

Sen. Cory Booker leads in polls by 15-point margin

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Q: Who will you be voting for in this year's Senate election?



"I don't know enough about Jeff Bell, [but] I did volunteer for Cory Booker's last campaign because I do like his ideology and some of the stuff he's trying to pass. So naturally, I am in full support of Sen. Booker." —**Andrew Rodriguez, School of Arts and Sciences senior**

"I'd vote for Cory Booker because in general, his worldview conforms more to mine — his general conception of what a government should do and which parts of the population need help the most." —**Max Gahntz, School of Arts and Sciences junior**



"Cory Booker is a Democrat, and in my opinion, not the best Democrat who could be running, but a Democrat nonetheless. Jeff Bell has lived in Virginia for the past three years. He has only moved up recently to run in the election. He blames single mothers for their plights and [says] the government should help them. He goes off on things like the gold standard. He's just too Tea Party fringe for me." —**Mike Martinez, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences sophomore**

"I'm going to vote for Cory Booker because he is really interested in the community. He wants to make everything better, including New York and New Jersey. He wants everyone to be better. I even think he could be president one day." —**Zawatti Hodges, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences sophomore**



**SOURCE: AVALON ZOPPO, DAN COREY
PHOTOS BY DENNIS ZURAW**

Photo by [Adam Ismail](#) and [Avalon Zoppo](#) and [Dan Corey](#) and [Dennis Zuraw](#) |

Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) will win in Tuesday's Senate race, but maybe not by as much as expected, said David Redlawsk, director of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling at the Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics.

This race does not have the same level of intensity as past Senate races, both because Jeffrey Bell is not a "big name

Republican” and nobody expects Booker to lose, Redlawsk said. People are less excited, and thus voter turnout is expected to be low.

Booker is “fairly centrist,” Redlawsk said, and he and Bell could not be further apart on most of the issues.

Social Issues

Photo by [Adam Ismail](#) |
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Courtesy of Patti Sapone / NJ Advance Media | Sen. Cory Booker is the Democratic incumbent for 2014 Senate elections.

Booker is a strong supporter of abortion rights and marriage equality, Redlawsk said, adding that he is a strong supporter of civil rights in general.

According to NorthJersey.com, Booker believes people who love each other have the right to get married.

“We are a nation that is going to get so much further if we understand we all are equal under the law and need each other to be successful,” Booker said according to NorthJersey.com.

Redlawsk said he is not sure that Booker has spoken much about the legalization of marijuana, but Bell is a “certainly opposed” to it.

“It’s also not an issue that’s likely to be a big issue at the national level — it’s going to play out state by state,” he said.

Education

For students, Democrats are more student-friendly with regard to educational policies in terms of student loans, Redlawsk said. Though unsuccessful so far, Democrats in Congress have made efforts to cut student loan interest rates.

“I think the bigger picture for anybody voting is that you vote for the candidate who best represents the things that you want to see happen in this country, but don’t expect miracles to happen,” he said.

According to NorthJersey.com, Booker said the very fact that Congress has been paralyzed in the face of student loan rates that are set to double is “absolutely unacceptable.”

Economy

Everybody is in favor of jobs, Redlawsk said, but there are strong differences of opinion on the best way to create them.

Booker supports a significant increase in the minimum wage, believing that \$10.10 per hour would help the economy.

Of the states that have increased the minimum wage, including Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware and Maryland, Redlawsk said there is no evidence that the economies in these states have suffered.

Health Care

Q: Is your general opinion of the United States Senate favorable, unfavorable, or do you have no opinion of it?

	Likely Voters	Party ID		
		Dem	Ind	Rep
Favorable	18%	27%	11%	16%
Unfavorable	56%	43%	66%	62%
No opinion	26%	30%	23%	21%

SOURCE: MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY POLL

Q: In the upcoming election for Senate, which candidate are you most likely to vote for?

	All	Age Breakdown		
		18-34	35-59	60+
Booker	56%	64	58	50
Bell	40%	30	37	47
Other (vol)	1%	0	2	0
Unsure (vol)	3%	6	3	3
Ref (vol)	1%	0	0	0

SOURCE: FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY PUBLIC MIND POLL

Booker supports the Affordable Care Act, according to his campaign site. The act prevents health insurance plans from limiting or denying benefits to children under 19 due to pre-existing medical conditions, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website.

It also allows young adults under the age of 26 stay covered under their parent's health plan, according to the site.

Redlawsk said Bell would appeal the ACA, and that even though Booker supports it, he may or may not be able to do anything about that depending upon if the Republicans or Democrats are in control of Congress.

