NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2001

Poll: Cuomo a better bet

ALBANY — Most Democrats believe Andrew Cuomo has a better shot of unseating Gov. Pataki than does Carl McCall — even as the state controller made new gains, a poll showed yesterday.

The Marist College survey found 43% of Democrats think Cuomo has the better chance of beating Pataki, while 32% say McCall is more likely to oust the heavily favored two-term incumbent.

Cuomo is now preferred by Democrats, 41% to 37%, over McCall, the statewide poll found. That was a big pickup for McCall, who in February trailed Cuomo, 45% to 25%, in the same poll.

When asked which of the candidates was more qualified through experience to be governor, Democrats gave McCall the nod over Cuomo, 43% to 36%.

The telephone survey of 333 registered Democrats has a margin of error of plus or minus 5.5 percentage points.

Joe Mahoney

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