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CLINTON AND TRUMP POISED TO REGAIN MOMENTUM IN THE EMPIRE STATE; NEW YORK LOOKS SAFE FOR DEMOCRATS IN GENERAL ELECTION MATCHUPS

BOSTON, MA – Both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump continue to hold comfortable leads in New York State heading into tomorrow's presidential primary. In the Emerson College poll, which was conducted after last Thursday's Democratic debate in Brooklyn, Clinton maintains a significant edge over Sanders, 55% to 40%. However, Sanders has cut three points from Clinton's lead since an Emerson poll last week that had her up 56% to 38%.

In the Empire State's GOP race, Trump leads his closest rival, Ohio Governor John Kasich, by a 34-point margin (55% to 21%). Texas Senator Ted Cruz is in third place with 18%. However, Cruz experienced some movement from Saturday to Sunday, bouncing up 14 points to 28% for that 24-hour span.

Clinton holds a strong lead among Democratic minority voters, with a massive advantage in key demographic groups including African Americans (72% to 22%) and Hispanics (56% to 33%). The former Secretary of State also holds the female vote (59% to 48%) and only trails Sanders by 1 point among males (49% to 48%)

Sanders maintains his strong support among 18-34 year olds, winning 61% to 31%, but he comes up short with the rest of the voting population losing the 35-54 age group 54% to 39%, ages 55-74 by a margin of 65% to 31% and those 75 and over, 71% to 29%.

Among likely Democratic voters, Clinton's favorable/unfavorable ratio is 73%/23% (+50) while Sanders is at 68%/23% (+45). However, Clinton garners far more loyalty: 71% of those who view her favorably plan to vote for her in the primary, while only 56% who have a favorable view of Sanders intend to vote for him.

Trump and Kasich have equally high favorability among GOP voters, with Trump at 64%/32% (+32) and Kasich at 60%/28% (+32). Cruz is the only candidate underwater, with a 37%/54% (-17) favorable rating. Consistent with other primaries, Trump supporters are the most loyal, with 81% of those who see him favorably planning to cast their ballot for him. In contrast, only 45% of Republicans who have a favorable opinion of Cruz say they will vote for him.

Looking ahead to the general election, the Democrats control each of the potential matchups. Clinton defeats Trump easily, 55% to 36%, while Sanders holds a 51% to 37% advantage over the New York businessman. Ted Cruz fares even worse against the opposition, losing to Clinton 59% to 28% and to Sanders 58% to 27%. John Kasich is positioned best in a hypothetical general election showdown. He trails Clinton by 10 points, 49% to 39%, with 12% undecided.

Dissatisfaction with government (40%) and defeating ISIS and terrorism (19%) are the top two issues for Republican voters in the Empire State. Among Democrats, the foremost concerns are jobs and unemployment (22%) and dissatisfaction with government (21%).

Caller ID

The Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted from April 15 to 17, 2016. The GOP primary consisted of 361 likely primary voters, with a margin of error of +/-5.11%. The Democratic primary consisted of 438 likely primary voters, with a margin of error of +/- 4.63% and weighted by age and gender, based on 2008 and 2004 exit polling. The General Election sample consisted of 1,047 likely general election voters, and weighted by 2012 general election returns with a margin of error of +/- 2.95%. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines only. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com.