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Menendez shows some weakness

Raleigh, N.C. – Robert Menendez might be the most vulnerable Democratic Senator up for reelection next year that no one's talking about. PPP's newest New Jersey poll finds him with an approval rating mired in the 30s and leading by only 5 points over one of his prospective 2012 opponents.

Just 37% of voters in the state approve of the job Menendez is doing to 35% who disapprove. He has awful numbers with independents, only 24% of whom approve of him to 40% who think he's doing a poor job. And Republicans (63% disapproval) are more convinced that he's doing a bad job than Democrats are (60% approval) that his performance has been good.

Of course the big challenge for Republicans is finding a candidate that can actually capitalize on Menendez's weakness and that looks like it might be a difficult task. Four of the people whose names have been bandied about as candidates- Mike Doherty, Kim Guadagno, Woody Johnson, and Joseph Kyrillos- would all trail Menendez by double digits in spite of his middling approval numbers. It would be a 13 point lead over Doherty (48-35), a 14 point advantage over Guadagno (48-34), an 18 point one over Johnson (48-30), and a 19 point spread over Kyrillos (48-29).

There does look to be one potential candidate who could really make the race competitive and that's the GOP's nominee from 2006, Tom Kean Jr. Kean holds Menendez to a 44-39 advantage. He benefits from a 49-30 lead with independents, but he takes only 8% of the Democratic vote. He would likely need more crossover support than that to pull out a win.

"Robert Menendez's approval numbers make it clear he could be vulnerable," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "It remains to be seen whether Republicans can field a candidate who will take advantage of that vulnerability."

PPP surveyed 480 New Jersey voters from July 15th to 18th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.5%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.

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New Jersey Survey Results

Q1	Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Robert Menendez's job performance?		Q7	If the candidates for US Senate no Democrat Robert Menendez and Mike Doherty, who would you vote	Republican
	Approve			Robert Menendez	
	Disapprove				
	Not sure			Mike Doherty	
Q2	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable o of Mike Doherty?	pinion	Q8	Undecided If the candidates for US Senate no	ext year were
	Favorable	7%		Democrat Robert Menendez and Kim Guadagno, who would you vo	
	Unfavorable	17%		Robert Menendez	
	Not sure	76%			
Q3	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable o			Kim Guadagno	
	of Kim Guadagno?		Q9	Undecided If the candidates for US Senate no	
	Favorable	11%	Q9	Democrat Robert Menendez and	
	Unfavorable	24%		Woody Johnson, who would you v	
	Not sure	65%		Robert Menendez	48%
Q4	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable o of Woody Johnson?	pinion		Woody Johnson	
	Favorable	9%		Undecided	
	Unfavorable		Q10	If the candidates for US Senate no Democrat Robert Menendez and	
	Not sure			Tom Kean, Jr., who would you vot	
Q5	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable o			Robert Menendez	44%
-10	of Tom Kean, Jr.?	•		Tom Kean, Jr	
	Favorable	32%		Undecided	
	Unfavorable	27%	Q11	If the candidates for US Senate no	ext year were
	Not sure			Democrat Robert Menendez and Joseph Kyrillos, who would you vo	
Q6	Do you have a favorable or unfavorable o of Joseph Kyrillos?	pinion		Robert Menendez	
	Favorable	8%		Joseph Kyrillos	
	Unfavorable			Undecided	23%
	Mataura	74%			

	Democrat Robert Menendez and Republic Mike Doherty, who would you vote for?	can
	Robert Menendez	48%
	Mike Doherty	35%
	Undecided	
Q8	If the candidates for US Senate next year Democrat Robert Menendez and Republic Kim Guadagno, who would you vote for?	
	Robert Menendez	48%
	Kim Guadagno	34%
	Undecided	
Q9	If the candidates for US Senate next year Democrat Robert Menendez and Republic Woody Johnson, who would you vote for?	were can
	Robert Menendez	48%
	Woody Johnson	30%
	Undecided	
Q10	If the candidates for US Senate next year Democrat Robert Menendez and Republic Tom Kean, Jr., who would you vote for?	were
	Robert Menendez	44%
	Tom Kean, Jr	39%
	Undecided	
Q11	If the candidates for US Senate next year Democrat Robert Menendez and Republic Joseph Kyrillos, who would you vote for?	were
	Robert Menendez	48%
	Joseph Kyrillos	
	Undecided	





Q12	Who did you vote for President in 2008?	
	John McCain	39%
	Barack Obama	53%
	Someone else/Don't remember	9%
Q13	Would you describe yourself as very libera somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?	al,
	Very liberal	12%
	Somewhat liberal	18%
	Moderate	36%
	Somewhat conservative	22%
	Very conservative	12%
Q14	If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, pre	ess 2.
	Woman	52%
	Man	48%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republic press 2. If you are an independent or identification with another party, press 3.	
Democrat	46%
Republican	32%
Independent/Other	22%
Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2	
White	70%
Other	30%
Q17 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.	to
18 to 29	10%
30 to 45	27%
46 to 65	49%
Older than 65	





		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember		
Menendez Approval						
Approve	37%	13%	54%	36%		
Disapprove	35%	63%	16%	32%		
Not sure	28%	24%	30%	32%		

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote		
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Doherty Favorability		·			
Favorable	7%	10%	4%	14%	
Unfavorable	17%	15%	19%	10%	
Not sure	76%	76%	76%	76%	

		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Guadagno Favorability		•			
Favorable	11%	16%	6%	17%	
Unfavorable	24%	16%	32%	11%	
Not sure	65%	68%	62%	72%	

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base		Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember		
Johnson Favorability		-				
Favorable	9%	9%	8%	11%		
Unfavorable	18%	15%	21%	13%		
Not sure	73%	76%	71%	76%		





		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember		
Kean Favorability						
Favorable	32%	50%	20%	22%		
Unfavorable	27%	11%	40%	17%		
Not sure	42%	39%	40%	61%		

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote		
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Kyrillos Favorability		·			
Favorable	8%	10%	7%	7%	
Unfavorable	18%	14%	23%	7%	
Not sure	74%	76%	70%	85%	

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember		
Menendez/Doherty		•				
Robert Menendez	48%	10%	77%	42%		
Mike Doherty	35%	71%	9%	28%		
Undecided	17%	19%	14%	30%		

		2008 Vo	2008 Vote			
	Base		Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember		
Menendez/Guadagn- o						
Robert Menendez	48%	8%	79%	43%		
Kim Guadagno	34%	73%	6%	30%		
Undecided	18%	19%	15%	27%		





		2008 Vo	te	
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember
Menendez/Johnson		·		
Robert Menendez	48%	8%	79%	42%
Woody Johnson	30%	65%	6%	22%
Undecided	22%	27%	16%	35%

		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Menendez/Kean					
Robert Menendez	44%	7%	73%	40%	
Tom Kean, Jr.	39%	78%	12%	33%	
Undecided	16%	15%	15%	26%	

		2008 Vote			
	Base	John McCain		Someone else/Don't remember	
Menendez/Kyrillos		-			
Robert Menendez	48%	8%	80%	37%	
Joseph Kyrillos	29%	63%	3%	30%	
Undecided	23%	29%	17%	33%	

		Ideolog	eology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative	- 1		
Menendez Approval			_		-			
Approve	37%	69%	66%	38%	8%	10%		
Disapprove	35%	14%	14%	23%	60%	79%		
Not sure	28%	17%	19%	38%	32%	11%		





		ldeology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative	Very conservative
Doherty Favorability		-	-	=		
Favorable	7%	10%	6%	6%	9%	8%
Unfavorable	17%	28%	15%	14%	17%	17%
Not sure	76%	63%	79%	81%	74%	75%

		Ideology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Som ew hat conservative	Very conservative
Guadagno Favorability						
Favorable	11%	3%	8%	7%	21%	17%
Unfavorable	24%	41%	30%	24%	14%	15%
Not sure	65%	57%	62%	69%	65%	68%

		Ideology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Som ew hat conservative		
Johnson Favorability		_	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	='	='	
Favorable	9%	13%	8%	7%	7%	14%	
Unfavorable	18%	16%	19%	20%	13%	21%	
Not sure	73%	71%	73%	73%	80%	65%	

		ldeolog	eology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative	Very conservative		
Kean Favorability			-	-	-			
Favorable	32%	16%	22%	30%	47%	40%		
Unfavorable	27%	54%	31%	26%	13%	17%		
Not sure	42%	29%	47%	44%	40%	43%		





		Ideology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Kyrillos Favorability			-	<u>-</u>		
Favorable	8%	14%	8%	6%	9%	10%
Unfavorable	18%	37%	25%	13%	14%	14%
Not sure	74%	49%	67%	82%	78%	77%

		ldeology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative	Very conservative
Menendez/Doherty		-		-		
Robert Menendez	48%	93%	82%	53%	7%	14%
Mike Doherty	35%	3%	10%	24%	66%	79%
Undecided	17%	4%	8%	23%	27%	7%

		ldeology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Menendez/Guadagn- o		-		-	•	
Robert Menendez	48%	89%	84%	55%	5%	13%
Kim Guadagno	34%	3%	8%	22%	68%	80%
Undecided	18%	8%	8%	23%	27%	7%

		Ideolog	eology					
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative	Very conservative		
Menendez/Johnson		-	_	-	-			
Robert Menendez	48%	88%	81%	55%	7%	13%		
Woody Johnson	30%	4%	7%	18%	58%	79%		
Undecided	22%	8%	11%	28%	35%	8%		





		ldeology			deology				
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somewhat conservative	Very conservative			
Menendez/Kean		-	3	_					
Robert Menendez	44%	88%	74%	50%	4%	13%			
Tom Kean, Jr.	39%	4%	12%	31%	76%	76%			
Undecided	16%	8%	13%	19%	20%	11%			

		Ideolog	deology					ldeology			
	Base	Very liberal	Som ew hat liberal		Somew hat conservative	Very conservative					
Menendez/Kyrillos			-	-							
Robert Menendez	48%	91%	81%	53%	9%	13%					
Joseph Kyrillos	29%	5%	9%	17%	53%	73%					
Undecided	23%	4%	10%	30%	38%	14%					

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Menendez Approval		-	
Approve	37%	39%	35%
Disapprove	35%	26%	46%
Not sure	28%	36%	19%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Doherty Favorability		-	
Favorable	7%	4%	11%
Unfavorable	17%	13%	21%
Not sure	76%	83%	68%





		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Guadagno Favorability			
Favorable	11%	8%	15%
Unfavorable	24%	21%	27%
Not sure	65%	71%	58%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Johnson Favorability		-	
Favorable	9%	3%	15%
Unfavorable	18%	14%	22%
Not sure	73%	83%	63%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Kean Favorability		-	
Favorable	32%	25%	39%
Unfavorable	27%	26%	27%
Not sure	42%	49%	33%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Kyrillos Favorability		-	
Favorable	8%	6%	11%
Unfavorable	18%	16%	21%
Not sure	74%	78%	68%





		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Menendez/Doherty		-	
Robert Menendez	48%	53%	44%
Mike Doherty	35%	25%	46%
Undecided	17%	23%	11%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Menendez/Guadagn- o			
Robert Menendez	48%	51%	45%
Kim Guadagno	34%	25%	43%
Undecided	18%	24%	11%

		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Menendez/Johnson		-	
Robert Menendez	48%	49%	47%
Woody Johnson	30%	21%	40%
Undecided	22%	30%	13%

	Gender	
Base	Woman	Man
	- -	
44%	47%	41%
39%	32%	48%
16%	20%	11%
	44% 39%	44% 47% 39% 32%





		Gender	
	Base	Woman	Man
Menendez/Kyrillos		-	
Robert Menendez	48%	51%	46%
Joseph Kyrillos	29%	20%	39%
Undecided	23%	30%	16%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Menendez Approval		='	•	
Approve	37%	60%	13%	24%
Disapprove	35%	14%	63%	40%
Not sure	28%	26%	25%	36%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Doherty Favorability		-		-
Favorable	7%	4%	10%	11%
Unfavorable	17%	21%	14%	13%
Not sure	76%	75%	77%	75%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Guadagno Favorability				
Favorable	11%	4%	20%	13%
Unfavorable	24%	30%	14%	25%
Not sure	65%	66%	66%	62%





		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Johnson Favorability		•		•
Favorable	9%	8%	8%	11%
Unfavorable	18%	20%	15%	18%
Not sure	73%	71%	77%	72%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kean Favorability		='		
Favorable	32%	16%	51%	35%
Unfavorable	27%	39%	12%	22%
Not sure	42%	45%	37%	42%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kyrillos Favorability		•	•	•
Favorable	8%	5%	9%	12%
Unfavorable	18%	23%	13%	16%
Not sure	74%	71%	78%	72%

		Party			
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other	
Menendez/Doherty		='			
Robert Menendez	48%	82%	9%	35%	
Mike Doherty	35%	5%	71%	42%	
Undecided	17%	12%	20%	23%	





		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Menendez/Guadagn-		,		
0				
Robert Menendez	48%	82%	10%	35%
Kim Guadagno	34%	5%	69%	42%
Undecided	18%	13%	21%	22%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Menendez/Johnson				
Robert Menendez	48%	82%	10%	35%
Woody Johnson	30%	4%	61%	39%
Undecided	22%	14%	29%	26%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Menendez/Kean				
Robert Menendez	44%	78%	8%	30%
Tom Kean, Jr.	39%	8%	78%	49%
Undecided	16%	14%	14%	22%

		Party		
	Base	Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Menendez/Kyrillos		-		
Robert Menendez	48%	81%	8%	38%
Joseph Kyrillos	29%	5%	60%	33%
Undecided	23%	14%	32%	28%





		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Menendez Approval			
Approve	37%	38%	34%
Disapprove	35%	40%	25%
Not sure	28%	22%	41%

		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Doherty Favorability			
Favorable	7%	6%	9%
Unfavorable	17%	16%	19%
Not sure	76%	78%	72%

		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Guadagno Favorability			
Favorable	11%	12%	9%
Unfavorable	24%	24%	23%
Not sure	65%	64%	67%

		Race		
	Base	White	Other	
Johnson Favorability		_		
Favorable	9%	6%	14%	
Unfavorable	18%	16%	23%	
Not sure	73%	78%	64%	





		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Kean Favorability		_	
Favorable	32%	35%	25%
Unfavorable	27%	25%	30%
Not sure	42%	40%	45%

		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Kyrillos Favorability			
Favorable	8%	9%	7%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	20%
Not sure	74%	74%	73%

		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Menendez/Doherty			
Robert Menendez	48%	44%	59%
Mike Doherty	35%	39%	25%
Undecided	17%	18%	16%

		Race		
	Base	White	Other	
Menendez/Guadagn-				
0				
Robert Menendez	48%	44%	59%	
Kim Guadagno	34%	39%	23%	
Undecided	18%	17%	18%	





		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Menendez/Johnson			
Robert Menendez	48%	42%	61%
Woody Johnson	30%	33%	23%
Undecided	22%	24%	16%

		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Menendez/Kean			
Robert Menendez	44%	39%	57%
Tom Kean, Jr.	39%	45%	27%
Undecided	16%	16%	16%

		Race	
	Base	White	Other
Menendez/Kyrillos			
Robert Menendez	48%	43%	61%
Joseph Kyrillos	29%	32%	20%
Undecided	23%	25%	18%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29		46 to 65	Older than 65
Menendez Approval					
Approve	37%	40%	33%	38%	40%
Disapprove	35%	22%	29%	40%	41%
Not sure	28%	37%	38%	23%	19%





		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Doherty Favorability					
Favorable	7%	2%	10%	8%	4%
Unfavorable	17%	11%	13%	21%	13%
Not sure	76%	87%	76%	71%	82%

		Age				
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45		Older than 65	
Guadagno Favorability						
Favorable	11%	15%	10%	11%	10%	
Unfavorable	24%	16%	21%	26%	26%	
Not sure	65%	69%	70%	62%	64%	

		Age				
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65	
Johnson Favorability						
Favorable	9%	3%	14%	8%	4%	
Unfavorable	18%	16%	18%	20%	15%	
Not sure	73%	81%	69%	72%	81%	

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kean Favorability					
Favorable	32%	24%	27%	34%	37%
Unfavorable	27%	28%	21%	30%	26%
Not sure	42%	48%	53%	36%	37%





		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kyrillos Favorability					
Favorable	8%	3%	7%	10%	7%
Unfavorable	18%	11%	10%	25%	16%
Not sure	74%	86%	82%	65%	77%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45		Older than 65
Menendez/Doherty					
Robert Menendez	48%	50%	45%	49%	50%
Mike Doherty	35%	19%	39%	35%	37%
Undecided	17%	31%	17%	16%	13%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45		Older than 65
Menendez/Guadagn- o					
Robert Menendez	48%	54%	44%	49%	50%
Kim Guadagno	34%	22%	38%	32%	40%
Undecided	18%	24%	18%	18%	10%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Menendez/Johnson					
Robert Menendez	48%	52%	46%	48%	51%
Woody Johnson	30%	21%	34%	29%	32%
Undecided	22%	27%	21%	23%	17%





		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Menendez/Kean					
Robert Menendez	44%	54%	42%	44%	43%
Tom Kean, Jr.	39%	28%	42%	40%	44%
Undecided	16%	19%	16%	16%	14%

		Age			
	Base	18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Menendez/Kyrillos					
Robert Menendez	48%	52%	45%	51%	44%
Joseph Kyrillos	29%	19%	32%	28%	30%
Undecided	23%	29%	23%	21%	26%

