

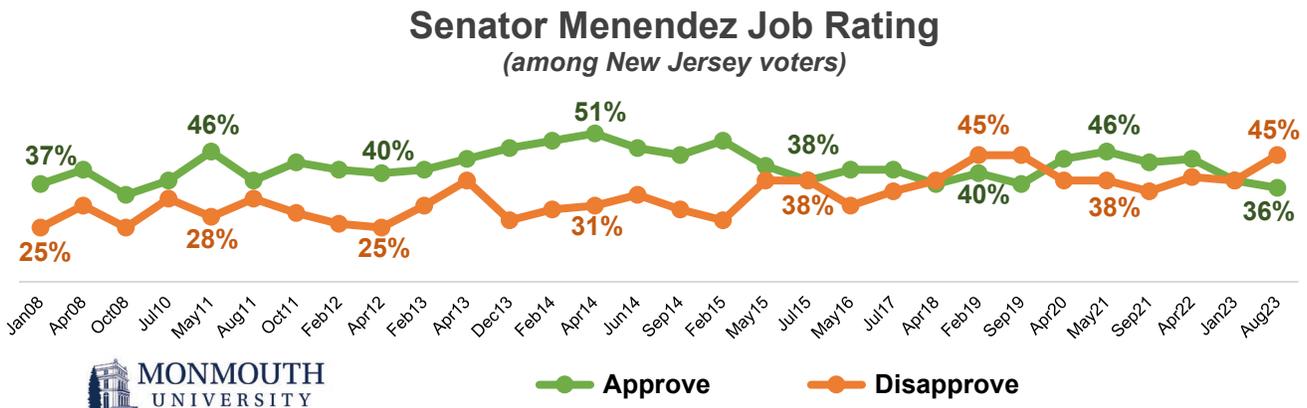
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NEW JERSEY: MENENDEZ RATING DROPS

Booker, Biden ratings also decline

West Long Branch, NJ – Public opinion of federal officeholders in New Jersey has dipped in the past year, but U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez is the only one who has lost ground with fellow Democrats. The latest *Monmouth (“Mon-muth”) University Poll* finds that most residents feel a current federal investigation involving the state’s senior senator has at least some impact on his ability to serve. Other poll results show that Sen. Cory Booker retains a net positive rating in the state but has lost ground with independents and Republicans, while President Joe Biden has gone from a split rating to a more negative view mainly due to a decline among independents.



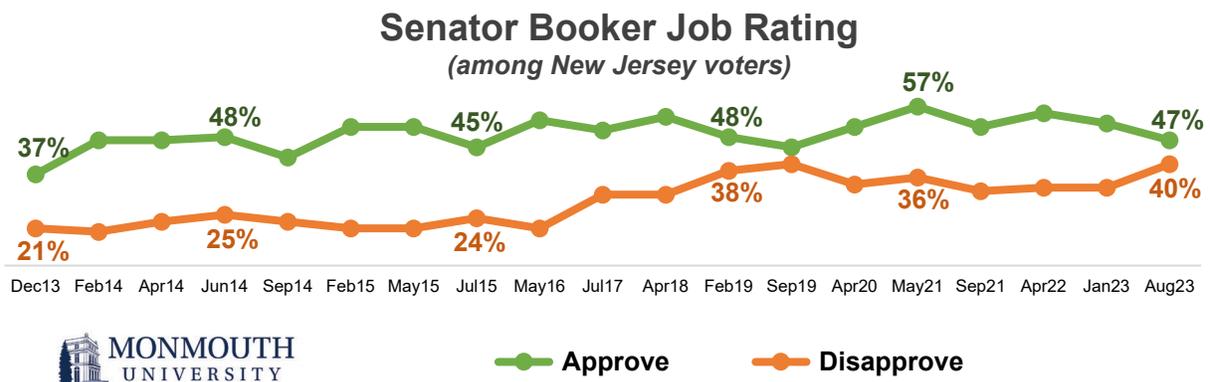
Menendez receives a negative 35% approve and 44% disapprove rating from all New Jersey adults and a 36% approve and 45% disapprove rating from registered voters. This marks a reversal from last year (44% approve and 39% disapprove among voters in April 2022). Menendez has seen his ratings decline among all partisan groups over the past year. While fellow Democrats still give the senator a net positive rating, his approval number has dropped 8 points to 58% and his disapproval number has increased 7 points to 23%. Menendez has a 29% approve and 45% disapprove rating among independents

and a 14% approve and 74% disapprove rating among Republicans, both of which are more negative than his ratings from these groups last year.

A majority of New Jerseyans (57%) have heard about Menendez being under a current federal investigation. Six in 10 state residents think this investigation affects his ability to serve the state either a great deal (27%) or somewhat (33%). Majorities of Republicans (55%), Democrats (60%) and independents (61%) feel the current investigation has at least some impact on Menendez’s ability to serve the state, with Republicans (36%) being more likely than Democrats (19%) to say it has a great deal of impact. Among those who were already aware of the investigation before being polled, 65% say it affects Menendez’s ability to serve, with only slight differences across partisan groups in this opinion.

“Public opinion of Sen. Menendez has ranged from positive to evenly divided to negative at different points over the past eight years. The current poll results suggest news of a new federal probe is having an impact on that opinion, perhaps even more so than the last time he faced similar scrutiny,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Looking back to the last time Menendez was under investigation, he continued to hold a slightly positive or evenly divided job rating from the time federal charges were filed against him (e.g. 42% approve and 38% disapprove in May 2015) through his eventual admonishment by the U.S. Senate’s ethics committee (37% approve and 38% disapprove in April 2018). Menendez’s current job rating is currently lower than ratings he received during that time period. Although he won reelection by 11 points in 2018, his job rating dipped into negative territory the following year before returning to positive territory during the Covid pandemic. His rating started to slip at the beginning of this year, with the current poll result being nearly identical to his prior career low in September 2019.



In other *Monmouth University Poll* results, Booker, the state’s junior U.S. senator, receives a job rating of 46% approve and 40% disapprove from all New Jersey adults and 47% approve and 40% disapprove from registered voters. This marks the first time since 2019 that Booker’s approval rating has

dipped below 50%. It stood at 55% last year. Booker’s rating among Democrats has held steady (currently 83% approve and 9% disapprove), but his net rating has gone from positive to negative among independents (now at 37% approve and 44% disapprove) and grown even more negative than it was among Republicans (now 13% approve and 76% disapprove).

Biden’s job rating as president currently stands at 41% approve and 52% disapprove among all adults and registered voters alike. Last year, he received a narrowly divided 47% approve and 49% disapprove rating from New Jersey voters. The president continues to earn the approval of 8 in 10 Democrats (81%) and almost no Republicans (5%), which is similar to last year. The decline in Biden’s overall rating is driven mainly by an 8-point drop from last year in his approval number among Garden State independents (29%).

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from August 10 to 14, 2023 with 814 New Jersey adults. The question results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 5.4 percentage points for the full sample. 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>	Aug. 2023
Approve	41%
Disapprove	52%
(VOL) No opinion	8%
(n)	(814)

Trend: <i>Registered voters</i>	Aug. 2023	Jan. 2023	April 2022	Oct. 2021	Aug. 2021	May 2021
Approve	41%	46%	47%	43%	51%	55%
Disapprove	52%	48%	49%	49%	41%	40%
(VOL) No opinion	6%	6%	4%	8%	9%	5%
(n)	(778)	(756)	(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>	Aug. 2023
Approve	35%
Disapprove	44%
(VOL) No opinion	20%
(n)	(814)

Trend: <i>Registered voters</i>	Aug. 2023	Jan. 2023	April 2022	Sept. 2021	May 2021	April 2020	Sept. 2019	Feb. 2019
Approve	36%	38%	44%	43%	46%	44%	37%	40%
Disapprove	45%	38%	39%	35%	38%	38%	45%	45%
(VOL) No opinion	19%	24%	17%	22%	16%	18%	18%	15%
(n)	(778)	(756)	(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>	Aug. 2023
Approve	46%
Disapprove	40%
(VOL) No opinion	14%
(n)	(814)

Trend: <i>Registered voters</i>	Aug. 2023	Jan. 2023	April 2022	Sept. 2021	May 2021	April 2020	Sept. 2019	Feb. 2019
Approve	47%	52%	55%	51%	57%	51%	45%	48%
Disapprove	40%	33%	33%	32%	36%	34%	40%	38%
(VOL) No opinion	13%	15%	12%	17%	6%	14%	16%	14%
(n)	(778)	(756)	(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. Have you seen or heard anything about Senator Menendez currently being under federal investigation, or have you not heard about a current investigation before now?

<i>All adults</i>	Aug. 2023
Have heard	57%
Not heard	43%
(n)	(814)

8. How much do you think this investigation affects Menendez's ability to serve New Jersey as senator – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?

<i>All adults</i>	Aug. 2023
Great deal	27%
Some	33%
Not much	18%
Not at all	12%
(VOL) Don't know	11%
(n)	(814)

[Q9-12 previously released.]

[Q13-47 held for future release.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from August 10 to 14, 2023 with a probability-based random sample of 814 New Jersey adults age 18 and older. Interviews were conducted in English, and included 245 live landline telephone interviews, 360 live cell phone interviews, and 209 online surveys via a cell phone text invitation. 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 2021 one-year survey). Interviewing services were provided by Braun Research, with sample obtained from Dynata. 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 5.4 percentage points adjusted for sample design effects (1.56). 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)

Party (self-reported): 22% Republican, 43% Independent, 35% Democrat

Sex: 49% Male, 51% Female

Age: 27% 18-34, 34% 35-54, 39% 55+

Race: 55% White, 13% Black, 19% Hispanic, 13% Asian/Other

College: 58% No degree, 42% 4 year degree

MARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted sample	moe (+/-)
TOTAL		814	5.4%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	778	5.5%
	No	36	25.5%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	163	12.0%
	Independent	347	8.2%
	Democrat	280	9.1%
REGION	North	379	7.9%
	Central	247	9.7%
	South	179	11.4%
GENDER	Male	393	7.7%
	Female	421	7.5%
AGE	18-34	165	11.9%
	35-54	299	8.9%
	55+	333	8.4%
RACE	White, non-Hispanic	547	6.6%
	Other	248	9.7%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	293	8.9%
	4 year degree	516	6.7%
INCOME	<\$50K	110	14.6%
	\$50 to <\$100K	227	10.2%
	\$100K+	406	7.6%
CHILDREN IN HOME	Yes	186	11.2%
	No	620	6.2%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 8/17/23

		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	41%	41%	32%	5%	29%	81%	44%	40%	35%
	Disapprove	52%	52%	42%	95%	61%	12%	47%	52%	60%
	[VOL] Dont know	8%	6%	26%	1%	11%	6%	9%	8%	4%

		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%	43%	40%	36%	45%	40%	43%	36%	49%
	Disapprove	56%	48%	46%	58%	51%	56%	45%	55%	46%
	[VOL] Dont know	6%	10%	14%	7%	4%	4%	12%	9%	5%

		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	38%	44%	42%	33%	43%
	Disapprove	50%	50%	52%	56%	50%
	[VOL] Dont know	11%	6%	6%	11%	7%

		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	35%	36%	34%	14%	29%	58%	38%	36%	31%
	Disapprove	44%	45%	31%	74%	45%	23%	41%	46%	49%
	[VOL] Dont know	20%	19%	35%	13%	25%	19%	21%	18%	20%

		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	34%	36%	26%	34%	43%	36%	35%	35%	35%
	Disapprove	50%	39%	40%	48%	43%	48%	39%	42%	46%
	[VOL] Dont know	15%	25%	33%	18%	14%	16%	26%	22%	19%

		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	42%	37%	33%	31%	37%
	Disapprove	27%	49%	48%	41%	45%
	[VOL] Dont know	31%	14%	19%	28%	18%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 8/17/23

		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	46%	47%	40%	13%	37%	83%	52%	49%	34%
	Disapprove	40%	40%	33%	76%	44%	9%	34%	40%	48%
	[VOL] Dont know	14%	13%	27%	11%	19%	8%	13%	11%	18%

		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	42%	51%	48%	43%	48%	43%	52%	43%	51%
	Disapprove	48%	32%	27%	45%	43%	45%	31%	41%	37%
	[VOL] Dont know	10%	18%	25%	13%	8%	12%	17%	16%	11%

		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	47%	47%	49%	48%	46%
	Disapprove	26%	41%	41%	36%	40%
	[VOL] Dont know	27%	12%	10%	16%	13%

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
7. Have you seen or anything about Senator Menendez currently being under federal investigation, or have you not heard about a current investigation before now?	Have heard	57%	58%	39%	62%	52%	60%	56%	65%	51%
	Not heard	43%	42%	61%	38%	48%	40%	44%	35%	49%

		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. Have you seen or anything about Senator Menendez currently being under federal investigation, or have you not heard about a current investigation before now?	Have heard	64%	50%	45%	57%	64%	61%	52%	49%	67%
	Not heard	36%	50%	55%	43%	36%	39%	48%	51%	33%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
7. Have you seen or anything about Senator Menendez currently being under federal investigation, or have you not heard about a current investigation before now?	Have heard	33%	64%	62%	48%	59%
	Not heard	67%	36%	38%	52%	41%

Monmouth University Poll -- NEW JERSEY -- 8/17/23

		TOTAL	REG VOTER		PARTY ID			REGION OF STATE		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	North	Central	South
8. How much do you think this investigation affects Menendez's ability to serve New Jersey as senator – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?	Great deal	27%	27%	27%	36%	28%	19%	24%	35%	24%
	Some	33%	33%	28%	19%	33%	41%	36%	29%	30%
	Not much	18%	18%	24%	19%	19%	17%	19%	19%	13%
	Not at all	12%	12%	7%	17%	7%	15%	9%	9%	21%
	[VOL] Dont know	11%	10%	15%	9%	13%	8%	11%	8%	13%

		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. How much do you think this investigation affects Menendez's ability to serve New Jersey as senator – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?	Great deal	25%	28%	30%	30%	22%	29%	24%	26%	28%
	Some	32%	33%	34%	33%	31%	32%	34%	32%	33%
	Not much	18%	18%	17%	15%	22%	17%	19%	18%	18%
	Not at all	14%	10%	6%	14%	14%	13%	11%	12%	12%
	[VOL] Dont know	11%	10%	14%	9%	10%	9%	13%	12%	9%

		INCOME			CHILDREN IN HOME	
		<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Yes	No
8. How much do you think this investigation affects Menendez's ability to serve New Jersey as senator – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?	Great deal	13%	28%	28%	25%	27%
	Some	35%	34%	31%	34%	32%
	Not much	20%	19%	18%	14%	19%
	Not at all	14%	11%	13%	12%	12%
	[VOL] Dont know	17%	8%	10%	16%	9%