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**DONOR CONTROVERSY TAKES TOLL ON NJ SENATOR,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
BOOKER TOPS RIVERA 2-1 IN 2014 SENATE RACE**

New Jersey voters disapprove 41 – 36 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez is doing, a 15-point drop in less than a month, and say 44 – 28 percent that he is not honest and trustworthy, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Today’s approval rating is down from a 51 – 33 percent score in a January 23 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University and is his lowest score since August, 2011 when he had a negative 39 – 42 percent approval rating.

Democrats approve of Sen. Menendez 58 – 19 percent, while disapproval is 63 – 18 percent among Republicans and 45 – 31 percent among independent voters. Women approve 40 – 32 percent, while men disapprove 51 – 31 percent.

Seventy percent of New Jersey voters have read or heard something about the controversy involving Menendez and a political donor. Of that group:

- 59 percent say it makes them feel less favorably about the senator while 35 percent say it doesn’t affect their opinion;
- 53 percent are not satisfied with how he is handling the issue, while 28 percent are satisfied;
- 67 percent say the allegations are worth investigating, while 23 percent say they are politically motivated.

“U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez took an overseas trip and the poll numbers he left behind in New Jersey are dreadful – down 15 points in less than a month,” said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. “So much for a reelection honeymoon.

“More than two thirds of voters have heard of his troubles and the more they know, the less they approve.

**-more-**

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“Whenever a politician gets a new job, such as Sen. Menendez’ position as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the knives come out. But, by almost 3-1, voters think the Menendez charges are worth investigating. About one quarter think it’s just politics,” Carroll added.

### 2014 U.S. Senate Race

In an early look at New Jersey’s 2014 U.S. Senate race, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, the Democrat, leads TV personality Geraldo Rivera, the Republican, 59 – 23 percent. Republicans back Rivera 54 – 23 percent, while Booker leads all other political, gender, income, age and regional groups in the state.

Booker leads 52 – 30 percent among men and 64 – 17 percent among women.

New Jersey voters give the Newark mayor a 59 – 11 percent favorability rating, including 47 – 24 percent among Republicans.

Rivera gets a negative 20 – 39 percent favorability. Republicans have a 34 – 25 percent favorable opinion, the only group with a positive opinion of Rivera.

“If TV personality Geraldo Rivera is just testing the water for a U.S. Senate run in New Jersey, he might find that the water is colder than the Atlantic Ocean in February,” Carroll said.

“Meanwhile, Garden State voters give U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg a nice going-away gift, a 48 – 32 percent job approval rating.”

President Barack Obama gets a 57 – 40 percent job approval.

From February 13 – 17, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,149 registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information or RSS feed, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

2. If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Cory Booker the Democrat and Geraldo Rivera the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Booker	59%	23%	87%	57%	52%	64%	52%	77%
Rivera	23	54	4	21	30	17	27	9
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	-	2	3	1	2	1
DK/NA	15	16	9	19	13	17	16	12

  

	COLLEGE DEG	AGE IN	YRS.....			ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Booker	63%	55%	64%	62%	53%	56%	63%	60%
Rivera	22	23	19	22	26	21	21	27
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2	-	2	2	2	2	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	1
DK/NA	11	18	16	12	16	20	12	10

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Booker	68%	61%	55%	59%	50%
Rivera	18	22	31	20	23
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	-	2	-	4
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	2	3	2	2
DK/NA	12	15	9	19	20

7. Is your opinion of Cory Booker favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	59%	47%	73%	57%	62%	57%	58%	67%
Unfavorable	11	24	3	8	14	9	13	4
Hvn't hrd enough	28	26	23	35	23	32	27	28
REFUSED	1	3	1	1	1	2	2	1

  

	COLLEGE DEG	AGE IN	YRS.....			ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Favorable	69%	53%	53%	66%	58%	51%	60%	69%
Unfavorable	11	11	10	9	13	10	14	11
Hvn't hrd enough	19	34	36	25	27	38	23	19
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	71%	61%	72%	43%	51%
Unfavorable	15	11	14	7	9
Hvn't hrd enough	14	25	14	50	38
REFUSED	1	2	-	-	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Cory Booker favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 21	Jan 23	Nov 28	Sep 05
	2013	2013	2012	2012
Favorable	59	54	52	49
Unfavorable	11	16	13	11
Hvn't hrd enough	28	29	33	38
REFUSED	1	2	1	1

8. Is your opinion of Frank Lautenberg favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	40%	23%	56%	39%	37%	43%	42%	39%
Unfavorable	29	53	7	32	36	23	37	3
Hvn't hrd enough	28	21	34	26	24	31	19	56
REFUSED	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2

  

	COLLEGE DEG	AGE IN	YRS.....	ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD	INCOME		
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Favorable	49%	34%	21%	46%	44%	34%	43%	47%
Unfavorable	32	27	13	27	38	22	33	34
Hvn't hrd enough	17	35	64	25	13	39	23	18
REFUSED	2	3	1	2	4	5	2	2

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	39%	42%	41%	38%	38%
Unfavorable	18	27	38	27	35
Hvn't hrd enough	41	27	19	33	23
REFUSED	1	4	1	2	4

TREND: Is your opinion of Frank Lautenberg favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 21	Jan 23	Jun 11
	2013	2013	2008
Favorable	40	42	40
Unfavorable	29	32	31
Hvn't hrd enough	28	23	26
REFUSED	3	3	4

9. Is your opinion of Geraldo Rivera favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	20%	34%	14%	17%	21%	19%	23%	15%
Unfavorable	39	25	46	39	41	36	38	38
Hvn't hrd enough	40	39	39	43	36	43	38	47
REFUSED	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	-

  

	COLLEGE DEG	AGE IN	YRS.....	ANNUAL	HOUSEHOLD	INCOME		
	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Favorable	19%	21%	12%	20%	24%	24%	18%	20%
Unfavorable	44	35	30	43	38	33	43	41
Hvn't hrd enough	35	43	55	36	36	42	36	38
REFUSED	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	1

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Favorable	18%	21%	22%	18%	20%
Unfavorable	39	39	42	34	39
Hvn't hrd enough	41	38	35	46	41
REFUSED	2	2	1	2	-

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	36%	18%	58%	31%	31%	40%	30%	47%
Disapprove	41	63	19	45	51	32	50	15
DK/NA	23	19	23	24	18	28	21	38

HEARD OR READ ABOUT CONTROVERSY Q21...

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	11%	62%	27%	26%	39%
Disapprove	51	75	23	55	63	40
DK/NA	16	14	15	18	11	21

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert Menendez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Feb 21 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012	Jul 18 2012	May 16 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Nov 28 2012	Low Feb 20 2008
Approve	36	51	56	46	44	56	30
Disapprove	41	33	29	32	30	29	31
DK/NA	23	15	14	22	26	14	39

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Frank Lautenberg is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	48%	31%	67%	45%	44%	52%	45%	54%
Disapprove	32	54	12	36	42	25	39	14
DK/NA	19	15	21	19	14	24	15	32

COLLEGE DEG AGE IN YRS..... ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	<50K	50-100	>100K
Approve	52%	46%	47%	52%	47%	49%	46%	52%
Disapprove	34	31	24	29	39	24	38	36
DK/NA	14	23	29	19	14	27	16	12

Philly  
Urban SbUrbn ExUrbn land Shore

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Approve	55%	49%	46%	53%	40%
Disapprove	22	33	41	27	37
DK/NA	23	19	12	20	24

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Frank Lautenberg is handling his job as United States Senator? (\*High also 55% Sep 1999 & Jul 1999)

	Feb 21 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012	Sep 05 2012	Jul 18 2012	APPROVE.....	
						High Jul 27 2000*	Low Feb 20 2008
Approve	48	50	49	44	44	55	39
Disapprove	32	34	33	36	36	22	31
DK/NA	19	16	19	20	20	23	29

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	57%	11%	93%	55%	46%	66%	46%	95%
Disapprove	40	87	6	38	51	31	49	4
DK/NA	3	1	1	7	3	4	4	1

  

	COLLEGE DEG	AGE IN YRS.....	ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME
	Yes No	18-34 35-54 55+	<50K 50-100 >100K
Approve	58%	55%	66%
Disapprove	40	40	31
DK/NA	2	5	3

	Philly				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	land	Shore
Approve	72%	60%	40%	65%	46%
Disapprove	26	38	56	33	46
DK/NA	2	2	3	2	7

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	APPROVE.....						
	High			Low			
	Feb 21 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 27 2012	Jul 18 2012	May 16 2012	Jun 10 2009	Oct 13 2011
Approve	57	58	59	51	53	68	43
Disapprove	40	39	38	45	43	25	52
DK/NA	3	3	3	4	4	7	5

20. Would you say that Robert Menendez is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	28%	13%	44%	22%	26%	29%	23%	40%
No	44	68	26	46	52	38	53	15
DK/NA	28	19	31	31	22	33	24	45

	HEARD OR READ ABOUT CONTROVERSY Q21...					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	24%	7%	45%	19%	21%	26%
No	56	79	33	57	63	49
DK/NA	21	14	23	23	16	25

TREND: Would you say that Robert Menendez is honest and trustworthy or not?

	Feb 21 2013	Sep 20 2006	Jun 15 2006
Yes	28	33	38
No	44	24	21
DK/NA	28	43	41

21. Have you heard or read anything about the controversy surrounding Senator Menendez and his ties to a political donor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	70%	76%	66%	72%	72%	68%	77%	51%
No	28	23	31	26	25	30	22	48
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	3	2	1	-

22. Does this controversy make you think less favorably of Senator Menendez or doesn't it make a difference?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Less favorably	48%	65%	35%	47%	52%	44%	58%	22%
No difference	40	24	54	38	38	42	31	63
DK/NA	12	11	11	15	10	14	11	15

HEARD OR READ ABOUT CONTROVERSY Q21...

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Less favorably	59%	76%	45%	59%	61%	58%
No difference	35	21	48	35	35	35
DK/NA	6	3	8	6	4	8

23. Are you satisfied or not satisfied with the way Senator Menendez is handling this matter?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Satisfied	28%	16%	41%	23%	24%	30%	22%	36%
Not satisfied	42	62	25	44	48	37	49	23
DK/NA	30	21	34	32	27	33	29	42

HEARD OR READ ABOUT CONTROVERSY Q21...

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Satisfied	28%	15%	47%	22%	24%	32%
Not satisfied	53	73	31	57	60	46
DK/NA	19	12	22	21	16	22

24. Do you think the controversy surrounding Senator Menendez and his ties to a political donor is worth investigating or do you think it is politically motivated?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Worth investigating	60%	76%	45%	64%	62%	58%	63%	46%
Politically motivatd	23	11	39	17	22	24	21	37
BOTH (VOL)	4	3	4	6	5	4	5	2
DK/NA	12	10	11	13	12	13	11	15

HEARD OR READ ABOUT CONTROVERSY Q21...

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Worth investigating	67%	83%	49%	71%	69%	65%
Politically motivatd	23	12	40	17	21	24
BOTH (VOL)	6	3	6	8	6	6
DK/NA	4	3	5	4	3	5