

# Poll: Cory Booker leads the field in New Jersey



By [EMILY SCHULTHEIS](#) | 6/10/13 9:04 AM EDT

Newark Mayor Cory Booker has a huge lead in the Democratic primary for New Jersey's special Senate election, according to two polls out Monday.

Booker, who formally joined the race this weekend, takes 53 percent in a poll conducted by Quinnipiac University. Rep. Rush Holt is a distant second with 10 percent, and Rep. Frank Pallone takes 9 percent.

In a Rutgers/Eagleton poll, Booker has a similar lead: he's the choice of 55 percent of those surveyed, compared with 9 percent for Pallone and 8 percent for Rush.

**(QUIZ: Do you know Cory Booker?** (<http://href.li/?http://www.politico.com/gallery/2013/03/quiz-do-you-know-cory-booker/000846-012036.html>) )

Both polls were conducted before state Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver announced she also plans to compete in the Aug. 13 primary.

All three Democratic candidates would beat conservative activist Steve Lonegan, the only GOP candidate who's announced he's running, in hypothetical general-election matchups: Booker would have a 27-point lead, 54 percent to 27 percent; Pallone would lead by 10 points and Holt would lead by 5 points.

After Sen. Frank Lautenberg died last week, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie announced that the primary will be held Aug. 13 and the general election will be on Oct. 16. In the Quinnipiac poll, half of voters back Christie's decision to hold an October special election; 40 percent disagreed.

**(PHOTOS: Cory Booker's career** (<http://href.li/?http://www.politico.com/gallery/2012/05/cory-booker-on-the-move/000164-001852.html>) )

Quinnipiac also polled Christie's race for reelection in November: He leads Democratic state Sen. Barbara Buono by 30 points, 59 percent to 29 percent. Other polls have similarly found Christie ahead by a huge margin.

**Author: [Emily Schultheis](mailto:eschultheis@politico.com) ([eschultheis@politico.com](mailto:eschultheis@politico.com) | [@emilyrs](#))**

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