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NEW JERSEY: DEMOCRATS PREFERRED IN MIDTERMS DESPITE BIDEN’S POOR RATINGS

*Booker, Menendez ratings stable;
Dem voters want to move up presidential primary*

West Long Branch, NJ – New Jerseyans prefer to keep Democrats in control of Congress, but it’s not a large enough edge to avoid the possibility of some close contests this November. The **Monmouth (“Mon-muth”) University Poll** finds that public opinion of President Joe Biden continues to be underwater while ratings for the state’s Democratic U.S. senators remain positive. Democrats support a bid to make the Garden State one of the nation’s first presidential primaries.

Just over half of New Jerseyans either prefer (43%) or lean toward (9%) keeping the Democrats in power in Congress. About 4 in 10 want to switch to Republican control (34% prefer and 7% lean). A national Monmouth poll conducted [last month](#) produced a more divided result (46% of Americans wanted Democratic control and 45% wanted Republican control).

The current findings are in line with a similar question Monmouth asked New Jersey voters in April 2020, when 50% indicated they would support the Democratic candidate for Congress and 38% would back the Republican. Democratic House candidates ended up with a 15-point edge in the cumulative statewide vote that year, although 5 of the state’s 12 districts had margins of 8 points or less. Back in the 2018 midterm election, Democrats held a 19-point advantage in Monmouth’s April polling (54% to 35%) and ended up with a 21-point margin in the final statewide vote tally.

“It’s important to keep in mind that we are measuring leadership preference rather than vote intention with this question. Still, these results suggest that we could see a similar turnout pattern to two years ago. That means there should be some close House races, depending on how the president is doing in the fall and the impact of redistricting,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Currently, Biden has a net negative job rating of 45% approve to 50% disapprove in New Jersey, a state he won by 16 points in 2020. The president’s rating was positive into last summer, but dropped significantly right before last year’s gubernatorial election. Among Black, Latino, and Asian residents, Biden holds a 51% approve to 40% disapprove rating. Last May, he had a much larger 69% to 24% positive margin with this group. His current rating among white New Jerseyans is a negative 42% approve to 56% disapprove (compared with 45% to 50% in May 2021).

New Jersey opinion of the president’s job performance is lower than ratings given to other Democratic officeholders. Specifically, Sen. Cory Booker has a 53% approve to 32% disapprove rating and Sen. Bob Menendez has a 42% approve to 38% disapprove rating. In a Monmouth poll [released yesterday](#), Gov. Phil Murphy holds a 55% approve to 35% disapprove rating. Unlike Biden, the current ratings for these three officeholders are similar to public opinion of their job performance one year ago.

“New Jersey is fundamentally a blue state. The fact that Biden is doing so poorly here suggests he has lost enthusiasm among core constituencies in his own base,” said Murray.

The poll also asked New Jerseyans about moving up the state’s presidential primary in 2024. Just over half (52%) support shifting the primary from June to February to become among the first in the nation, while 34% are opposed to this move. Most Democrats (60%) and independents (53%) support this idea, but fewer Republicans (39%) back it.

“A shake-up of the nation’s presidential primary calendar is long overdue. New Jersey’s Democratic leadership has put in a bid to be among the first contests and most of the party’s rank-and-file are on board with that,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from March 31 to April 4, 2022 with 802 New Jersey adults. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1 held for future release.]

[Q2-3 previously released.]

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?

<i>All adults</i>	April 2022
Approve	45%
Disapprove	50%
(VOL) No opinion	5%
(n)	(802)

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	April 2022	Oct. 2021	Aug. 2021	May 2021
Approve	47%	43%	51%	55%
Disapprove	49%	49%	41%	40%
(VOL) No opinion	4%	8%	9%	5%
(n)	(738)	(1,000)	(810)	(661)

[QUESTIONS 5 & 6 WERE ROTATED]

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bob Menendez is doing as United States Senator?

<i>All adults</i>	April 2022
Approve	42%
Disapprove	38%
(VOL) No opinion	20%
(n)	(802)

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	April 2022	Sept. 2021	May 2021	April 2020	Sept. 2019	Feb. 2019
Approve	44%	43%	46%	44%	37%	40%
Disapprove	39%	35%	38%	38%	45%	45%
(VOL) No opinion	17%	22%	16%	18%	18%	15%
(n)	(738)	(804)	(661)	(635)	(651)	(549)

TREND: <i>Registered voters continued</i>	April 2018	July 2017	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2013	April 2013	Feb. 2013
Approve	37%	41%	41%	38%	42%	49%	45%	47%	51%	49%	47%	44%	41%
Disapprove	38%	35%	31%	38%	38%	27%	30%	34%	31%	30%	27%	38%	31%
(VOL) No opinion	25%	23%	28%	23%	20%	24%	26%	19%	18%	21%	26%	18%	28%
(n)	(632)	(758)	(703)	(453)	(441)	(712)	(680)	(717)	(690)	(690)	(698)	(694)	(697)

TREND: <i>Registered voters continued</i>	April 2012	Feb. 2012	Oct. 2011	Aug. 2011	May 2011	July 2010	Oct. 2008	April 2008	Jan. 2008
Approve	40%	41%	43%	38%	46%	38%	34%	41%	37%
Disapprove	25%	26%	29%	33%	28%	33%	25%	31%	25%
(VOL) No opinion	35%	33%	28%	29%	26%	29%	41%	28%	37%
(n)	(692)	(709)	(693)	(730)	(725)	(747)	(900)	(720)	(698)

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Cory Booker is doing as United States Senator?

<i>All adults</i>	April 2022
Approve	53%
Disapprove	32%
(VOL) No opinion	15%
(n)	(802)

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	April 2022	Sept. 2021	May 2021	April 2020	Sept. 2019	Feb. 2019
Approve	55%	51%	57%	51%	45%	48%
Disapprove	33%	32%	36%	34%	40%	38%
(VOL) No opinion	12%	17%	6%	14%	16%	14%
(n)	(738)	(804)	(661)	(635)	(651)	(549)

TREND: <i>Registered voters</i>	April 2018	July 2017	May 2016	July 2015	May 2015	Feb. 2015	Sept. 2014	June 2014	April 2014	Feb. 2014	Dec. 2013
Approve	54%	50%	53%	45%	51%	51%	42%	48%	47%	47%	37%
Disapprove	31%	31%	21%	24%	21%	21%	23%	25%	23%	20%	21%
(VOL) No opinion	15%	20%	27%	31%	27%	27%	35%	27%	30%	32%	43%
(n)	(632)	(758)	(703)	(453)	(441)	(712)	(680)	(717)	(690)	(690)	(698)

7. Looking ahead to this year’s midterm elections, would you rather see the Republicans or the Democrats in control of Congress, or doesn’t this matter to you? [*CHOICES WERE ROTATED*] [*If DOES NOT MATTER: If you had to lean one way or the other would you pick the Republicans or the Democrats?*]

	April 2022
Republicans	34%
Not matter, but lean Rep	7%
Democrats	43%
Not matter, but lean Dem	9%
Does not matter, no lean	6%
(VOL) Don't know	0%
(n)	(802)

8. Some New Jersey leaders are looking to move the state’s presidential primary election in 2024 from June to February in order to be one of the first primaries in the nation. Do you support or oppose moving up New Jersey’s presidential primary to be among the first in the nation?

	April 2022
Support	52%
Oppose	34%
(VOL) Don't know	14%
(n)	(802)

[Q9-14 previously released.]

[Q15-45 held for future release.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from March 31 to April 4, 2022 with a probability-based random sample of 802 New Jersey adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 280 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 522 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Troidahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. The full sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information (ACS 2018 one-year survey). Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and Dynata (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

NJ Regions (by county)

North – Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, Warren

Central – Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset

South – Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem

DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)	
Self-Reported	
24% Republican	
40% Independent	
36% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
28% 18-34	
34% 35-54	
38% 55+	
58% White	
12% Black	
19% Hispanic	
11% Asian/Other	
61% No degree	
39% 4 year degree	

MARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted sample	moe (+/-)
TOTAL		802	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	738	3.6%
	No	64	12.3%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	171	7.5%
	Independent	325	5.4%
	Democrat	298	5.7%
REGION	North	359	5.2%
	Central	203	6.9%
	South	234	6.4%
GENDER	Male	392	5.0%
	Female	410	4.8%
AGE	18-34	191	7.1%
	35-54	306	5.6%
	55+	301	5.7%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	510	4.3%
	Other	270	6.0%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	316	5.5%
	4 year degree	486	4.5%
INCOME	<\$50K	128	8.7%
	\$50 to <\$100K	227	6.5%
	\$100K+	405	4.9%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	286	5.8%
	No	516	4.3%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/07/22

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?	Approve	45%	47%	30%	7%	37%	79%	46%	49%	39%
	Disapprove	50%	49%	55%	92%	53%	19%	49%	46%	53%
	[VOL] Dont know	5%	4%	16%	1%	10%	2%	5%	5%	8%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?	Approve	39%	50%	40%	44%	50%	42%	51%	41%	51%
	Disapprove	53%	46%	48%	51%	48%	56%	40%	54%	42%
	[VOL] Dont know	8%	4%	12%	5%	1%	3%	10%	5%	6%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?	Approve	40%	50%	45%	40%	47%
	Disapprove	54%	45%	50%	54%	48%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	5%	5%	7%	5%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
5. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bob Menendez is doing as United States Senator?	Approve	42%	44%	24%	17%	35%	66%	43%	43%	38%
	Disapprove	38%	39%	28%	63%	43%	16%	39%	36%	37%
	[VOL] Dont know	20%	17%	48%	19%	22%	17%	17%	21%	25%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
5. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bob Menendez is doing as United States Senator?	Approve	36%	47%	38%	38%	48%	40%	47%	41%	43%
	Disapprove	46%	30%	32%	42%	38%	43%	28%	37%	40%
	[VOL] Dont know	18%	23%	30%	19%	14%	17%	25%	22%	18%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
5. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Bob Menendez is doing as United States Senator?	Approve	46%	46%	37%	38%	44%
	Disapprove	28%	33%	45%	39%	38%
	[VOL] Dont know	26%	21%	18%	23%	19%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/07/22

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
6. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Cory Booker is doing as United States Senator?	Approve	53%	55%	34%	20%	47%	85%	57%	55%	47%
	Disapprove	32%	33%	24%	64%	36%	8%	31%	30%	36%
	[VOL] Dont know	15%	12%	42%	17%	18%	8%	12%	15%	17%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
6. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Cory Booker is doing as United States Senator?	Approve	47%	59%	56%	54%	51%	46%	64%	51%	57%
	Disapprove	39%	25%	24%	34%	36%	40%	19%	32%	31%
	[VOL] Dont know	14%	16%	20%	12%	13%	13%	17%	17%	12%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
6. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Cory Booker is doing as United States Senator?	Approve	56%	54%	54%	52%	54%
	Disapprove	21%	31%	37%	35%	31%
	[VOL] Dont know	23%	15%	10%	13%	16%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
7. Looking ahead to this years midterm elections, would you rather see the Republicans or the Democrats in control of Congress, or doesnt this matter to you? [with leaners] [Parties were rotated]	Republicans	34%	35%	31%	92%	29%	4%	33%	32%	38%
	Not matter, but lean R	7%	7%	11%	7%	13%	1%	7%	6%	9%
	Democrats	43%	45%	24%	1%	29%	86%	44%	47%	36%
	Not matter, but lean D	9%	7%	20%	0%	14%	8%	7%	9%	11%
	Does not matter, no lean	6%	6%	12%	0%	14%	1%	7%	5%	6%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
7. Looking ahead to this years midterm elections, would you rather see the Republicans or the Democrats in control of Congress, or doesnt this matter to you? [with leaners] [Parties were rotated]	Republicans	39%	30%	22%	37%	41%	44%	20%	37%	30%
	Not matter, but lean R	7%	7%	11%	7%	5%	8%	6%	9%	5%
	Democrats	38%	48%	39%	43%	47%	40%	48%	38%	50%
	Not matter, but lean D	9%	9%	19%	4%	5%	4%	15%	9%	8%
	Does not matter, no lean	7%	6%	8%	10%	2%	3%	11%	7%	5%
	[VOL] Dont know	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 4/07/22

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
7. Looking ahead to this years midterm elections, would you rather see the Republicans or the Democrats in control of Congress, or doesnt this matter to you? [with leaners] [Parties were rotated]	Republicans	32%	31%	37%	35%	34%
	Not matter, but lean R	13%	7%	3%	10%	6%
	Democrats	36%	44%	49%	38%	45%
	Not matter, but lean D	11%	11%	7%	7%	9%
	Does not matter, no lean	8%	7%	4%	10%	5%
	[VOL] Dont know	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
8. Some New Jersey leaders are looking to move the states presidential primary election in 2024 from June to February in order to be one of the first primaries in the nation. Do you support or oppose moving up New Jerseys presidential primary...?	Support	52%	52%	51%	39%	53%	60%	51%	50%	55%
	Oppose	34%	35%	25%	48%	31%	27%	33%	34%	34%
	[VOL] Dont know	14%	13%	24%	13%	16%	13%	16%	16%	11%

		GENDER		AGE			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD	
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree
8. Some New Jersey leaders are looking to move the states presidential primary election in 2024 from June to February in order to be one of the first primaries in the nation. Do you support or oppose moving up New Jerseys presidential primary...?	Support	54%	49%	65%	53%	41%	46%	62%	50%	54%
	Oppose	33%	34%	23%	31%	44%	39%	26%	37%	29%
	[VOL] Dont know	12%	17%	12%	16%	15%	16%	13%	13%	17%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
8. Some New Jersey leaders are looking to move the states presidential primary election in 2024 from June to February in order to be one of the first primaries in the nation. Do you support or oppose moving up New Jerseys presidential primary...?	Support	56%	49%	54%	56%	50%
	Oppose	31%	39%	30%	30%	35%
	[VOL] Dont know	13%	13%	16%	14%	15%