

Lonegan: New Rutgers-Eagleton poll showing him down 35 points 'notoriously off'

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BY JOHN REITMEYER

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Republican U.S. Senate candidate Steve Lonegan woke up to news this morning that he now faces a 35-point deficit with roughly a month left in the special election to fill the seat of the late Frank Lautenberg.

Lonegan, the former Bogota mayor who's been endorsed by Governor Christie, is getting support from 29 percent of New Jersey's likely voters while Democratic opponent Cory Booker is winning 64 percent, [according to the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Wednesday morning](#).

During a news conference on education policy in Trenton on Wednesday, Lonegan cited Rutgers-Eagleton poll results from past statewide elections, including Christie's 2009 gubernatorial contest against then-incumbent Democrat Jon Corzine, in a rebuttal of the latest results.

"The Eagleton poll is notoriously off," Lonegan said. "The poll that matters is on October 16."

Christie has also criticized the poll last year after he didn't like the results of one of its surveys.

Lonegan was joined for his event outside the state Department of Education building in Trenton by a group of parents who are concerned about the state's adoption of common core curriculum standards that he says gives the federal government too much influence when it comes to education. The state gets millions of dollars in federal education aid, but one requirement is that it adopts the standards.

"No one-size-fits-all standard will serve these children, nor will it serve our nation," said Lonegan, whose wife is a longtime teacher. "We should not allow the federal government to take over control of our students' minds."

If elected to the Senate, Lonegan said he would "Lead the fight to reverse common core."

A Booker campaign spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment and an explanation of Booker's position on the issue.