

**FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 3, 2018**

**WOMEN GIVE MENENDEZ 11-POINT LEAD IN NEW JERSEY,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
VOTERS OPPOSE KAVANAUGH CONFIRMATION BY WIDE MARGIN**

With a big lift from New Jersey women, U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, the Democratic incumbent, leads former pharmaceutical executive Bob Hugin, the Republican challenger, 53 – 42 percent among likely voters, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

Only 5 percent of likely voters remain undecided, but 13 percent of voters who do name a candidate say they could change their mind by Election Day.

Women back Sen. Menendez 57 – 38 percent, while men are divided 48 – 48 percent.

This is the first survey of likely voters in this race by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll and can not be compared to earlier surveys of registered voters.

Republicans go to Hugin 93 – 6 percent, as Democrats back Menendez 93 – 6 percent. Independent voters are divided with 48 percent for Hugin and 43 percent for Menendez.

The incumbent leads 67 – 26 percent among non-white voters. White voters are divided with 49 percent for Hugin and 48 percent for Menendez.

New Jersey likely voters give Menendez a split 46 – 44 percent job approval rating and a big negative 34 – 53 percent favorability rating. Hugin gets a positive 35 – 27 percent favorability rating, with 34 percent who don't know enough about him to form an opinion.

“Sen. Robert Menendez has the advantage of representing very blue New Jersey, where there are many more Democrats than Republicans,” said Mary Snow, polling analyst for the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Also working to his advantage is that 63 percent of New Jersey voters want Congress to be more of a check on President Donald Trump. That number is even higher among women.”

**-more-**

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New Jersey likely voters say 59 – 25 percent that Sen. Menendez is not honest. But Menendez cares about average people, voters say 48 – 39 percent.

Hugin is honest, voters say 39 – 24 percent. He cares about average people, voters say 38 – 31 percent, with 31 percent undecided.

“New Jersey likely voters may prefer Sen. Menendez over Republican challenger Bob Hugin, but they certainly make it clear they are not fond of Menendez,” Snow added.

“Only one quarter of voters believe the incumbent is honest. Hugin, a former pharmaceutical executive, scores higher on honesty, at 39 percent, but just about as many people don’t know enough about him to say for sure.”

### **Judge Brett Kavanaugh**

New Jersey likely voters say 59 – 35 percent that the U.S. Senate should not confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Women oppose his confirmation 65 – 28 percent and men are opposed 51 – 42 percent. The only listed party, gender, education or racial group to support the confirmation are Republicans, 76 – 14 percent. White men are divided, with 50 percent for confirmation and 44 percent opposed.

### **Gov. Murphy, Sen. Booker, President Trump**

New Jersey likely voters approve 54 – 34 percent of the job Gov. Phil Murphy is doing. Approval is 89 – 5 percent among Democrats and 47 – 40 percent among independent voters. Republicans disapprove 73 – 13 percent.

Voters approve 58 – 37 percent of the job U.S. Sen. Cory Booker is doing.

President Donald Trump gets a negative 35 – 62 percent job approval rating. The only listed group to approve of the president are Republicans, 81 – 17 percent.

Congress should be “more of a check on President Trump,” 63 percent of voters say, while 28 percent say Congress is doing enough to check the president.

From September 25 – October 2, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,058 New Jersey likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts gold standard surveys using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones. The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts nationwide surveys and polls in more than a dozen states on national and statewide elections, as well as public policy issues.

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1. If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Robert Menendez the Democrat and Bob Hugin the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Robert Menendez the Democrat or more toward Bob Hugin the Republican?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Menendez	53%	6%	93%	43%	48%	57%	52%	43%
Hugin	42	93	6	48	48	38	46	53
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	5	1	2	8	4	5	2	4
	WHITE.....			Non				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Menendez	38%	54%	48%	67%				
Hugin	59	41	49	26				
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-				
DK/NA	2	4	3	7				

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1		
	Tot	Menendez	Hugin
Mind made up	86%	85%	88%
Might change	13	15	10
DK/NA	1	1	2

2. Is your opinion of Robert Menendez favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Favorable	34%	6%	64%	22%	28%	38%	31%	30%
Unfavorable	53	86	25	60	61	47	60	59
Hvn't hrd enough	11	7	8	15	9	12	6	10
REFUSED	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	2
	WHITE.....			Non				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Favorable	23%	36%	31%	41%				
Unfavorable	68	53	59	38				
Hvn't hrd enough	6	9	8	17				
REFUSED	2	2	2	3				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Favorable	35%	77%	10%	36%	41%	30%	38%	43%
Unfavorable	27	5	48	20	23	31	29	21
Hvn't hrd enough	34	15	38	41	33	35	29	34
REFUSED	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	1
	WHITE.....			Non				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Favorable	49%	34%	40%	23%				
Unfavorable	20	30	26	31				
Hvn't hrd enough	29	33	31	40				
REFUSED	2	3	2	5				

4. Would you say that Robert Menendez - is honest, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	25%	5%	48%	15%	24%	25%	23%	22%
No	59	87	35	67	65	55	65	65
DK/NA	16	8	18	18	11	20	13	13
	WHITE.....			Non				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Yes	19%	25%	22%	32%				
No	73	59	65	47				
DK/NA	8	16	13	22				

5. Would you say that Robert Menendez - cares about average people, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	48%	19%	75%	42%	47%	50%	49%	41%
No	39	71	15	41	42	36	40	46
DK/NA	13	10	11	17	12	14	11	13
	WHITE.....			Non				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Yes	41%	48%	45%	56%				
No	48	39	43	28				
DK/NA	11	13	12	16				

6. Would you say that Bob Hugin - is honest, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	39%	80%	16%	39%	49%	31%	42%	47%
No	24	5	39	19	22	26	23	17
DK/NA	37	15	45	42	29	43	36	36
	WHITE.....				Non			
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Yes	56%	35%	44%	29%				
No	16	23	20	34				
DK/NA	28	42	36	37				

7. Would you say that Bob Hugin - cares about average people, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes	38%	79%	18%	35%	45%	32%	39%	47%
No	31	8	49	26	28	34	32	24
DK/NA	31	14	33	39	27	34	29	29
	WHITE.....				Non			
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Yes	51%	37%	43%	26%				
No	24	31	28	39				
DK/NA	25	32	29	35				

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Phil Murphy is handling his job as governor?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Approve	54%	13%	89%	47%	50%	57%	52%	44%
Disapprove	34	73	5	40	40	29	38	42
DK/NA	11	14	7	13	10	13	10	14
	WHITE.....				Non			
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	41%	54%	48%	69%				
Disapprove	48	34	40	22				
DK/NA	11	13	12	9				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
	Approve	58%	14%	94%	50%	50%	65%	55%
Disapprove	37	78	5	42	45	30	41	45
DK/NA	5	8	1	7	5	5	5	5
	WHITE.....				Non			
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	41%	60%	52%	72%				
Disapprove	54	34	43	22				
DK/NA	4	6	5	6				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
	Approve	46%	12%	78%	37%	40%	51%	46%
Disapprove	44	81	15	51	53	38	48	51
DK/NA	10	6	8	12	7	11	6	8
	WHITE.....				Non			
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	35%	51%	44%	51%				
Disapprove	60	41	49	33				
DK/NA	5	8	7	16				

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
	Approve	35%	81%	4%	36%	41%	30%	37%
Disapprove	62	17	95	59	57	67	60	54
DK/NA	3	2	1	5	3	3	3	3
	WHITE.....				Non			
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Approve	49%	33%	40%	22%				
Disapprove	48	64	58	76				
DK/NA	2	3	3	2				

12. In general, would you like to see Congress be more of a check on President Trump, or do you think Congress is doing enough to be a check on President Trump?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
More of a check	63%	20%	94%	60%	58%	67%	61%	55%
Doing enough	28	57	5	33	34	24	30	37
LESS OF A CHECK (VOL)	3	9	-	2	3	3	5	3
DK/NA	6	13	1	5	5	6	5	6
WHITE.....							Non	
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
More of a check	50%	64%	58%	77%				
Doing enough	41	27	33	18				
LESS OF A CHECK (VOL)	5	3	4	-				
DK/NA	5	6	5	5				

13. As you may know, President Trump has nominated Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, or not?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Yes/Confirm	35%	76%	5%	39%	42%	28%	38%	44%
No	59	14	93	53	51	65	55	51
DK/NA	7	10	2	8	6	7	7	5
WHITE.....							Non	
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht				
Yes/Confirm	50%	35%	41%	19%				
No	44	60	53	73				
DK/NA	7	6	6	7				