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HISPANIC FEDERATION RELEASES SURVEY ON HISPANICS IN NUEVA JERSEY

MENENDEZ OVERWHELMS KEAN BY 8 TO 1 MARGIN

NJ LATINOS WANT U.S. TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ

JOBS AND ECONOMY ARE BIGGEST NJ PROBLEM

New York, NY – On Wednesday, November 1, 2006, the Hispanic Federation released the results of its second annual survey in New Jersey reporting the attitudes and opinions of Latinos on the performance of President Bush and New Jersey statewide officials, the Menendez-Kean senatorial race, public policy priorities and the war in Iraq. The survey is the result of 500 interviews in New Jersey completed on October 16, 2006 with a margin of error of +/- 4.38%. The sample size for questions relating to the senatorial race is 285 registered voters. Following are the topline results.

Problems - Local

- The number one problem facing Hispanics in New Jersey is jobs/economy/unemployment – cited by 35%.
- The second top problem is immigration – cited by 32%.
- The third top problem is schools and education – cited by 27%.

Problems – Nationally

- The number one problem facing Hispanic nationally is immigration – cited by 31%.
- The second top problem is education – cited by 17%.

Political Parties

- 53% are registered as Democrats, 11% as Republicans, 9% with other parties, 20% have no party affiliation.
- Number one reason for not registering to vote is lack of citizenship – cited by 68%.

Menendez vs. Kean for the U.S. Senate (among Latino registered voters)

- Among registered voters, Menendez beats Kean by a better than 8 to 1 margin (68% to 8%). 19% of the respondents remain undecided.
- Among Latino Democrats, Menendez would receive 85% of the vote and 3% would vote for Kean.
- Among Latino Republicans, 48% would vote for Kean and 33% would vote for Menendez.
- Among Latino voters registered in other parties, Menendez receives 55% of the vote with Kean receiving 3%.

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Corzine, Menendez and Lautenberg's Job Ratings (all respondents)

- Corzine is believed to be doing an excellent to good job by 51% of Latinos / A not so good to poor job for 27% of respondents / 23% are unsure.
- Menendez is believed to be doing an excellent to good job by 65% of Latinos / For 11% of Latinos a not so good to poor job / 23% are unsure.
- Lautenberg is believed to be doing an excellent to good job by 37% of Latinos / For 16% of Latinos a not so good to poor job / 47% are unsure.

Bush's Job Rating serving US and Latinos

- 70% of Latino New Jerseyans believe President Bush is doing a not so good or poor job as President; 27% believe he is doing an excellent to good job.
- 76% of Latino New Jerseyans believe President Bush is doing a not so good or poor job serving Latinos; 19% believe he is doing an excellent to good job.

War in Iraq

- New Jersey Latinos overwhelmingly want U.S. troops to come back home from Iraq, with 53% stating that the U.S. should immediately withdraw troops from Iraq and 26% indicating that the U.S. should set a timetable for withdrawal of all troops; only 17% believe the U.S. should keep the troops in Iraq until the mission is completed.

Economy

- 37% of all New Jersey Latinos state that they or a family member had problems with paying the rent or mortgage.
- 35% state that they or an immediate family member have lost a job or been laid off.
- 59% state that they or an immediate family member have been unable to save for college or retirement.
- 60% state they see growing instability for Latinos in the economy and jobs; 27% see increasing opportunity.

Immigration Reform and President Bush

- 72% believe the President is doing a not so good or poor job handling the immigration reform issue; only 21% believe he is doing an excellent to good job.
- 78% are more sympathetic to the position of immigrants after seeing the large immigration demonstrations earlier this year; 11% were less sympathetic.
- 89% support an earned path to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants.

Health Problems in Latino Community

- 49% of Latinos in New Jersey view the lack of health insurance as the most important health issue.
- 45% of Latinos in New Jersey view guaranteed health insurance for children as the top health priority in Congress this year.

The Hispanic Federation is a non-profit membership organization comprised of 94 Latino health and human service providers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. The Federation polls Hispanic Americans in the states of New York and New Jersey on an annual basis to gauge opinions on critical public policy issues and performance by elected representatives at all levels of government.