

REGIONAL VARIATION IN IDENTIFYING IMPORTANT NYS ISSUES

NY Matters Poll

Just as New York State residents' opinions vary depending on whether they live in rural or non-rural places or metro versus non-metro counties, as illustrated in the Empire State Poll, there are distinct regional variations in issue identification across the state. The *NY Matters Poll* shows these regional variations very clearly. The *NY Matters Poll* is conducted by the Center for Governmental Research (CGR see <http://www.cgr.org/>), a nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent research organization based in Rochester. See <http://www.newyorkmatters.org/> for further information on the NY Matters Project. The following text and data comes directly from the NY Matters report, but we focus on the same four issues identified above in our discussion of the metro/non-metro differences: taxes, health care, employment (jobs), and education.

The New York Matters poll identifies the issues that matter most to New York and its regions. The study interviewed 2,492 New York State residents, including the statewide benchmark of 850 residents. The statewide benchmark has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. That includes 303 Democrats and 193 Republicans; the margin of error for these groups is plus or minus 5.6 percentage points and plus or minus 7 percentage points, respectively. At least 350 residents were interviewed in each of seven regions across the state. The margin of error for each of the regions is plus or minus 5.5 percentage points.

Geography	Counties	Sample	Interviews
New York State	62 Counties	Residents	850
New York City	Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island	Residents	350
Long Island	Nassau, Suffolk	Residents	350
Western New York	Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara,	Residents	350
Finger Lakes	Allegany, Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates	Residents	350
Central New York	Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Otsego	Residents	350
Lower Hudson Valley	Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester, Delaware	Residents	350
Upper Hudson Valley	Albany, Columbia, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, Washington	Residents	350

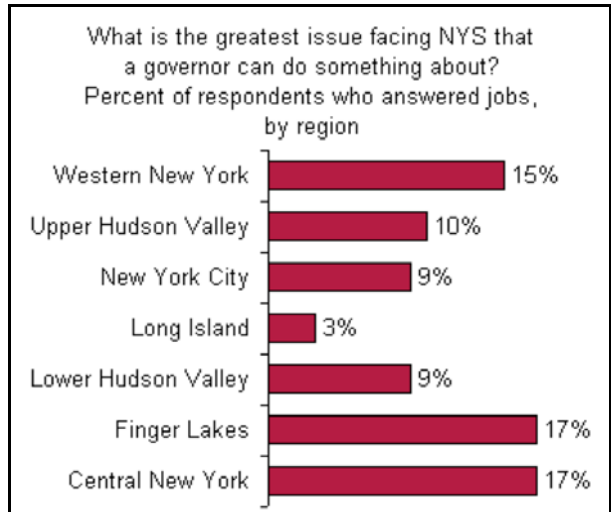
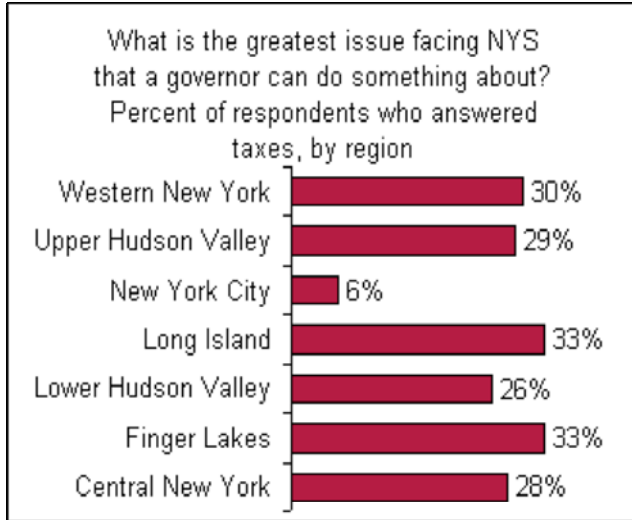
Source: Center for Governmental Research, NYS Survey 2006

New Yorkers' Priorities

Residents name taxes and education, in almost equal proportions, when asked what they believe is the greatest issue facing the state that a governor could do something about. Twenty percent say taxes and 19 percent say education. Next is jobs, the choice of 10 percent; health care, 8 percent; crime, 5 percent; and housing, 4 percent.

But taxes and education are rated differently by residents in different parts of the state, revealing a stark Upstate-Downstate dichotomy. Taxes top the list for about a third of residents of the Finger Lakes, Long Island, Western New York, the Upper Hudson Valley and Central New York. Just 6 percent of New York City residents identify taxes as the top issue; they are far more concerned

about education, with 26 percent rating that first.



What is the greatest issue facing NYS that a governor could do something about?

	Total State	Central New York	Finger Lakes	Lower Hudson Valley
Economy	3%	6%	9%	1%
Security	3%	<1%	1%	1%
Housing	4%	<1%	<1%	4%
Budget	4%	3%	2%	4%
Immigration	4%	<1%	<1%	2%
Crime	5%	2%	2%	4%
Health Care	8%	10%	6%	12%
Jobs	10%	17%	17%	9%
Education	19%	10%	11%	14%
Taxes	20%	28%	33%	26%
	Long Island	New York City	Upper Hudson Valley	Western New York
Economy	2%	2%	4%	7%
Security	2%	5%	1%	<1%
Housing	3%	9%	<1%	1%
Budget	3%	3%	6%	6%
Immigration	11%	3%	<1%	<1%
Crime	<1%	6%	2%	3%
Health Care	7%	6%	6%	11%
Jobs	3%	9%	10%	15%
Education	20%	26%	16%	8%
Taxes	33%	6%	29%	30%