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Poll shows lovefest with Rudy & Pataki

Approval ratings have soared for Mayor Giuliani and Gov. Pataki, but voters across the state are split on whether a term-limits law should be repealed so the mayor could serve a third term, a statewide poll reported yesterday.

The poll from the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute found Giuliani's approval rating had reached 90 percent in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, while Pataki's had risen to 81 percent.

But state voters were split, 48 percent to 45 percent, on whether the city's term-limits law should be repealed, a move that would allow the Republican mayor to seek a third term.

New York City voters opposed repealing term limits, 55 percent to 39 percent. Voters outside the city generally favored repealing the term-limits law.

The telephone poll of 1,262 registered voters was conducted Sept. 24-30 and has a margin of

error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

President Bush's job approval rating hit 82 percent in the latest poll.

Approval ratings for the state's two Democratic senators, Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, hit 69 percent and 59 percent, respectively.

Those are the highest approval ratings for all five elected officials ever in the Quinnipiac poll.

City voters in the new statewide poll put Giuliani's approval rating at 83 percent.

Giuliani's popularity has soared in the wake of the terrorist attacks as he sought to console the relatives and friends of victims and restore calm in the city.

The mayor has said he would like to extend his term, which ends Dec. 31, for at least three months or even possibly run for a third term.

A city term-limits law adopted by voters in 1993 bars Giuliani from serving a third consecutive term.

AP

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