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September 11, 2013

## Cory Booker maintains large lead over Lonegan, poll says

Newark Mayor Cory Booker, a nationally known Democrat, enjoys a better than 2-to-1 lead in his special U.S. Senate race against his Republican opponent, Steve Lonegan, according to a poll released this morning.

The latest Rutgers-Eagleton poll shows 64 percent of those surveyed supporting Booker, while 29 percent favor Lonegan, a former Bogota mayor, in the Oct. 16 special election to fill the unexpired term of the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg.

In addition, 79 percent of likely voters said they expected Booker to win.

Booker, a well-financed candidate with national name recognition, has been the heavy favorite to fill Lautenberg's term since he entered the race following the longtime senator's death in June.

Booker enjoys a favorable rating from 63 percent of those polled, with only 19 percent viewing him unfavorably.

Lonegan, a conservative activist, has identical favorable and unfavorable ratings of 22 percent.

Both Lonegan and Booker won their parties' nominations during an August primary election, but among registered voters, the race has not generated a swell of enthusiasm.

Among those registered voters polled, 44 percent said they were not following the race closely. That number shrank to only 11 percent among likely voters.

The poll was conducted from Sept. 3 through Sept. 9 among 925 adults — 814 of whom said they were registered voters and 462 of whom identified themselves as likely to vote in the Oct. 16 election.

Among the registered voters, the poll had a margin of error of 3.4 percentage points; among likely voters, the margin of error was 4.5 percentage points.