

FOR RELEASE: NOVEMBER 5, 2018

**MENENDEZ HAS 15-POINT LEAD IN NEW JERSEY SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
INDEPENDENT VOTERS SWING BACK TO DEMOCRAT**

A shift by independent likely voters gives U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, the Democratic incumbent, a 55 – 40 percent lead over Bob Hugin, the Republican challenger in the New Jersey U.S. Senate race, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

Only 4 percent of likely voters remain undecided, and 6 percent of voters who do name a candidate say they could change their mind by Election Day.

Today’s results compare to a 51 – 44 percent lead by Sen. Menendez in an October 17 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Independent voters, women and non-white voters are the key to Menendez’ support:

- Independent voters back Menendez 53 – 39 percent, compared to 51 – 44 percent for Hugin October 17. Democrats back Menendez 89 – 8 percent, as Republicans back Hugin 95 – 4 percent;
- The Democrat leads 51 – 44 percent among men and 58 – 38 percent among women;
- The incumbent leads 71 – 19 percent among non-white voters. White voters are divided with 50 percent for Hugin and 47 percent for Menendez.

“While they may hold their nose to cast a ballot for Sen. Bob Menendez, voters signal they want to keep New Jersey’s Senate seat in the ‘D’ column in a blue state where President Donald Trump consistently remains unpopular,” said Mary Snow, polling analyst for the Quinnipiac University Poll.

From October 29 – November 4, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,115 New Jersey likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4 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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Call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll) @QuinnipiacPoll.

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	55%	4%	89%	53%	51%	58%	52%	41%
Hugin	40	95	8	39	44	38	45	56
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	-
DK/NA	4	1	3	6	4	4	2	2

	WHITE.....		Non	
	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Menendez	42%	51%	47%	71%
Hugin	55	47	50	19
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1
DK/NA	2	2	2	8

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Menendez	48%	56%	36%	45%
Hugin	50	42	60	53
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	-
DK/NA	1	2	4	1

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Menendez	5%	3%	82%	92%	55%	50%
Hugin	93	96	14	4	37	42
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	2	1
DK/NA	2	1	4	3	6	7

	AREA.....				
	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly land	Shore
Menendez	62%	57%	45%	62%	46%
Hugin	31	38	51	32	52
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	3	-	1
DK/NA	7	4	2	6	1

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.....			
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1		
	Menendez	Hugin		
Mind made up	93%	95%	92%	
Might change	6	5	7	
DK/NA	1	-	1	