Politics











Democrats Have the Edge Over GOP in 2013 National Elections

By: KEVIN DERBY| Posted: October 12, 2013 3:55 AM

With less than a month until the general elections, Democrats have the edge over the Republicans in most of the important contests on the national stage.

In the year after presidential elections, voters in New Jersey and Virginia head to the polls for

gubernatorial contests while mayoral elections are held in New York City.

Added to the mix this year is a special election for a U.S. Senate seat in New Jersey. Polls show Democrats are well-positioned to expand their majority in the U.S. Senate next week as Newark Mayor Cory Booker has a solid lead over former Bogota Mayor Steve Lonegan, the Republican candidate, in a special election in New Jersey. The seat is currently held by U.S. Sen. Jeffrey Chiesa, R-N.J., who was appointed to the seat after the death of longtime U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J.

Earlier this week, polls from Quinnipiac University and Rasmussen Reports found Booker with a solid lead over Lonegan . Both polls found Booker beating Lonegan 53 percent to 41 percent. A poll from the Stockton Polling Institute released on Wednesday afternoon found Booker up by a similar margin percent to 39 percent.

While they are underdogs, conservatives are doubling down in their efforts to beat Booker, who

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appears to be a rising star for Democrats, this weekend as former Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska

Barack Obama, Steve Lonegan has demonstrated a passion for fighting against the increasing size, cost, and intrusiveness of government," Kremer added. "As the mayor of Bogota, N.J., Steve cut city spending, shrank the city bureaucracy, and made its operation more efficient.

"As a grassroots activist at the state level, Steve fought against an 8 percent sales tax increase and a huge toll-road hike," Kremer continued. "And he won. His thoughtful and deliberate approach to leading makes him the best candidate for New Jersey."

While Booker appears headed for a big victory, Gov. Chris Christie should give Republicans something to cheer about in the Garden State. Christie, who has been mentioned as a possible Republican presidential hopeful in 2016, appears headed to a big victory over Democratic rival state Sen. Barbara Buono in November.

Quinnipiac released a poll on Thursday which found Christie taking 62 percent while Buono can only muster 33 percent, despite New Jersey usually being a Democratic state.

Maurice Carroll, the director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute, noted that Christie was making inroads with female voters who usually lean Democratic.

"Is sisterhood kaput in this election?" Carroll asked. "Senator Barbara Buono has been out front

the first Republican governor of Virginia in 12 years. In New Jersey, Republican Christine Todd Whitman defeated incumbent Democrat Gov. Jim Florio.

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