





He went to Hollywood on Monday, where stars Matt Damon and Ben Affleck were listed as hosts at a soiree with donations of \$1,000 to \$10,000 per person, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Booker, who has a huge fund-raising lead, also has gone to Washington at least twice in September to meet with top Democratic senators and aides.

"It could seem like voters are being taken for granted," said Patrick Murray, director of the Monmouth University polling institute. "And New Jersey voters do not like to be taken for granted."

Booker, though, also is avoiding pitfalls in a race he is expected to win. He holds huge advantages in name recognition and popularity over Republican Steve Lonegan, and a Stockton Polling Institute survey out Monday gave Booker a 26-point lead.

But a Quinnipiac University poll due out Tuesday is expected to show a tightening race.

"Steve Lonegan is out there on the attack, and the attacks are going unanswered," Murray said.

Quinnipiac poll director Maurice Carroll said his latest poll shows that "it looks like a Booker win, but not the blowout everybody's been looking for."

For the last week, Booker's official campaign schedule has read, "The mayor has no public campaign events today."

Lonegan, by contrast, held seven public events in four counties this past weekend. Lonegan currently holds no public office, while Booker is campaigning while also leading New Jersey's largest city.

His campaign pointed to the need to balance his public appearances with fund-raising, given that he had a short run-up to the unexpected special election and that the winner will also have to run again next year.

@JonathanTamari.

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