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## Hochul Leads Blakeman by 9 Points in New York Governor's Race; Majority Say It's Time for New Leadership

Exclusive Pollfinitly Research Survey — New York Registered Voters — June 11–14, 2026 | n=229 Completed

APTOS, CA, June 15, 2026 —

Pollfinitly Research LLC today released results of an exclusive survey of New York State registered voters on the 2026 gubernatorial race. Governor Kathy Hochul leads Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman 46% to 34% in a full-field ballot test, with 16% undecided and 4% backing Libertarian candidate Larry Sharpe. In a direct head-to-head matchup, Hochul's lead narrows to 50%–40%, with 10% undecided.

Despite her ballot lead, Hochul faces significant structural headwinds heading into 2026: **52% of voters say it is "time for new leadership" in Albany**, compared to 39% who say she deserves reelection. A majority (57%) agree — including 47% who agree strongly — that "New York needs a governor who will make real changes, not more of the same."

Hochul's overall job approval stands at 47% approve / 50% disapprove, with 38% strongly disapproving. Her net favorability is –6 points (45% favorable, 51% unfavorable). Trump's net favorability among the sample is –27 points (36% favorable, 63% unfavorable), reflecting the Democratic-leaning composition of the respondent pool.

### KEY FINDINGS

FULL-FIELD BALLOT

**Hochul 46% · Blakeman 34%**

Sharpe 4% · Undecided 16%

HEAD-TO-HEAD: HOCHUL VS. BLAKEMAN

**Hochul 50% · Blakeman 40%**

Undecided 10%

HEAD-TO-HEAD: HOCHUL VS. SHARPE

**Hochul 49% · Sharpe 25%**

NEW VS. STATUS QUO

**New Leadership 52%**

Undecided 26%

Hochul Deserves Reelection 39%

#### HOCHUL JOB APPROVAL

**Approve 47% · Disapprove 50%**

Strongly Disapprove: 38%

#### DIRECTION OF NEW YORK STATE

**Right Direction 42%**

Wrong Track 45% · Not Sure 13%

### TOP ISSUES

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Cost of Living / Inflation	<b>28%</b>
Taxes	<b>13%</b>
Crime & Public Safety	<b>10%</b>
Civil Liberties & Personal Freedom	<b>8%</b>
Government Spending & Fiscal Responsibility	<b>7%</b>
Healthcare	<b>7%</b>
Immigration	<b>6%</b>
Housing Affordability	<b>6%</b>
Economy & Jobs	<b>6%</b>

### PARTISAN DYNAMICS

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The race is defined by near-total partisan sorting. Among registered Democrats (43% of the sample), Hochul leads 78%–6%. Among registered Republicans (21%), Blakeman leads 96%–1%. The decisive persuadable universe is unaffiliated / no-party voters (30% of sample), who currently split 37%–27% for Hochul, with 26% undecided — a large enough movable bloc to determine the outcome.

### REGIONAL BREAKDOWN (FULL-FIELD)

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New York City (27% of sample) — Hochul	<b>+27 pts</b>
Long Island / NYC Suburbs (20%) — Hochul	<b>+9 pts</b>
Rest of State / Upstate (53%) — Blakeman	<b>+5 pts</b>

### GOP PRIMARY

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In a hypothetical Republican primary between Blakeman and Sharpe, Blakeman leads 37%–13%, but 51% remain undecided — driven largely by Sharpe's near-universal lack of name recognition (65% have never heard of him). Among self-identified Republicans, Blakeman is the clear choice, but Sharpe's Libertarian base and the large undecided pool leave room for the primary landscape to shift if Sharpe gains statewide visibility.

## ABOUT POLLFINITY RESEARCH LLC

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Pollfinity Research LLC is an independent, nonpartisan polling firm based in Aptos, California. The firm conducts public opinion research on elections, policy, and civic issues, with a focus on original first-party data collection using modern SMS-to-web methodology. This survey was not commissioned by any candidate, political party, or outside organization. Full data, methodology, and crosstabulations are available at [pollfinity.com](https://pollfinity.com).

**Survey Methodology:** This poll was conducted by Pollfinity Research LLC June 11–14, 2026. Respondents were registered New York State voters drawn from the L2 national voter file and recruited via SMS text message invitation to complete a Typeform web survey. 14,000 SMS messages were sent; 272 respondents initiated the survey; 229 completed the full questionnaire. The data are unweighted. The margin of sampling error is  $\pm 6.5$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level for the full sample (n=229). Subgroup margins of error are larger. Cells with fewer than 25 respondents are directional only. Percentages may not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding. EIN: 41-5279083.

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