitzer voters who definitely will support the former governor.

"The entire political and media world has jumped on Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer's bandwagon, helping him poll-vault from 19 points down to dead even in just two weeks," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"The black vote, which has shifted dramatically in the last two weeks, still tips to former Gov. Eliot Spitzer. Stringer holds a big lead among white voters. Did the avalanche of media criticism knock Spitzer out of the lead? Among self-described 'very liberal' voters, Stringer is way ahead.   He leads among the college-educated, while Spitzer leads among those without a college degree."

-**more**-

Likely Democratic primary voters who describe themselves as "very liberal" back Stringer 60 – 35 percent. "Somewhat liberal" Democrats back Spitzer 51 – 40 percent while moderate or conservative Democrats are divided, 47 percent for Spitzer and 44 percent for Stringer.

Who's Running for Public Advocate?

Only 20 percent of Democratic likely primary voters could name a candidate in the Democratic primary for New York City Public Advocate. While 72 percent said they could not name a candidate, 7 percent said they could, but then named someone who is not a candidate.

Despite this, 64 percent of likely Democratic primary voters say New York City needs a public advocate, while 20 percent say the office should be abolished.

"One Democratic voter in five can name a candidate for public advocate," Carroll said. "But among voters, in contrast to the People Who Talk About Politics, the job is popular. Black voters in particular, 82 percent, would keep it around."

From August 22 – 27, Quinnipiac University surveyed 602 likely Democratic primary voters with a margin of error of +/- 4 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, Colorado, Iowa and the nation as a public service and for research.

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

6. If the Democratic primary for City Comptroller were being held today, and the candidates were Eliot Spitzer and Scott Stringer, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Spitzer or Stringer (Table includes leaners)

| | | LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS............................ | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | AGE IN YRS | | COLLEGE DEG | |
	Tot	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	<50	50+	Yes	No
Spitzer	46%	47%	45%	35%	52%	42%	49%	41%	52%
Stringer	46	45	48	58	40	51	43	54	37
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1
DK/NA	8	8	7	6	8	7	8	5	11

| | POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY | | | | |
| | LIBERAL..... | | Mod/ | PARTYID DEMS..... | |
	Very	SmWht	Con	Strong	Not Strong
Spitzer	35%	51%	47%	48%	45%
Stringer	60	40	44	44	46
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	-	-	1	-	-
DK/NA	5	10	8	8	9

TREND: If the Democratic primary for City Comptroller were being held today, and the candidates were Eliot Spitzer and Scott Stringer, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Spitzer or Stringer (Table includes leaners)

| | LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS | | |
| | Aug 29 | Aug 14 | Jul 25 |
	2013	2013	2013
Spitzer	46	56	49
Stringer	46	37	45
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	-	-	-
DK/NA	8	7	6

6a. (If candidate chosen q6) Will you definitely vote for (Candidate of choice q6), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for (Candidate not chosen q6)? IF CHANGE MIND: Would you say there's a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

	LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q6.........		
		CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q6	
	Tot	Spitzer	Stringer
Def vote for cand	75%	72%	77%
Unlikely to change	7	7	8
Good chance change	15	18	13
DK/NA	3	3	2

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Will you definitely vote for (Candidate of choice), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for (Candidate not chosen)? IF CHANCE CHANGE MIND: Would you say there's a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

| | LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS | | |
| | Aug 29 | Aug 14 | Jul 25 |
	2013	2013	2013
Def vote for cand	75	70	67
Unlikely to change	7	10	12
Good chance change	15	18	19
DK/NA	3	2	3

13. Do you think New York City needs a Public Advocate or should this office be abolished?

	LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS				
	Tot	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Needs Public Adv	64%	62%	65%	56%	82%
Abolish office	20	23	17	24	8
DK/NA	16	15	17	19	10

14. Do you happen to know the names of any of the Democratic candidates running for New York City Public Advocate? If yes: Who would that be?

	LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS.............................					AGE IN YRS		COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	<50	50+	Yes	No
No	72%	76%	69%	65%	78%	77%	69%	66%	78%
Yes, incorrect	7	4	9	8	7	5	9	7	7
Yes, correct	20	20	21	27	16	18	22	26	14
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1