

SENATE

Menendez job approval drops to single digits in New Jersey

BY LAUREN SFORZA - 10/26/23 11:00 AM ET

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Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) speaks to reporters as he leaves a Senate Democratic Caucus meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 where he spoke to his colleagues about his recent indictment.

Sen. [Bob Menendez's](#) (D-N.J.) approval rating dropped to single digits among New Jersey residents, according to a new poll.

The [poll](#) by Stockton University, released Thursday, found only 8 percent of New Jersey residents were favorable of Menendez, while 72 percent had an unfavorable opinion of him.

The poll results come days after Menendez [pleaded not guilty](#) to a charge alleging he [conspired with his wife](#) and a New Jersey businessman to act as an unregistered foreign agent of the Egyptian government. Menendez has faced a wave of criticism since the [indictment](#)

The poll found nearly 80 percent of New Jersey residents were very familiar or somewhat familiar with the charges that Menendez is facing. About 1 in 5 residents said they were not familiar, according to the poll.

The poll also found 71 percent said the senior New Jersey senator should resign from his office, while 8 percent said he should not. Another 17 percent said they were unsure.

Calls for Menendez's resignation came from both sides of the aisle in the poll, with 78 percent of Democrats and 79 percent of Republicans saying he should step down. These responses echo U.S. lawmakers' calls for Menendez to resign, as [a slew of Democrat senators urged him to do so following the indictment](#).

The new poll also backs up previous polling from Fairleigh Dickinson University from earlier this month, which found [that 70 percent of New Jersey residents want Menendez to step down](#).

The New Jersey senator has repeatedly said [he will not step down](#) from office. He has not yet said whether he would be pursuing a fourth term as he is up for reelection next year, but New Jersey Rep. Andy Kim (D) [announced last month](#) that he would challenge Menendez in the primary.

The Stockton University poll was conducted among 630 New Jersey residents between Oct. 9-18 and has a margin of error of 3.9 percentage points.

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