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**BOOKER LEADS IN FIRST LOOK AT NEW JERSEY SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
CHRISTIE BURIES BUONO 2-1**

Newark Mayor Cory Booker has substantial leads over relatively unknown Democratic primary and general election opponents in a first look at the New Jersey U.S. Senate race by the Quinnipiac University poll today.

Mayor Booker gets 53 percent of the Democratic primary vote, with 10 percent for U.S. Rep. Rush Holt and 9 percent for U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds. Another 23 percent are undecided. The survey concluded Sunday night, before State Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver tossed her hat into the ring.

In a general election matchup, Booker tops Republican Steve Lonegan 54 – 27 percent. Other possible matchups are closer as Pallone leads Lonegan 39 – 29 percent and Holt tops the Republican 36 – 31 percent.

New Jersey voters have a 57 – 14 percent favorable opinion of Booker, while 25 percent don't know enough about him to form an opinion. The "don't know enough" measures for the other contenders are:

- Pallone – 68 percent;
- Holt – 67 percent;
- Lonegan – 62 percent.

"It's Newark Mayor Cory Booker in a runaway in this first look at the special election to fill the U.S. Senate seat held by the late Frank Lautenberg," said Maurice Carroll, director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"Who are those other guys? The record shows that Congressmen Frank Pallone and Rush Holt are big in their districts, but, state-wide, no one knows them."

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“Steve Lonegan gets the close-to-one-third Republican vote against any of the other three. He's up there with Pallone and Holt on the anonymity scale,” Carroll added.

“Two cautionary notes: Booker has the recognition but does he have – as the two Democratic Congressmen do – an organization? What effect will State Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver have on our next poll?”

Governor's Race

In the New Jersey governor's race, Republican incumbent Gov. Christopher Christie leads State Sen. Barbara Buono, the Democratic challenger, 59 – 29 percent, a 2-1 margin that is virtually unchanged from Christie's 58 – 26 percent in an April 24 Quinnipiac University poll.

Christie even leads 57 – 32 percent among women and 62 – 26 percent among men.

New Jersey voters approve 69 – 27 percent of the job Christie is doing, again the highest job approval of any governor in the eight states surveyed by Quinnipiac University. Voters say 65 – 28 percent that Christie deserves to be reelected and give him a 63 – 27 percent favorability.

Buono gets a negative 18 – 23 percent favorability, with 56 percent who don't know enough about her to form an opinion.

Voters approve 33 – 26 percent of Christie's appointment of State Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa to replace Lautenberg in the U.S. Senate and approve 50 – 40 percent of the governor's decision to hold a special election in October.

New Jersey voters have mixed opinions on why Christie called a special election in October, but say 62 – 29 percent that the decision was based more on politics than principle.

“A choice and a voice,” Gov. Christie said of the unusual election schedule, but overwhelmingly, voters say he scheduled the Senate election away from his own election because of politics, not principle,” Carroll said.

“Voters don't seem upset over the fortuitous timing, an August primary when everyone's at the Shore and a vote on an October Wednesday. And Christie holds his humungous lead over Sen. Barbara Buono.”

From June 6 – 9, Quinnipiac University surveyed 858 New Jersey voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.4 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones. The survey includes 306 Democrats with a margin of error of +/- 5.6 percentage points.

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

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

1. (If Registered Democrat) If the Democratic primary for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Cory Booker, Rush Holt, and Frank Pallone, for whom would you vote?

	REGISTERED DEMOCRATS		
	Tot	Men	Wom
Booker	53%	57%	51%
Holt	10	12	9
Pallone	9	9	8
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	5	4
DK/NA	23	16	28

2. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Barbara Buono the Democrat and Christopher Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Buono	29%	2%	62%	18%	26%	32%
Christie	59	95	25	70	62	57
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	2	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	-	1	3	2	1
DK/NA	9	2	12	8	8	9

TREND: If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Barbara Buono the Democrat and Christopher Christie the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Jun 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	Mar 26 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012	Oct 17 2012
Buono	29	26	25	25	22	23	33
Christie	59	58	60	62	63	61	49
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	9	13	13	12	13	14	17

3. Is your opinion of Christopher Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	63%	93%	34%	71%	64%	62%
Unfavorable	27	5	51	20	29	26
Hvn't hrd enough	4	2	6	2	2	5
REFUSED	6	-	9	7	6	6

TREND: Is your opinion of Christopher Christie favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him? (*High also 69% Jan 2013, Feb 2013)

	Jun 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	Mar 26 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 23 2013	FAVORABLE.....	
						High Mar 26 2013*	Low Aug 12 2008
Favorable	63	66	69	69	69	69	21
Unfavorable	27	24	22	22	21	22	7
Hvn't hrd enough	4	5	6	6	6	6	69
REFUSED	6	4	4	3	4	4	2

4. Is your opinion of Barbara Buono favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	18%	4%	35%	13%	17%	19%
Unfavorable	23	39	7	27	23	22
Hvn't hrd enough	56	56	55	57	57	56
REFUSED	3	1	3	4	4	2

TREND: Is your opinion of Barbara Buono favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Jun 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	Mar 26 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012
Favorable	18	12	10	8	8	8
Unfavorable	23	9	10	8	9	7
Hvn't hrd enough	56	78	79	83	82	84
REFUSED	3	1	1	1	-	1

5. If the election for United State Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Cory Booker the Democrat, and Steve Lonegan the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Booker	54%	18%	85%	50%	52%	55%
Lonegan	27	70	3	25	33	23
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	4	3	2
DK/NA	16	11	11	21	11	21

6. If the election for United State Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Frank Pallone the Democrat and Steve Lonegan the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Pallone	39%	6%	75%	28%	38%	39%
Lonegan	29	72	3	29	34	25
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	-	3	3	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	4	3	4	3	4
DK/NA	27	17	19	36	21	32

7. If the election for United State Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Rush Holt the Democrat and Steve Lonegan the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Holt	36%	5%	70%	28%	36%	36%
Lonegan	31	73	4	29	37	25
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	4	2	4	3	4
DK/NA	29	17	23	38	22	34

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	57%	44%	70%	56%	58%	57%
Unfavorable	14	22	5	19	16	13
Hvn't hrd enough	25	31	23	23	23	27
REFUSED	3	4	2	3	3	3

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

	Jun 10 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012	Sep 05 2012
Favorable	57	59	54	52	49
Unfavorable	14	11	16	13	11
Hvn't hrd enough	25	28	29	33	38
REFUSED	3	1	2	1	1

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	21%	12%	32%	19%	27%	16%
Unfavorable	9	15	2	13	9	10
Hvn't hrd enough	68	73	66	67	62	74
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	1	1

10. Is your opinion of Rush Holt favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	20%	11%	32%	18%	24%	17%
Unfavorable	11	18	7	10	12	11
Hvn't hrd enough	67	70	60	69	63	71
REFUSED	2	1	2	2	2	2

11. Is your opinion of Steve Lonegan favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	25%	52%	7%	27%	31%	20%
Unfavorable	12	4	20	9	16	8
Hvn't hrd enough	62	44	72	62	52	71
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	1	1

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

	Jun 10 2013	May 20 2009	Apr 22 2009	Mar 12 2009	Feb 04 2009
Favorable	25	19	20	15	15
Unfavorable	12	11	7	7	6
Hvn't hrd enough	62	68	72	77	78
REFUSED	1	2	1	1	1

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Christopher Christie is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	69%	96%	41%	78%	71%	66%
Disapprove	27	3	52	18	26	27
DK/NA	5	1	8	4	4	6

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Christopher Christie is handling his job as Governor? (*High also 74% Jan 2013, **Low also 44% Jun 2010)

	Jun 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	Mar 26 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 23 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						Feb 20 2013*	Jun 21 2011**
Approve	69	67	70	74	74	74	44
Disapprove	27	24	23	22	21	22	47
DK/NA	5	9	7	4	5	4	10

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	53%	12%	88%	48%	48%	58%
Disapprove	41	86	9	44	46	37
DK/NA	5	2	2	7	6	4

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

	Jun 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	Mar 26 2013	Feb 21 2013	Jan 23 2013	APPROVE.....	
						High	Low
						Jun 10 2009	Oct 13 2011
Approve	53	57	54	57	58	68	43
Disapprove	41	38	42	40	39	25	52
DK/NA	5	5	4	3	3	7	5

14. Do you feel that Christopher Christie deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Deserves	65%	93%	35%	76%	66%	64%
No/Does not	28	5	54	19	28	28
DK/NA	7	2	11	5	5	8

TREND: Do you feel that Christopher Christie deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Jun 10 2013	Apr 24 2013	Mar 26 2013	Feb 20 2013	Jan 23 2013	Nov 28 2012	Oct 17 2012
Yes/Deserves	65	66	66	71	68	67	52
No/Does not	28	26	25	23	24	25	40
DK/NA	7	7	9	6	7	9	8

15. Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Christie's choice of Jeffrey Chiesa to replace Frank Lautenberg in the United States Senate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	52%	20%	36%	35%	32%
Disapprove	26	10	43	22	31	22
DK/NA	40	38	37	42	34	46

16. Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Christie's decision to hold the special US Senate election to replace Frank Lautenberg in October?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	50%	65%	35%	55%	49%	51%
Disapprove	40	25	54	36	43	37
DK/NA	10	10	11	8	8	12

17. Governor Christie says that it's important to hold the election in October so that New Jersey voters can elect a new US Senator as soon as possible. Do you agree or disagree?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Agree	58%	75%	46%	58%	55%	60%
Disagree	38	22	51	38	42	35
DK/NA	4	2	4	5	3	5

18. Some people say that Governor Christie decided against holding the senate election at the same time as the election for governor because he was concerned that it might help his Democratic opponent for governor. Do you agree or disagree?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Agree	48%	37%	61%	44%	55%	41%
Disagree	39	50	27	43	36	41
DK/NA	13	13	12	13	9	18

19. Do you think Governor Christie's decision to hold the senate election in October was based more on politics or more on principle?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More on politics	62%	44%	78%	61%	66%	58%
More on principle	29	45	15	30	28	30
DK/NA	9	12	8	10	6	12