

FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

**NEW JERSEY VOTERS SAY NO TO REELECTING MENENDEZ,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
IF MENENDEZ GOES, NEW GOV SHOULD NAME REPLACEMENT**

New Jersey voters say 50 – 20 percent, with 30 percent undecided, that U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez does not deserve reelection next year, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Sen. Menendez gets a negative 31 – 49 percent job approval rating, his lowest rating since a split 30 – 31 percent rating in a February 20, 2008, survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

Democrats approve by an anemic 45 – 35 percent and voters 18 to 34 years old are divided 37 – 33 percent. Every other party, gender, education, age or racial group disapproves.

New Jersey voters disapprove 79 – 16 percent of the job Gov. Christopher Christie is doing as he clings to the title as the governor with the lowest approval rating in any state surveyed by Quinnipiac University in more than 20 years.

Even Republicans disapprove 61 – 35 percent.

Garden State voters disapprove 61 – 32 percent of the job President Donald Trump is doing, compared to a 66 – 28 percent disapproval June 14.

“This survey was conducted as federal prosecutors opened their case against U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez – perhaps poisoning the landscape. If Sen. Menendez is convicted, he obviously won’t be in the running next year. If he is acquitted, who knows,” said Maurice Carroll, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“President Donald Trump’s home away from home is his New Jersey golf course. But neighborhood doesn’t insure political support. Far from it.”

New Jersey voters approve 55 – 29 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Cory Booker is doing, compared to his all-time high 58 – 28 percent approval rating June 14.

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Quinnipiac University Poll/September 14, 2017 – page 2

Only 3 percent of voters say Gov. Christie should appoint himself as U.S. Senator if Sen. Robert Menendez is forced to leave the Senate. Another 24 percent say Christie should appoint someone else and 68 percent say Christie should wait for the new governor to appoint a Senator to replace Menendez.

Minimum Wage, Marijuana, Gun Control

New Jersey voters support 74 – 24 percent, including a narrow 50 – 46 percent among Republicans, increasing the \$8.44 per hour minimum wage in the state. Voter options for the minimum wage are:

- 9 percent say there should be no increase;
- 49 percent say there should be an increase to something less than \$15 per hour;
- 32 percent say \$15 per hour should be the new minimum wage;
- 8 percent say the minimum wage should be higher than \$15 per hour.

Garden State voters support 59 – 38 percent allowing adults to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use. Every listed group supports legalized marijuana, except Republicans, who are opposed 53 – 43 percent, and voters over 65 years old, who are divided, with 47 percent in favor and 50 percent opposed.

But 55 percent of voters say they would “definitely not try” marijuana if it were legal. Nine percent say they would “definitely try” it and 12 percent say they would “probably try it.”

Marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol, 12 percent of voters say, while 38 percent say it is less dangerous and 46 percent say marijuana and alcohol are equally as dangerous.

New Jersey voters support 96 – 3 percent requiring background checks for all gun buyers. Support is 94 percent or higher among every group.

If more people carried guns, New Jersey would be less safe, 63 percent of voters say, while 28 percent say it would be safer.

From September 7 – 12, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,121 New Jersey registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points, including the design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

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

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4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	32%	72%	4%	34%	39%	27%	34%	49%
Disapprove	61	22	91	59	53	68	62	43
DK/NA	7	6	5	6	9	6	3	9

	AGE IN	YRS.....	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....	
							Men	Wom
Approve	22%	30%	36%	38%	48%	34%	41%	16%
Disapprove	72	66	59	55	47	60	54	77
DK/NA	6	5	5	7	5	6	6	7

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	16%	35%	5%	17%	19%	13%	16%	20%
Disapprove	79	61	92	78	76	81	81	73
DK/NA	5	4	2	5	5	6	3	7

	AGE IN	YRS.....	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....	
							Men	Wom
Approve	14%	13%	17%	19%	20%	15%	18%	13%
Disapprove	84	84	78	71	75	79	77	82
DK/NA	2	3	5	9	4	6	5	5

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	24%	21%	28%	23%	23%	25%	24%	17%
Disapprove	56	60	52	57	60	52	58	58
DK/NA	20	19	20	19	17	23	17	25

	AGE IN	YRS.....	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....	
							Men	Wom
Approve	31%	25%	21%	23%	20%	22%	21%	30%
Disapprove	46	60	60	57	63	54	58	52
DK/NA	24	15	19	20	17	24	21	18

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Cory Booker is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	55%	28%	81%	52%	49%	61%	57%	43%
Disapprove	29	55	8	31	37	22	33	41
DK/NA	16	17	11	17	14	17	10	16
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	56%	57%	55%	55%	45%	56%	51%	66%
Disapprove	24	26	33	32	44	29	36	15
DK/NA	21	17	11	13	11	15	13	19

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	31%	20%	45%	27%	25%	36%	31%	26%
Disapprove	49	65	35	53	55	45	56	53
DK/NA	20	15	20	21	20	20	13	21
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	37%	30%	29%	31%	21%	34%	28%	36%
Disapprove	33	57	54	51	63	47	55	40
DK/NA	31	12	17	18	16	19	17	24

9. Do you feel that Robert Menendez deserves to be reelected, or do you feel that he does not deserve to be reelected?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Deserves	20%	12%	29%	19%	19%	21%	19%	18%
No/Does not	50	61	41	50	54	46	57	54
DK/NA	30	27	30	31	27	33	24	28
	AGE IN	YRS.....			WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes/Deserves	25%	17%	21%	21%	17%	18%	18%	26%
No/Does not	36	54	55	50	63	49	55	40
DK/NA	39	28	25	28	20	33	27	34

10. If Senator Menendez is forced to leave the U.S. Senate, do you think Governor Christie should appoint himself as Senator, appoint someone else as Senator, or do you think Governor Christie should wait for the new governor to appoint someone as Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Appoint himself	3%	5%	-	4%	2%	4%	3%	5%
Appoint someone else	24	38	14	25	26	22	26	25
Wait for new Gov	68	53	82	68	67	70	66	66
DK/NA	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Appoint himself	5%	1%	4%	2%	3%	5%	4%	1%
Appoint someone else	17	25	26	25	30	22	25	20
Wait for new Gov	76	72	65	65	64	69	66	75
DK/NA	2	2	5	8	4	4	4	4

11. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in New Jersey today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Very satisfied	2%	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	1%	3%
Smwht satisfied	32	39	31	29	31	33	31	32
Smwht dissatisfied	38	39	39	39	38	38	41	41
Very dissatisfied	27	20	29	28	28	26	27	24
DK/NA	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Very satisfied	6%	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%
Smwht satisfied	43	28	27	33	32	31	32	35
Smwht dissatisfied	35	45	32	41	42	39	40	32
Very dissatisfied	15	26	38	23	24	26	25	29
DK/NA	1	-	1	2	-	1	1	1

15. Would you support or oppose raising the minimum wage in New Jersey, which is now \$8.44 an hour?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	74%	50%	92%	73%	69%	78%	71%	72%
Oppose	24	46	7	23	27	21	28	25
DK/NA	3	4	-	4	4	1	1	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Support	81%	71%	73%	76%	69%	74%	72%	81%
Oppose	18	26	26	22	28	24	26	18
DK/NA	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	1

16. Which comes closest to your point of view regarding raising the state's minimum wage over the next several years: there should be no increase in the minimum wage, there should be an increase in the minimum wage but not as high as \$15.00 an hour, there should be an increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour, or there should be an increase in the minimum wage higher than \$15.00 an hour?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
No increase	9%	18%	2%	10%	12%	6%	12%	8%
Increase < \$15.00	49	70	37	48	51	48	54	63
Increase to \$15.00	32	9	46	35	29	34	28	26
Increase > \$15.00	8	3	14	6	5	11	6	2
DK/NA	1	-	1	2	2	1	-	-

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
No increase	9%	10%	8%	9%	13%	7%	10%	6%
Increase < \$15.00	50	51	51	47	62	55	58	35
Increase to \$15.00	33	32	31	32	21	32	27	41
Increase > \$15.00	7	7	10	9	3	5	4	17
DK/NA	1	1	-	2	-	1	1	2

17. To help balance the state budget, do you support or oppose reducing pension benefits for new state workers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	38%	55%	28%	40%	41%	35%	46%	36%
Oppose	54	36	66	53	52	56	47	51
DK/NA	8	9	6	7	7	9	7	13

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Support	34%	40%	44%	35%	46%	38%	42%	33%
Oppose	57	54	51	52	47	51	49	62
DK/NA	9	7	5	13	7	12	10	5

18. Do you believe the state of New Jersey has an obligation to fix public employee pensions, even if it means raising taxes, or don't you think so?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Obligation	49%	34%	60%	51%	52%	48%	58%	42%
No	44	60	35	41	43	45	36	50
DK/NA	7	5	5	8	6	7	6	8

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Yes/Obligation	57%	54%	50%	41%	51%	49%	50%	50%
No	41	40	46	47	43	43	43	45
DK/NA	3	6	5	12	5	8	7	5

19. Would you support or oppose raising taxes on people who earn more than one million dollars to help fund public employee pensions?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	72%	48%	88%	71%	68%	75%	67%	67%
Oppose	24	49	8	26	28	21	30	30
DK/NA	4	4	3	3	3	5	3	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Support	84%	75%	63%	69%	65%	68%	67%	82%
Oppose	15	21	33	25	33	27	30	14
DK/NA	1	3	4	6	2	4	3	4

20. Would you support or oppose raising taxes across the board to help fund public employee pensions?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	30%	24%	36%	28%	31%	30%	30%	31%
Oppose	65	72	58	67	65	64	66	63
DK/NA	5	4	6	4	4	6	4	6

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Support	31%	31%	32%	30%	29%	31%	30%	31%
Oppose	67	65	65	60	68	62	65	64
DK/NA	2	5	3	10	3	7	5	5

21. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in New Jersey to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	59%	43%	70%	60%	62%	56%	58%	56%
Oppose	38	53	26	36	34	41	38	39
DK/NA	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	5

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Support	69%	65%	60%	47%	64%	51%	57%	62%
Oppose	27	32	35	50	31	45	38	35
DK/NA	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	3

22. If marijuana were legalized for recreational use in New Jersey would you definitely try it, probably try it, probably not try it, or definitely not try it?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Definitely try	9%	7%	8%	10%	13%	5%	9%	10%
Probably try	12	8	13	13	15	8	11	14
Probably not try	21	19	23	20	19	22	21	21
Definitely not try	55	65	51	53	50	60	58	54
DK/NA	3	-	4	5	2	4	2	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Definitely try	14%	12%	6%	8%	14%	5%	9%	10%
Probably try	21	9	13	8	15	9	12	12
Probably not try	36	15	20	14	19	23	21	18
Definitely not try	28	58	59	69	50	62	56	55
DK/NA	-	6	4	1	1	2	2	5

23. Do you think marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol, less dangerous than alcohol, or about equally as dangerous as alcohol?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
More	12%	16%	10%	12%	11%	13%	12%	13%
Less	38	28	47	35	42	34	32	36
Equally	46	55	40	50	45	48	53	48
NEITHER ARE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	4	2	2	4	3	5	2	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
More	8%	9%	13%	16%	11%	14%	13%	10%
Less	62	39	36	23	38	30	34	45
Equally	29	48	50	54	49	53	51	39
NEITHER ARE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	1	4	1	8	1	3	2	6

24. Do you support or oppose stricter gun laws in New Jersey?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	57%	32%	78%	56%	45%	67%	62%	45%
Oppose	38	64	18	40	50	28	35	48
DK/NA	5	3	4	5	5	4	3	7

	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
					Men	Wom		
Support	58%	57%	59%	59%	41%	66%	54%	63%
Oppose	38	40	39	34	55	29	41	33
DK/NA	4	3	2	7	4	5	5	4

	Gun HsHld
Support	25%
Oppose	73
DK/NA	2

25. Do you support or oppose requiring background checks for all gun buyers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	96%	97%	96%	97%	95%	97%	97%	96%
Oppose	3	2	4	2	4	2	3	3
DK/NA	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1

	AGE IN 18-34	YRS..... 35-49	50-64	65+	WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
					Men	Wom		
Support	98%	96%	98%	95%	94%	99%	97%	96%
Oppose	2	3	2	4	5	1	3	3
DK/NA	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	1

	Gun HsHld
Support	94%
Oppose	5
DK/NA	1

26. Do you think it is too easy to buy a gun in New Jersey today, too difficult to buy a gun in New Jersey today, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Too easy	31%	16%	43%	28%	20%	40%	36%	25%
Too difficult	16	28	5	16	27	5	14	18
About right	33	37	27	37	38	28	33	38
DK/NA	21	19	25	19	15	26	18	19

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Too easy	25%	30%	34%	40%	21%	40%	31%	32%
Too difficult	13	12	20	13	26	6	16	14
About right	48	39	26	26	43	28	35	29
DK/NA	15	19	20	21	11	25	18	25

	Gun HsHld
Too easy	14%
Too difficult	34
About right	46
DK/NA	6

27. Do you think any new gun laws will interfere with the right to own guns, or do you think it's possible to make new gun laws without interfering with gun rights?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Will interfere	24%	42%	12%	23%	29%	19%	25%	28%
Won't interfere	65	50	79	63	62	67	69	57
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
DK/NA	11	9	8	12	8	14	6	16

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Will interfere	20%	20%	27%	24%	32%	20%	26%	20%
Won't interfere	73	73	64	55	61	65	63	69
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1
DK/NA	7	7	8	19	6	15	11	10

	Gun HsHld
Will interfere	43%
Won't interfere	48
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	-
DK/NA	9

28. If more people carried guns, do you think New Jersey would be safer or less safe?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							Yes	No
Safer	28%	52%	11%	27%	39%	19%	26%	37%
Less safe	63	35	84	63	51	74	66	50
DK/NA	9	13	4	9	10	8	8	13

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Safer	31%	29%	29%	23%	41%	22%	31%	23%
Less safe	64	59	63	69	48	69	59	73
DK/NA	5	11	8	8	11	9	10	4

	Gun HsHld
Safer	59%
Less safe	28
DK/NA	13