# University of the Arts Closure Sparks Protests and Uncertainty, New Jersey Primary Sees Menendez Running Independent Amidst Trial



### University of the Arts Shutters, Sparking Protests and Uncertainty

**Philadelphia, June 3, 2024** – Hundreds of students, faculty, and alumni of the University of the Arts gathered outside Hamilton Hall to protest the unexpected announcement of the institution’s closure. The decision, revealed on May 31, left many seeking answers, with university leaders staying tight-lipped. A trustee disclosed that it would have taken $40 million to address the financial crisis that led to the closure. The school's real estate assets, valued at $162 million, including several notable buildings in Center City, now face an uncertain future.

### New Jersey Primary Sees Bob Menendez Running as Independent Amidst Trial

**New Jersey, June 4, 2024** – The New Jersey primary election has taken a dramatic turn as U.S. Senator Bob Menendez, currently on trial for corruption charges, filed to run as an independent in the upcoming Senate race. Representative Andy Kim appears poised to secure the Democratic nomination, with Menendez's independent bid potentially complicating the race. Menendez's son, Rep. Rob Menendez Jr., faces a challenging primary against Hoboken Mayor Ravi Bhalla for New Jersey's 8th Congressional District, with both campaigns embroiled in heated exchanges regarding corruption allegations.

**Sen. Bob Menendez**:  
- **Current Status**: Not on the primary ballot; filed as independent.  
- **Charges**: Federal fraud and bribery.  
- **Expected Trial Outcome**: Pending verdict.

**Rob Menendez Jr. vs. Ravi Bhalla**:  
- **8th Congressional District**.  
- **Key Issues**: Corruption allegations and political dynasty challenges.

The primaries will determine not just candidates for the Senate, but also shape the future political landscape with implications for both parties.