

**City & State + Honan Strategy Group**  
**Survey of New York State Political Insiders and Influencers**  
**Topline Data**  
**March 20, 2020**

Survey Specifications:

- Sample Size: 200 completed interviews
- Interviewing Dates: March 5 to March 11, 2020

**Screening Questions**

1. Are you 18 years or older and registered to vote in New York State?
  - 1) Yes 95%
  - 2) No 5%
  - 9) Don't know 0%
  
2. What best describes your occupation?
  - 1) Elected Official 1%
  - 2) A staff member of an Elected Official 4%
  - 3) Political appointee in the federal, state, or municipal government 4%
  - 4) Career staff in the federal, state, or municipal government 12%
  - 5) Work for a corporation 5%
  - 6) Work for a non-profit organization 27%
  - 7) Work for a political party or interest group focused on changing public policy 3%
  - 8) Media/ Journalist 2%
  - 9) Lobbyist/Lawyer 8%
  - 10) Political consultant/PR 5%
  - 11) Candidate for office 2%
  - 12) Academic 4%
  - 13) Retired 15%
  - 14) Student 3%
  - 15) Something else 9%
  - 99) Don't know 1%

3. What political party are you registered to vote as?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1) Democrat                               | 87% |
| 2) Republican                             | 5%  |
| 3) Independence                           | 2%  |
| 4) Conservative                           | 0%  |
| 5) Working Families                       | 1%  |
| 6) Green                                  | 0%  |
| 7) Libertarian                            | 0%  |
| 8) Reform                                 | 0%  |
| 9) Women's Equality Party                 | 0%  |
| 10) Unaffiliated                          | 2%  |
| 11) Not registered with a political party | 4%  |
| 99) Don't know                            | 0%  |

4. Do you live in . . .

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1) New York City             | 62% |
| 2) The New York City suburbs | 6%  |
| 3) Albany                    | 6%  |
| 4) The Albany suburbs        | 7%  |
| 5) Long Island               | 4%  |
| 6) The Hudson Valley         | 5%  |
| 7) Upstate New York          | 9%  |
| 8) Washington, DC            | 1%  |
| 9) Somewhere else            | 1%  |
| 10) Refused/no answer        | 0%  |

### **Mood**

5. In general, do you think things in New York State are going in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track?

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1) Right direction | 56% |
| 2) Wrong track     | 38% |
| 9) Don't know      | 6%  |

6. What is the most important issue facing New York State today?

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1) Abortion                                   | 1%  |
| 2) Budget                                     | 19% |
| 3) Clean streets                              | 0%  |
| 4) Crime                                      | 1%  |
| 5) Corruption                                 | 5%  |
| 6) Drugs                                      | 1%  |
| 7) Economy/jobs                               | 9%  |
| 8) Education                                  | 8%  |
| 9) The environment                            | 8%  |
| 10) Guns/gun violence                         | 1%  |
| 11) Healthcare                                | 5%  |
| 12) Income inequality                         | 18% |
| 13) Mass transit/public transportation issues | 7%  |
| 14) Police brutality                          | 1%  |
| 15) Race issues                               | 1%  |
| 16) Taxes                                     | 6%  |
| 17) Traffic congestion                        | 0%  |
| 18) Donald Trump                              | 8%  |
| 18) Other issues                              | 6%  |
| 99) Don't know                                | 1%  |

### **Job Approval**

***The next few questions are about some New York State elected officials. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the job each official is doing.***

7. In general, would you say that you strongly approve of the job Andrew Cuomo has been doing as Governor, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of it?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1) Strongly approve    | 8%  |
| 2) Somewhat approve    | 43% |
| 3) Somewhat disapprove | 27% |
| 4) Strongly disapprove | 21% |
| 9) Don't know          | 1%  |

8. In general, would you say that you strongly approve of the job Bill de Blasio has been doing as Mayor, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of it?

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1) Strongly approve    | 0%  |
| 2) Somewhat approve    | 20% |
| 3) Somewhat disapprove | 31% |
| 4) Strongly disapprove | 43% |
| 9) Don't know          | 7%  |

### **New York State Public Policy Issues**

*The next series of questions are about some public policy issues facing New York State today.*

9. Do you think the 2020 legislative session will be more or less productive than the 2019 session, or about the same?

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1) More productive | 9%  |
| 2) Less productive | 55% |
| 3) About the same  | 32% |
| 9) Don't know      | 4%  |

10. What is the single most important public policy issue for Albany to address in the current legislative session?

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1) Budget                                    | 25% |
| 2) Criminal justice reform                   | 9%  |
| 3) Corruption                                | 3%  |
| 4) Economy/jobs                              | 9%  |
| 5) Education                                 | 10% |
| 6) The environment                           | 8%  |
| 7) Guns/gun violence                         | 0%  |
| 8) Healthcare                                | 11% |
| 9) Mass transit/public transportation issues | 9%  |
| 10) Race issues                              | 3%  |
| 11) Taxes                                    | 6%  |
| 12) Traffic congestion                       | 0%  |
| 13) Something else                           | 9%  |
| 99) Don't know                               | 1%  |

11. What is the second most important public policy issue for Albany to address in the current legislative session?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1) Budget                                    | 11% |
| 2) Criminal justice reform                   | 8%  |
| 3) Corruption                                | 9%  |
| 4) Economy/jobs                              | 12% |
| 5) Education                                 | 8%  |
| 6) The environment                           | 8%  |
| 7) Guns/gun violence                         | 2%  |
| 8) Healthcare                                | 14% |
| 9) Mass transit/public transportation issues | 13% |
| 10) Race issues                              | 1%  |
| 11) Taxes                                    | 8%  |
| 12) Traffic congestion                       | 1%  |
| 13) Something else                           | 7%  |
| 99) Don't know                               | 1%  |

12. Which of the following public policy issues are **most LIKELY** to be addressed in the current legislative session taking place in Albany?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1) Budget                                    | 75% |
| 2) Criminal justice reform                   | 66% |
| 3) Corruption                                | 3%  |
| 4) Economy/jobs                              | 14% |
| 5) Education                                 | 21% |
| 6) The environment                           | 26% |
| 7) Guns/gun violence                         | 7%  |
| 8) Healthcare                                | 34% |
| 9) Mass transit/public transportation issues | 17% |
| 10) Race issues                              | 5%  |
| 11) Taxes                                    | 19% |
| 12) Traffic congestion                       | 6%  |
| 13) Something else                           | 13% |
| 99) Don't know                               | 7%  |

13. Do you think the Specialized High School Admissions Test will be eliminated in the current legislative session as the sole criteria for acceptance into New York City's top specialized high schools?

- 1) Yes 6%
- 2) No 57%
- 9) Don't know 37%

14. One of the most immediate concerns for the governor and Legislature will be closing a projected \$6.1 billion budget gap for the next fiscal year. How do you anticipate the gap will be closed? **ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES**

- 1) Raise taxes on the wealthy 42%
- 2) Raise taxes on everyone 25%
- 3) Cut spending on programs, including healthcare 52%
- 4) Shift costs to local governments 66%
- 9) Don't know 5%

15. Do you think the ban on cash bail for misdemeanors and various non-violent felonies provisions past last year will be amended?

- 1) Yes 73%
- 2) No 15%
- 9) Don't know 12%

16. In terms of the debate on the prevailing wage, will Governor Cuomo side with the building trade unions who are close allies of his and support an expansion of prevailing wages for public works or will he side with real estate developers, who have also been big contributors to his campaigns, who opposed a prevailing wage?

- 1) The Governor will side with the building trade unions who are his close allies. 42%
- 2) The Governor will side with real estate developers, who have been big contributors to his campaigns, who opposed a prevailing wage 34%
- 9) Don't know 24%

17. Do you think the state government ethics watchdog, the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE), will be reformed or replaced?
- |                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1) Reformed                | 19% |
| 2) Replaced                | 8%  |
| 3) No changes will be made | 57% |
| 9) Don't know              | 16% |
18. Do you think there will be a cap placed on outside income for legislators after a prior version, created by an appointed commission, was struck down in court?
- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 1) Yes        | 13% |
| 2) No         | 71% |
| 9) Don't know | 16% |
19. The New York Health Act, New York's own version of a universal single-payer health care system, has been approved by the Assembly in the past, but has failed to pass the Senate. Will it finally be passed and signed into law by the Governor during the current legislative session?
- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 1) Yes        | 17% |
| 2) No         | 66% |
| 9) Don't know | 17% |
20. Do you think lawmakers will further boost school funding – even if the Cuomo administration resists?
- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 1) Yes        | 56% |
| 2) No         | 31% |
| 9) Don't know | 13% |
21. Do you think adult recreational use of marijuana will be legalized by the end of the current legislative session?
- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 1) Yes        | 57% |
| 2) No         | 28% |
| 9) Don't know | 15% |

22. Do you think the state of New York will allow paid gestational surrogacy?  
Paid gestational surrogacy lets gay and infertile couples enter into a legal contract with a surrogate in order to have a baby.

- |               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| 1) Yes        | 58% |
| 2) No         | 22% |
| 9) Don't know | 20% |

### **Media Consumption Habits**

*Now let's turn to the media you consume.*

23. What is the first publication you read in the morning?

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1) City & State's First Read | 55% |
| 2) The New York Post         | 4%  |
| 3) The Daily News            | 1%  |
| 4) The New York Times        | 27% |
| 5) The Wall Street Journal   | 1%  |
| 6) Crain's New York Business | 0%  |
| 7) Politico                  | 5%  |
| 8) Albany Times Union        | 3%  |
| 9) Newsday                   | 1%  |
| 10) Washington Post          | 2%  |
| 11) State of Politics        | 3%  |

### **Demographics**

*The remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.*

24. Which of the following categories best describes your age?

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1) 18-24              | 5%  |
| 2) 25-34              | 23% |
| 3) 35-49              | 21% |
| 4) 50-64              | 27% |
| 5) 65-75              | 20% |
| 6) 76+                | 2%  |
| 9) Don't know/refused | 3%  |

25. What is the last grade in school you completed?
- |                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1) Grade school         | 1%  |
| 2) Some high school     | 0%  |
| 3) High school graduate | 1%  |
| 4) Some college         | 9%  |
| 5) College graduate     | 28% |
| 6) Graduate school      | 62% |
| 7) Technical school     | 0%  |
| 9) Don't know/refused   | 1%  |
26. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your total family income for 2018. Please indicate which of the following categories best represents your total family income.
- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1) Less than \$20,000 | 1%  |
| 2) \$20,000-\$34,999  | 5%  |
| 3) \$35,000-\$59,999  | 11% |
| 4) \$60,000-\$99,999  | 22% |
| 5) \$100,000-150,000  | 18% |
| 6) Over \$150,000     | 27% |
| 9) Don't know/refused | 17% |
27. What is your race?
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1) White/ Caucasian                          | 79% |
| 2) Black/African-American/Caribbean-American | 4%  |
| 3) Hispanic/Latino                           | 8%  |
| 4) Asian                                     | 1%  |
| 5) Other                                     | 5%  |
| 9) Don't know                                | 3%  |
28. Are you . . .
- |           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 1) Male   | 58% |
| 2) Female | 42% |