Four Democrats, two Republicans file for U.S. Senate seat

By David Levnsky Staff writer | Posted: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 5:00 am

Four Democrats and two Republicans filed to run in the special August primary election to decide the major party candidates who will battle for the late Frank Lautenberg's U.S. Senate seat.

Newark Mayor Cory Booker, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and Congressmen Rush Holt and Frank Pallone d by Christie to fill the seat until residents pick a ral was sworn in Monday.

lead in the crowded Democratic field. The Rutgers-Eagleton polled Democrats and Independents likely to vote for him in the ercent and Holt with 8 percent.

888 New Jersey residents, including 364 registered Democrats, de Oliver, who was a late entry into the field. The poll has a atic primary question.

"Even with Oliver in the race, Booker is currently the odds-on favorite," said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton poll and a political science professor at Rutgers. "Booker has the most visible statewide profile by far among the Democrats running, and name recognition is critical in such a short campaign."

"At the same time, we surveyed registered voters, and special election turnout is notoriously difficult to predict. We shouldn't write off anyone just yet," Redlawsk said.

A separate poll by Quinnipiac University gave Booker 53 percent of the vote in a Democratic primary, followed by Holt with 10 percent and Pallone with 9 percent. It also did not include Oliver.

The poll gave Booker a lead of 54 percent to 27 percent in a hypothetical general election matchup against Lonegan, the better known of the two GOP candidates.

The poll was based on a June 7-9 survey of 858 New Jersey voters and 306 registered Democrats. The