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**SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY GAS TAX HIKE DROPS,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
MENENDEZ SHOULD RESIGN, VOTERS SAY**

After an historic, but brief, glimmer of support for raising the New Jersey gas tax in April, voters now oppose 62 – 35 percent increasing the state gasoline tax to finance road and mass transit improvements, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

With the exception of an April 21 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University, showing 50 percent of voters supported a gas tax hike, with 47 percent opposed, New Jersey voters have opposed a gas tax hike by wide margins in every survey since the question was first asked in a January 27, 2005, survey.

Democrats shift from 63 – 35 percent in support in April to 50 – 44 percent opposed today. Republican opposition goes from 56 – 43 percent to 74 – 24 percent. Independent voters go from 51 – 46 opposed to 59 – 39 percent opposed.

New Jersey voters support 55 – 40 percent reducing the so-called death tax, the inheritance tax. Support is 67 – 31 percent among Republicans and 57 – 38 percent among independent voters, with Democrats opposed 54 – 41 percent.

But voters oppose 56 – 33 percent reducing the inheritance tax if that tax cut is tied to an increase in the gas tax. Republicans, Democrats and independent voters all oppose this deal.

“New Jersey voters like their gasoline tax just the way it is, the second lowest in the nation,” said Quinnipiac University Poll Assistant Director Maurice Carroll.

“They’ve opposed raising it for years. New Jersey politicians are beginning to think a gas tax hike is the only source of money to fix the state’s roads and bridges.

“Good luck convincing the voters.”

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“After this month’s election strengthened the Democratic majority in the State Assembly, politicians think the time to tackle the going-broke Transportation Trust Fund would be now, when state voters have a long time to get over their annoyance. We’ll see. The next New Jersey election isn’t until 2017,” Carroll added.

“What will happen? People who know Trenton are leery of predicting.”

A total of 92 percent of New Jersey voters say it is “very important” or “somewhat important” to repair the existing rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan. All party, gender, age and regional groups agree.

A total of 75 percent of all New Jersey voters say adding a second rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan is “very important” or “somewhat important.” While feelings about the importance of a second tunnel are less than about repairing the existing tunnel, they still top 65 percent among all listed groups.

“Talk of replacing the 105-year-old railroad tunnel under the Hudson escalated last summer when left-over damage from Hurricane Sandy caused huge delays,” Carroll said. “Something has to be done, voters agree, but they’re more interested in repairs, rather than adding a second tunnel.”

Sen. Robert Menendez

New Jersey voters give Sen. Robert Menendez a negative 36 – 42 percent approval rating and say 53 – 39 percent that he should resign. Calling for Menendez’s resignation are Republicans 62 – 31 percent and independent voters 56 – 35 percent. Democrats are divided as 49 percent say he should stay and 43 percent say he should resign.

Sen. Cory Booker gets a 48 – 29 percent job approval rating.

President Barack Obama gets a negative 45 – 52 percent job approval rating.

“Sen. Robert Menendez, facing federal corruption charges, should quit, voters say. They split over whether what he did was illegal or simply unethical. But they think the prosecutors’ charges were based on fact, not prompted by politics,” Carroll said.

From November 4 – 8, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,456 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 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, Iowa, Colorado 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](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	26%	28%	29%	21%	23%	28%	31%	22%	27%	26%
Disapprove	54	53	51	60	60	50	44	56	58	55
DK/NA	20	19	20	19	17	23	25	22	15	19

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	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	48%	32%	72%	46%	43%	53%	61%	42%	49%	50%
Disapprove	29	48	12	29	37	23	17	38	27	28
DK/NA	22	21	16	25	20	24	22	20	24	22

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	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	36%	31%	47%	29%	33%	38%	40%	30%	38%	39%
Disapprove	42	50	33	45	45	38	24	47	48	39
DK/NA	23	19	20	25	21	24	36	23	15	22

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	45%	9%	83%	45%	43%	47%	58%	41%	44%	45%
Disapprove	52	89	15	53	56	50	38	56	55	54
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	1	3	4	3	2	2

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	25%	21%	34%	20%	24%	26%	33%	22%	25%	27%
No	48	54	42	49	51	44	33	52	55	43
DK/NA	27	25	25	31	25	29	34	27	21	30

22. Would you say that Robert Menendez - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	42%	32%	61%	33%	43%	41%	45%	37%	44%	44%
No	38	48	23	45	42	35	24	43	42	36
DK/NA	20	21	16	22	15	24	31	21	14	20

23. Would you say that Robert Menendez - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	36%	25%	48%	33%	36%	36%	45%	30%	37%	38%
No	41	49	32	44	42	39	20	47	45	38
DK/NA	23	26	20	23	22	25	35	24	18	23

24. As you may know, a federal grand jury has indicted New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez on charges of bribery. He has been accused of using the influence of his office to advance the business interests of a longtime friend and political supporter in exchange for nearly a million dollars in gifts and campaign donations. Which of the following statements best describes your view of Robert Menendez's actions in these matters: He did something illegal, he did something unethical, but nothing illegal, or he did not do anything seriously wrong?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Illegal	42%	53%	33%	42%	42%	42%	48%	47%	44%	33%
Unethical/Not illegl	39	32	45	43	39	39	32	42	37	43
Not seriously wrong	7	6	10	3	8	5	6	4	7	9
DK/NA	12	9	12	11	11	13	14	7	12	16

25. Do you think Robert Menendez should or should not resign from the Senate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Should resign	53%	62%	43%	56%	52%	53%	60%	60%	52%	44%
Should not	39	31	49	35	40	38	28	34	42	45
DK/NA	9	6	8	8	9	9	11	7	6	11

26. Do you think prosecutors have brought this case against Menendez on the basis of the facts of the case, or out of political motivation?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Basis of the facts	47%	54%	44%	50%	53%	42%	37%	54%	51%	46%
Political motivation	34	31	38	32	32	35	41	30	34	33
DK/NA	19	15	18	19	14	23	22	16	15	21

27. Would you describe the state of New Jersey's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Excellent	1%	2%	-	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	-	1%
Good	31	40	26	28	31	31	46	32	25	27
Not so good	46	42	47	51	45	46	32	47	50	51
Poor	20	16	23	18	20	21	17	17	26	18
DK/NA	2	-	4	1	3	2	3	4	-	2

28. Do you think New Jersey's economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Better	13%	18%	10%	11%	12%	13%	18%	13%	13%	9%
Worse	23	18	29	21	19	26	16	22	27	22
The same	62	61	60	66	67	58	62	63	60	65
DK/NA	2	2	-	2	2	2	3	2	1	4

29. To help finance road improvements and mass transportation, would you support or oppose an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	35%	24%	44%	39%	38%	32%	33%	30%	39%	44%
Oppose	62	74	50	59	61	62	66	68	58	47
DK/NA	3	2	5	2	2	5	1	3	2	9

AREA.....
 Urban SbUrbn ExUrbn Philly land Shore COMMUTE TO NYC Yes No

Support	36%	36%	36%	36%	31%	52%	33%
Oppose	59	63	58	62	64	47	63
DK/NA	5	2	6	2	4	1	4

30. Do you support or oppose reducing the so-called death tax, the tax people pay on an inheritance when someone dies?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	55%	67%	41%	57%	58%	52%	52%	58%	56%	53%
Oppose	40	31	54	38	38	43	46	40	38	40
DK/NA	5	2	5	5	4	5	2	2	6	7

AREA.....
 Urban SbUrbn ExUrbn Philly land Shore COMMUTE TO NYC Yes No

Support	47%	58%	56%	53%	57%	60%	54%
Oppose	47	39	39	43	38	38	41
DK/NA	6	4	5	4	4	3	5

31. Would you support or oppose reducing the inheritance tax if this cut were linked to an increase in the gasoline tax?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	33%	35%	32%	36%	36%	30%	38%	37%	32%	31%
Oppose	56	58	59	54	56	57	52	58	59	52
DK/NA	11	8	9	10	8	13	10	5	10	16

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Support	33%	37%	31%	33%	28%	37%	33%
Oppose	56	50	58	60	65	56	56
DK/NA	11	14	11	7	7	7	11

32. There is currently one rail tunnel carrying Amtrak and NJ Transit trains between New Jersey and Manhattan. How important do you think it is to repair the existing rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very important	69%	61%	78%	70%	66%	71%	70%	66%	70%	68%
Somewhat important	23	27	17	25	23	22	20	27	22	22
Not so important	3	6	2	2	3	3	6	3	3	1
Not important at all	3	4	1	3	4	1	4	2	3	1
DK/NA	3	3	2	2	4	2	-	-	2	8

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Very important	75%	75%	67%	55%	65%	75%	68%
Somewhat important	16	19	27	33	23	18	23
Not so important	2	3	1	3	6	1	3
Not important at all	3	2	2	5	3	6	2
DK/NA	5	1	3	5	3	-	3

33. How important do you think it is to add a second rail tunnel between New Jersey and Manhattan; very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Very important	44%	32%	60%	41%	45%	43%	48%	42%	44%	46%
Somewhat important	31	36	22	36	26	35	31	33	30	31
Not so important	14	17	9	14	16	12	16	13	16	10
Not important at all	7	10	5	7	9	6	5	10	7	5
DK/NA	4	5	4	3	4	4	-	2	4	9

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly		COMMUTE TO NYC	
				land	Shore	Yes	No
Very important	58%	49%	42%	34%	35%	67%	42%
Somewhat important	24	31	36	33	30	20	32
Not so important	13	13	11	13	19	9	15
Not important at all	3	5	8	13	10	4	8
DK/NA	2	2	3	7	6	-	4

34. Do you commute to New York City for work or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	AGE IN YRS.....			
							18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Yes	10%	9%	10%	12%	12%	9%	16%	13%	11%	2%
No	90	91	90	88	88	91	84	87	89	98
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

AREA.....

	Urban	SbUrbn	ExUrbn	Philly	
				land	Shore
Yes	23%	10%	8%	4%	8%
No	77	90	92	96	92
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	-