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precious vote and who have sought to disenfranchise large numbers of voters," Fattah said, not-so-subtly encouraging voters to hold the law against the GOP.

From across state lines, Delaware Sen. Chris Coons also jumped into the fray, issuing a statement calling the law "a transparent attempt to keep these voters out of the voting booth," referring to seniors, minorities, the poor and the young.

The Democrat said the law would have the "collateral damage" of excluding "hundreds of thousands" of qualified voters.

"Pennsylvania's voter ID law is a step backward on our nation's road toward equality," Coons said.

So far, none of the Republican members of our regional delegation in Washington have issued statements on the ruling, but the Pennsylvania GOP called voter ID a "commonsense reform."

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012

## Poll shows problems for Lautenberg rivals

One of the more popular parlor games in Jersey politics these days is handicapping the field of which ambitious Democrats may try to take a run at U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg in 2014.

Lautenberg, the thinking goes, has one of only three statewide elected offices, and with the formidable Gov. Christie in one, and U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez in the other, and looking likely to win re-election next month, a bevy of ambitious Democrats are hungrily circling the 88-year-old Lautenberg, seeing his seat as the one most within reach.

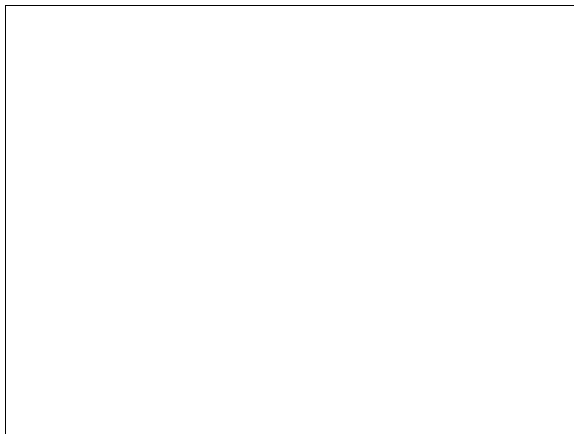
A recent poll from Monmouth University and my old friends at the Asbury Park Press, though, \_\_\_\_\_

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The National Republican Congressional Committee, which launched the attack, fired back, citing legal work Boockvar's husband did representing one of the witnesses who recanted her testimony against Abu-Jamal.

"So Boockvar's husband accusing the Philadelphia police of pressuring witnesses to the murder of Officer Faulkner is NOT disgusting, but making note of that fact IS? With all due respect, Mayor Rendell needs to take a closer look at the facts and then do some soul searching," NRCC spokesman Nat Sillin wrote in an e-mail. "Some things are just not worth defending even if party loyalty seems to require it."

The GOP accusations hinge on work done by Jordan Yeager, Boockvar's husband, in the



In the congressional district, Kathy Boockvar is the Democratic challenger, Mike Fitzpatrick the Republican incumbent.

Boockvar campaign manager Jon Blair responded with this statement:

"Congressman Fitzpatrick and his partners in Washington can make all the baseless accusations they want, but it won't distract the intelligent voters of Bucks and Montgomery counties from the Congressman's actual record, including voting to protect companies that outsource our jobs, flip-flopping on Social Security, voting twice to turn Medicare into a crippling expensive voucher system, and trying to redefine rape," he said. "These concrete facts, not wild charges, prove that Congressman Fitzpatrick is the wrong fit for the people of the Eighth District."

The Republican accusations hinge on work by Jordan Yeager, Boockvar's husband. The work cited by the GOP occurred more than a decade after Abu-Jamal's 1982 conviction, though while protesters still contested his guilt. The GOP does not mention any work Boockvar did herself.

Instead Republicans point to work Yeager did while he and Boockvar were partners in their own firm. In 2000 Yeager represented Abu-Jamal's literary agent, who was arrested and charged with petty crimes while protesting his Abu-Jamal's conviction. The agent, Frances Goldin, was 75 at the time and was one of 95 people arrested in the demonstration. The prominent agent, an Abu-Jamal supporter, later paid a fine and was sentenced to one year's probation.

Yeager, while at a separate Philadelphia firm, worked in 1996 as an attorney for Veronica Jones, a woman who initially gave testimony against Abu-Jamal but later recanted, saying she had been pressured by police when she provided the first version of her story. Yeager told reporters in 1996 police were also trying to intimidate her with arrests on old charges after she changed her story.

The calls make no mention of the time frame of Yeager's work. Republican Web ads include a grainy photo of Abu-Jamal alongside an image of Boockvar, who was in her teens at the time of Abu-Jamal's conviction.

The attack, pulling in one of the most notorious names in the region, illustrates the intensity of the most hotly contested Congressional race in the Philadelphia-area and the pressure the GOP faces in trying to hold the closely divided district.

"Kathy Boockvar's troubling past and long history of radical activism is a clear window into her beliefs and priorities," said a statement from Paul Lindsay, communications director for the NRCC. "If Boockvar is willing to defend Mumia's values, she's not the right person to defend the values of Bucks County families."

Fitzpatrick, in an interview Wednesday night, shortly before the NRCC site posted the new accusations, said he was unaware of the planned attack and could not comment on it.

"I'm not familiar with the call you're talking about and I haven't seen the Web site," Fitzpatrick said. "This race is about jobs and the economy and which candidate is better equipped based upon experience and approach to get people back to work."

Pressed on whether he would then denounce a personal attack, Fitzpatrick said he needed more information to comment on it.

*congressional candidate and legal activist Kathy Boockvar and convicted Philadelphia cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal.*

*The husband-and-wife law firm of Boockvar and Yeager has represented one of the leading activists for Mumia Abu-Jamal – and Boockvar's husband was a lawyer for a witness to the murder who accused the cops of pressuring her.*

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New Jersey (for where tax increases would begin).

-- On Obama's health care law:

Adler: The health care bill did not do something that's very important –which is to address the very high cost of health care ... Notwithstanding, I don't believe we should go back to a time where we turn health care back to the insurance companies and take people off of policies that have pre-existing policies, take young adults off their parents policies that are now on there for the 1st time , take away the preventive health care that we now have.

Runyan (saying the government is not even two-thirds of the way through writing the bill's regulations): Every regulation the federal government puts out has a cost – that's a cost to middle class Americans, that's a cost to every business. ... There are 21 tax increases in that bill that frankly don't even pay for half of that bill.

-- On women's health:

Adler: We should keep government out of women's health care decisions. ...

Runyan: When you get into the women's discussion and you saw what happened with the

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