A.M. Roundup: Both sides claim early victory in opt-out battle

By Akum Norder
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Good morning! The skies are clear and it’s getting warmer (hello daffodils). State math tests begin today for third- through eighth-graders. Both supporters and opponents of the tests see last week’s participation rates as an early sign of victory. (TU)

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is in New York City today. In other headlines:

Two JCOPE commissioners have quietly resigned, a spokesman for the ethics panel has confirmed. The resignations of David Arroyo and Joseph Covello were not publicly announced, but were indicated by the absence of their names on the masthead of JCOPE’s annual report, which was released last week. (TU)

Speaking at a Common Cause New York event on Tuesday night, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara indicated that he has his eye on the executive branch. (Politico)

The New York Racing Association’s board of directors, which came under state control in 2012, has recommended that the organization go back into private hands — but with a minority of members once again appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. (TU)

Polls! A Q poll released Tuesday and a Baruch College/NY1 poll out Monday both show Hillary Clinton leading Bernie Sanders among likely Democratic primary voters. On the GOP side, the polls give Donald Trump a commanding lead over Ted Cruz and John Kasich. A Siena poll out this morning suggests that Sanders has been whittling away at Clinton’s lead. (TU, CapCon)

He was no Springsteen, but he was close: Trump’s Albany rally drew about 15,000 people. (The Boss, in February, drew 16,000.) Trump’s Times Union Center appearance netted the county about $30,000, the facility’s general manager said. (TU)

How might the Republican candidates fare in the various regions of New York? Here’s a look. (Politico)

Medical marijuana advocates are pushing again for the state’s program to expand. (TU)

Lawmakers on the Senate Civil Service and Pensions Committee voted on Monday in favor of dumping more than $3 billion worth of fossil fuel investments from the state pension fund. State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, who runs the fund, does not support the plan; he favors holding some fossil fuel investments in the fund so that the state can influence how such companies adapt to address climate change. (TU)

In a new report, the Rockefeller Institute notes that the gambling market is becoming saturated. (CapCon)

Good read: Buffalo’s economically disadvantaged residents need jobs and new opportunities. Will the Buffalo Billion deliver on its promises? (C&S)

Up in Hoosick Falls, the state has overseen the installation of 652 water treatment systems in homes with polluted wells. But just 16 of those systems have been cleared for use. (Politico)
And here’s one more thing New Yorkers can’t agree on: Where, exactly, is the fabled land of “Upstate”? (GNS)