

Results of SurveyUSA News Poll #13621



Sponsors:

All SurveyUSA clients in New York

Geography: New York
 Data Collected: 03/18/2008
 Release Date: 03/18/2008

Majority Have Favorable Impression of Paterson: 55% of New York adults say they have a favorable impression of new Governor David Paterson, according to this latest SurveyUSA poll conducted exclusively for its media clients throughout that state. 60% say Paterson's Monday acknowledgment of a sexual relationship outside of his marriage have no effect on their view of the governor. At what point does the media have the responsibility to report on the sexual indiscretions of public officials? 19% say they should report whenever they're made aware of such happenings; 40% say they should only report the story if an ethical conflict of interest occurs; 30% say they should only report if the law is broken. 8% say the media should never report such stories.

Timing: All interviews conducted after wide reports of Paterson's Monday comments on his and his wife's past indiscretions, but before wide reporting of Tuesday's news of Paterson being involved with multiple women, including one who is currently a state employee.

1 Is your impression of David Paterson favorable, unfavorable, neutral, or do you have no impression of David Paterson?

1000 Adults	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.1%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Favorable	55%	55%	58%	52%	46%	50%	59%	52%	50%	59%	65%	48%	79%	59%	68%	49%	63%	43%
Unfavorable	6%	5%	7%	2%	12%	7%	6%	6%	10%	5%	4%	8%	2%	4%	7%	10%	4%	7%
Neutral	25%	24%	22%	24%	30%	27%	23%	27%	24%	23%	24%	29%	12%	21%	19%	29%	20%	36%
No Impression	12%	14%	11%	22%	8%	13%	10%	12%	14%	11%	7%	14%	5%	13%	5%	11%	11%	12%
Not Sure	2%	2%	3%	0%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	3%	0%	2%	2%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

1 Is your impression of David Paterson favorable, unfavorable, neutral, or do you have no impression of David Paterson?

1000 Adults	All	Ideology			Region		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.1%		Conser	Moder	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Favorable	55%	46%	62%	58%	63%	52%	47%
Unfavorable	6%	12%	4%	4%	6%	8%	6%
Neutral	25%	30%	25%	22%	18%	26%	31%
No Impression	12%	10%	8%	14%	10%	11%	14%
Not Sure	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

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2 On his first day as Governor of New York, Paterson acknowledged that he and, separately, his wife, each had sexual relationships with others during a difficult time in their marriage. Does this make you think more of Paterson? Think less of Paterson? Or does it not change what you think of Paterson?

1000 Adults	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.1%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Think More Of Him	15%	22%	11%	9%	5%	16%	14%	23%	10%	11%	12%	11%	16%	32%	12%	11%	17%	18%
Think Less Of Him	23%	13%	28%	29%	32%	25%	21%	19%	27%	21%	25%	28%	11%	18%	10%	31%	17%	25%
No Change	60%	63%	60%	57%	60%	57%	64%	56%	61%	66%	61%	59%	72%	49%	74%	56%	64%	55%
Not Sure	2%	2%	2%	5%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

2 On his first day as Governor of New York, Paterson acknowledged that he and, separately, his wife, each had sexual relationships with others during a difficult time in their marriage. Does this make you think more of Paterson? Think less of Paterson? Or does it not change what you think of Paterson?

1000 Adults	All	Ideology			Region		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.1%		Conser	Moder	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Think More Of Him	15%	18%	12%	16%	17%	11%	14%
Think Less Of Him	23%	42%	18%	13%	19%	27%	25%
No Change	60%	38%	68%	70%	61%	60%	60%
Not Sure	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

3 Should Paterson have told about his marriage before being sworn in as governor? Did he do the right thing by telling about his marriage now that he has been sworn in? Or should he have kept the information to himself?

1000 Adults	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.2%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Before Being Sworn In	24%	20%	25%	39%	29%	26%	22%	16%	29%	30%	23%	26%	15%	26%	19%	31%	20%	23%
Right In Doing It Now	48%	60%	45%	43%	31%	44%	52%	57%	39%	47%	49%	45%	69%	42%	47%	45%	55%	41%
Kept It To Himself	22%	16%	22%	16%	34%	25%	19%	21%	25%	18%	22%	23%	9%	32%	15%	20%	18%	33%
Not Sure	6%	3%	8%	2%	7%	5%	7%	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	6%	1%	19%	4%	7%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

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3 Should Paterson have told about his marriage before being sworn in as governor? Did he do the right thing by telling about his marriage now that he has been sworn in? Or should he have kept the information to himself?

1000 Adults	All	Ideology			Region		
		Conser	Modera	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.2%							
Before Being Sworn In	24%	32%	22%	18%	24%	25%	23%
Right In Doing It Now	48%	32%	51%	55%	52%	45%	46%
Kept It To Himself	22%	30%	21%	21%	19%	22%	25%
Not Sure	6%	6%	7%	6%	5%	8%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

4 If a married elected official has a sexual relationship with someone other than his spouse, is it the public's business almost always? Almost never? Or does it depend on the circumstances?

1000 Adults	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.1%																		
Almost Always	13%	11%	14%	17%	17%	16%	10%	9%	16%	12%	17%	16%	8%	7%	12%	20%	9%	17%
Almost Never	28%	27%	30%	25%	26%	31%	25%	21%	34%	30%	29%	28%	28%	31%	22%	20%	31%	27%
Depends	56%	60%	53%	57%	57%	51%	62%	69%	48%	54%	49%	54%	62%	59%	61%	59%	57%	54%
Not Sure	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	5%	2%	3%	2%	5%	1%	3%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

4 If a married elected official has a sexual relationship with someone other than his spouse, is it the public's business almost always? Almost never? Or does it depend on the circumstances?

1000 Adults	All	Ideology			Region		
		Conser	Modera	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.1%							
Almost Always	13%	25%	10%	9%	10%	14%	16%
Almost Never	28%	19%	28%	36%	30%	24%	29%
Depends	56%	53%	60%	55%	56%	60%	54%
Not Sure	3%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

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5 At what point does the media have a responsibility to report on the sexual indiscretion of a public official?
Whenever the media become aware of a sexual indiscretion? Not until an ethical conflict of interest occurs?
Not until a law is broken? Or never?

1000 Adults	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.2%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
When Made Aware	19%	13%	21%	47%	21%	25%	14%	11%	22%	24%	24%	20%	10%	24%	18%	24%	17%	18%
Conflict Of Interest	40%	36%	44%	23%	35%	40%	41%	44%	39%	39%	38%	43%	25%	39%	50%	47%	37%	45%
When Law Is Broken	30%	40%	25%	21%	31%	24%	35%	39%	24%	27%	24%	28%	45%	29%	19%	19%	35%	29%
Never	8%	8%	8%	5%	9%	9%	7%	4%	10%	7%	9%	6%	17%	5%	5%	7%	8%	6%
Not Sure	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	7%	4%	3%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

5 At what point does the media have a responsibility to report on the sexual indiscretion of a public official?
Whenever the media become aware of a sexual indiscretion? Not until an ethical conflict of interest occurs?
Not until a law is broken? Or never?

1000 Adults	All	Ideology			Region		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.2%		Conser	Moder	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
When Made Aware	19%	29%	19%	12%	19%	19%	19%
Conflict Of Interest	40%	47%	46%	33%	32%	50%	43%
When Law Is Broken	30%	14%	27%	43%	35%	22%	28%
Never	8%	7%	6%	10%	9%	6%	7%
Not Sure	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

6 Is your marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

552 Who Are Married	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.4%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Typical	80%	0%	80%	0%	0%	79%	81%	82%	78%	83%	80%	82%	68%	74%	81%	87%	76%	78%
Not Typical	13%	0%	13%	0%	0%	14%	11%	12%	16%	11%	10%	11%	17%	24%	13%	9%	16%	12%
Not Sure	7%	0%	7%	0%	0%	6%	8%	6%	7%	6%	11%	7%	15%	2%	7%	4%	8%	10%
Total	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Who Are Married	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	43%	57%	20%	35%	26%	18%	73%	9%	9%	8%	24%	47%	18%

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6 Is your marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

552 Who Are Married	All	Ideology			Region		
		Conser	Modera	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.4%							
Typical	80%	82%	84%	73%	76%	85%	80%
Not Typical	13%	12%	11%	17%	16%	9%	12%
Not Sure	7%	6%	6%	10%	8%	6%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Who Are Married	100%	19%	40%	19%	36%	32%	32%

7 Is the former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

1000 Adults	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3%																		
Typical	25%	41%	17%	37%	25%	32%	20%	33%	26%	23%	14%	14%	49%	51%	33%	10%	32%	28%
Not Typical	64%	50%	74%	49%	65%	59%	69%	57%	63%	69%	72%	74%	41%	42%	60%	82%	57%	59%
Not Sure	10%	9%	10%	14%	10%	10%	11%	10%	11%	8%	14%	12%	10%	6%	7%	8%	11%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

7 Is the former New York Governor Eliot Spitzer's marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

1000 Adults	All	Ideology			Region		
		Conser	Modera	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3%							
Typical	25%	21%	18%	35%	35%	16%	21%
Not Typical	64%	66%	76%	48%	54%	77%	66%
Not Sure	10%	12%	6%	16%	11%	7%	13%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

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8 Is the new, New York governor David Paterson's marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

1000 Who Are Married	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.2%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Typical	52%	65%	45%	71%	54%	53%	52%	62%	49%	53%	38%	41%	69%	76%	71%	40%	58%	48%
Not Typical	34%	26%	40%	22%	29%	36%	33%	28%	36%	34%	44%	43%	16%	21%	13%	49%	28%	35%
Not Sure	14%	9%	15%	8%	17%	12%	15%	10%	15%	13%	18%	15%	14%	3%	16%	11%	14%	17%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Who Are Married	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

8 Is the new, New York governor David Paterson's marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

1000 Who Are Married	All	Ideology			Region		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-3.2%		Conser	Modera	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Typical	52%	46%	47%	58%	60%	44%	49%
Not Typical	34%	40%	42%	26%	26%	46%	34%
Not Sure	14%	14%	11%	16%	14%	10%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Who Are Married	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

9 Is former New Jersey governor Jim McGreevy's marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

1000 Who Are Married	All	Marital Status				Gender		Age				Race				Party Affiliation		
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-2.8%		Single	Married	Separat	Divorce	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepen
Typical	12%	18%	9%	17%	14%	12%	11%	15%	10%	11%	8%	7%	18%	24%	12%	7%	13%	8%
Not Typical	73%	62%	78%	67%	75%	71%	75%	66%	75%	78%	76%	76%	62%	70%	74%	80%	72%	74%
Not Sure	15%	20%	13%	17%	10%	17%	14%	19%	15%	11%	16%	17%	20%	6%	13%	13%	15%	18%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Who Are Married	100%	28%	55%	3%	6%	47%	53%	32%	29%	22%	17%	64%	14%	14%	8%	22%	49%	18%

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9 Is former New Jersey governor Jim McGreevy's marriage typical of most marriages? Or not typical?

1000 Who Are Married	All	Ideology			Region		
		Conser	Moder	Liberal	NYC	NYC su	Upstate
Margin of Sampling Error: +/-2.8%							
Typical	12%	7%	6%	13%	16%	5%	11%
Not Typical	73%	79%	85%	65%	71%	89%	62%
Not Sure	15%	14%	9%	22%	13%	6%	26%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Who Are Married	100%	19%	34%	22%	42%	27%	32%

: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle , WABC-TV New York, WGRZ-TV Buffalo, WHEC-TV Rochester, WNYT-TV Albany

Statement of Methodology: The following statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls:How this poll was conducted: This SurveyUSA poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using Random Digit Dialed (RDD) sample provided by Survey Sampling, of Fairfield CT. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. Within the report, you will find: the geography that was surveyed; the date(s) interviews were conducted and the news organization(s) that paid for the research. The number of respondents who answered each question and the margin of sampling error for each question are provided. Where necessary, responses were weighted according to age, gender, ethnic origin, geographical area and number of adults and number of voice telephone lines in the household, so that the sample would reflect the actual demographic proportions in the population, using most recent U.S.Census estimates. In theory, with the stated sample size, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. These include refusals to be interviewed, question wording and question order, weighting by demographic control data and the manner in which respondents are filtered (such as, determining who is a likely voter). It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these factors. Fieldwork for this survey was done by SurveyUSA of Verona, NJ.