

EMBARGOED UNTIL 5 a.m. EST Tuesday, Feb. 22

New UNF Poll Shows Opposition to Florida Abortion Bill

Support for recreational marijuana is high in Florida

The Public Opinion Research Lab (PORL) at the University of North Florida conducted a statewide poll of registered voters about important issues in Florida. Respondents were asked their opinions on a number of policy changes currently before the Florida Legislature.

Florida's House of Representatives passed a bill last week banning abortions after fifteen weeks of pregnancy, with narrow exceptions to protect the life of the mother and for fetal abnormalities. Respondents were asked whether they support or oppose this bill being passed into law, and the sample was split between two different ways of framing the question. Half of respondents were asked whether they support or oppose the bill effectively banning abortions after fifteen weeks. The other half received the same question but with the added information that it does not include exceptions for rape or incest. In both samples, the majority of respondents (57%) opposed the bill either strongly or somewhat, with 34% supporting either somewhat or strongly. Opposition was five percentage points stronger among those respondents who received the full question, at 60%, compared to 55% who received the shorter version.

"Opposition to the abortion ban was five points higher with the 'no exceptions' version, but the fact that the responses weren't terribly different speaks to the highly partisan and emotional nature of the abortion debate," commented Dr. Michael Binder, PORL faculty director and UNF professor of political science. "People tend to know where they stand on the issue and question wording doesn't change very many peoples' minds."

Respondents were asked about another recently passed bill in the Florida State Senate that would prohibit school districts from encouraging discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in grades Kindergarten through 5, or in a way that is deemed age or developmentally inappropriate. The total sample showed overall opposition to the passage of the bill, with 49% opposing and 40% supporting either somewhat or strongly.

"Support for the so-called 'Don't Say Gay' bill is only about 40%, despite it being passed in the State Senate last week," said Binder. "When we break it down by party registration, we see 54% of Republicans supporting the bill, which is more in line with Florida's Republican-controlled legislature."

In addition, respondents were asked about a proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution that would require school board candidates to run in partisan elections. Currently, district school board elections in Florida are nonpartisan, meaning candidates are not associated with a political party. Forty-nine percent of respondents indicated they oppose the

passage of this amendment either strongly or somewhat, with 32% supporting. Sixteen percent of respondents said they don't know.

"Often very little information is available for down ballot candidates—school board races in particular—and simply adding a party identifier will increase the partisan voting in those races," Binder commented. "The amendment has pretty weak support among survey respondents at just over 30%, which seems to indicate Florida voters want to keep politics out of the education system."

In another split-sample question, respondents were asked whether they support or oppose legalizing sports and event betting for individuals age 21 or over at professional sports venues or online betting platforms. Half of the total sample received just this wording, while the other half were asked their support if tax revenue would go toward education in Florida. In the first version, without the education stipulation, 50% of respondents said they support sports betting either somewhat or strongly, with 35% opposing. When the education language was added, support jumped 10 percentage points to 60%, with just 28% opposing.

"The stark differences in the two versions of the question shows just how important wording can be when it comes to public opinion," Binder noted. "If people see a benefit for the state, such as increased funding for education, they're more likely to support a variety of policies. One of the big reasons lotteries were legalized at the state level in the first place was that a large chunk of those revenues went toward education and online gambling supporters are simply following in those footsteps."

Respondents were also asked whether they support or oppose allowing adults in Florida to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for recreational use. The overwhelming majority (76%) said they support the idea either somewhat or strongly, with just 20% opposing. Support for recreational marijuana has increased by 12 percentage points since [November of 2019](#), when 64% of respondents said they support it strongly or somewhat.

"Previous polls we conducted have shown support in the mid-60s for marijuana legalization but Floridians are now highly supportive of recreational marijuana," noted Binder.

Respondents were also asked if they believe that politicians and elected officials should be required to publicly disclose their COVID-19 vaccination status, to which 58% said no, 38% said yes, and 3% said they don't know.

"There isn't much support for mandatory disclosure of vaccination status, which isn't too shocking considering the lack of statewide COVID restrictions," commented Binder.

In addition, survey respondents were asked what they think is the most important problem facing Florida. The most frequent response was the economy, jobs and unemployment, with 21% of respondents indicating it is the most important problem. This was followed by immigration with 14%, education with 12%, and COVID-19 with 11%. Respondents were also given the opportunity to write in "other" issues, a few of which were then recoded into additional categories. Among these issues were politics and politicians with 4%, and housing costs with 2%.

"Folks seem to be more worried about jobs and unemployment than the last time we asked this question, at just 9% [in February of 2020](#)," Binder noted. "Back then the most

important issue was healthcare, which has dropped seventh place this year. Affordable housing and politics seem to be emerging as two issue areas of concern.”

Methodology

The UNF PORL Florida Statewide Poll is comprised of 685 registered Florida voters and was conducted Monday, Feb. 7, through Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, by the Public Opinion Research Lab (PORL) at the University of North Florida. The landline and cell phone numbers used for this survey were sourced from the December 2021 update of the Florida voter file.

Respondents were contacted by live callers via the telephone from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m. daily with up to two callbacks attempted. PORL interviewers administered surveys in both English and Spanish. Data collection took place at the PORL facility with its 27-station Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is +/- 3.74 percentage points. Through hand dialing, an interviewer upon reaching the individual as specified in the voter file asked that respondent to participate, regardless of landline telephone or cellphone. Data were then weighted by partisan registration, age, race, sex, education, 2020 vote choice, and geography. Education weights were created from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 estimates for the percent of college-educated individuals within each strata in the state of Florida, approximately 29% statewide. Partisan registration, sex, race, and age weights were created from the December 2021 update of the Florida Voter File to match the active registered voters in Florida.

All weighted demographic variables were applied using the SPSS version 26 rake weighting function, which will not assign a weight if one of the demographics being weighted on is missing. In this case, respondents missing a response for any of the demographic information were given a weight equal to their weight for the remaining demographics. There were no statistical adjustments made due to design effects.

To ensure a representative sample of likely voters, the state of Florida was stratified into 11 strata. Miami-Dade County was separated from its designated media market area due to population density. Quotas were placed on each of these stratified areas to ensure a proportionate number of completed surveys.

This study had a 4% response rate. The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Response Rate 3 (RR3) calculation was used which consists of an estimate of what proportion of cases of unknown eligibility are truly eligible. This survey was directed by Dr. Michael Binder, PORL faculty director and UNF professor of political science.

The PORL is a full-service survey research facility that provides tailored research to fulfill each client’s individual needs from political, economic, social, and cultural projects. The PORL opened in 2001 and is an independent, non-partisan center, a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative and a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organization. As members of AAPOR, the PORL’s goal is to support sound and ethical practices in the conduct of survey and public opinion research. For more information about methodology, contact Dr. Michael Binder at porl@unf.edu or at (904) 620-2784.

About University of North Florida

The University of North Florida is a nationally ranked university located on a beautiful 1,381-acre campus in Jacksonville surrounded by nature. Serving 17,000 students, UNF features six colleges of distinction with innovative programs in high-demand fields. UNF students receive individualized attention from faculty and gain valuable real-world experience engaging with community partners. A top public university, UNF prepares students to make a difference in Florida and around the globe. Learn more at www.unf.edu.

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Methodology Results Contact

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What do you think is the most important problem facing Florida today?

	Party			Sex			College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
	Dem n=271	Rep n=259	NPA/Oth n=159	M n=361	F n=324	No n=302	Yes n=383	White n=421	Afr Am/Black n=117	Hisp n=112	Other n=35	18-24 n=93	25-34 n=126	35-44 n=106	45-54 n=91	55-64 n=110	65+ n=159	
Economy/Jobs/Unemployment	21%	19%	23%	20%	22%	21%	20%	21%	15%	31%	11%	20%	19%	26%	20%	29%	15%	
Education	12%	10%	14%	12%	12%	12%	13%	14%	13%	6%	6%	20%	20%	20%	3%	9%	7%	
Environment	8%	11%	4%	9%	7%	7%	10%	6%	4%	8%	25%	14%	10%	3%	10%	5%	8%	
COVID-19	11%	16%	5%	12%	11%	11%	12%	8%	21%	13%	15%	15%	14%	11%	9%	8%	11%	
Crime	8%	5%	11%	9%	10%	7%	9%	6%	10%	8%	8%	9%	4%	4%	9%	8%	13%	
Gun Policy	4%	9%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	8%	2%	1%	7%	3%	3%	7%	
Healthcare	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	9%	6%	7%	7%	12%	8%	4%	6%	4%	4%	
Immigration	14%	5%	27%	9%	14%	14%	15%	11%	7%	11%	8%	5%	10%	13%	17%	15%	18%	
Politicians/Politics	4%	7%	3%	2%	7%	4%	6%	5%	4%	3%	11%	13%	<1%	11%	4%	13%	7%	
Housing Costs	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%	7%	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	4%	2%	4%	8%	
All of the Above	3%	2%	1%	6%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	<1%	1%	2%	3%	<1%	4%	
Something Else	6%	4%	3%	11%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%	7%	2%	
Don't Know	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	<1%	2%	3%	2%	4%	1%	2%	2%	
Refusal	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	

A bill has been introduced in the Florida House of Representatives that would effectively ban abortions after fifteen weeks of pregnancy.

Do you support or oppose the passage of this bill into law?

	Party			Sex			College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
	Dem n=145	Rep n=127	NPA/Oth n=78	M n=173	F n=177	No n=156	Yes n=194	White n=210	Afr Am/Black n=68	Hisp n=58	Other n=14	18-24 n=53	25-34 n=70	35-44 n=45	45-54 n=47	55-64 n=52	65+ n=83	
Strongly Approve	27%	17%	42%	23%	25%	29%	30%	20%	30%	16%	37%	<1%	9%	19%	41%	29%	33%	28%
Somewhat Approve	9%	4%	15%	10%	13%	7%	9%	11%	9%	6%	7%	12%	13%	8%	9%	10%	8%	
Somewhat Disapprove	13%	12%	12%	17%	9%	13%	14%	12%	12%	11%	32%	21%	19%	8%	18%	7%	11%	
Strongly Disapprove	41%	59%	21%	44%	32%	48%	40%	46%	41%	49%	32%	54%	39%	39%	33%	40%	47%	
Don't Know	6%	7%	7%	5%	7%	6%	6%	7%	5%	12%	5%	7%	6%	11%	3%	7%	5%	
Refusal	3%	2%	4%	2%	5%	1%	2%	3%	3%	4%	<1%	<1%	3%	<1%	3%	4%	3%	

A bill has been introduced in the Florida House of Representatives that would effectively ban abortions after fifteen weeks of pregnancy. The bill does not provide exceptions in case of rape or incest.

Do you support or oppose the passage of this bill into law?

	Party			Sex			College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
	Dem n=126	Rep n=132	NPA/Oth n=77	M n=188	F n=147	No n=146	Yes n=189	White n=211	Afr Am/Black n=49	Hisp n=54	Other n=21	18-24 n=53	25-34 n=56	35-44 n=41	45-54 n=45	55-64 n=58	65+ n=76	
Strongly Approve	20%	6%	35%	19%	17%	24%	30%	20%	23%	9%	24%	7%	8%	17%	25%	13%	27%	20%
Somewhat Approve	11%	8%	16%	8%	12%	10%	9%	11%	12%	12%	12%	7%	13%	13%	11%	13%	10%	11%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%	12%	14%	22%	18%	14%	13%	14%	15%	16%	14%	22%	17%	22%	19%	9%	16%	14%
Strongly Disapprove	44%	66%	24%	42%	43%	40%	46%	40%	54%	46%	52%	54%	44%	38%	57%	35%	44%	
Don't Know	5%	4%	8%	5%	8%	3%	6%	7%	6%	5%	3%	7%	8%	2%	5%	4%	3%	
Refusal	4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	5%	2%	4%	<1%	2%	3%	4%	10%	

Do you support or oppose legalizing sports and event betting for individuals age 21 or over, at professional sports venues or online betting platforms?

	Party			Sex			College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
	Dem n=140	Rep n=129	NPA/Oth n=76	M n=182	F n=163	No n=151	Yes n=189	White n=212	Afr Am/Black n=57	Hisp n=57	Other n=19	18-24 n=45	25-34 n=69	35-44 n=48	45-54 n=45	55-64 n=52	65+ n=76	
Strongly Approve	24%	19%	27%	26%	21%	24%	23%	22%	29%	29%	17%	31%	30%	19%	24%	21%	15%	
Somewhat Approve	26%	22%	29%	28%	24%	26%	26%	22%	26%	36%	35%	31%	38%	39%	22%	25%	15%	
Somewhat Disapprove	19%	21%	20%	15%	13%	18%	20%	21%	5%	13%	31%	10%	15%	15%	31%	17%	22%	
Strongly Disapprove	16%	17%	16%	14%	19%	16%	14%	15%	26%	16%	7%	10%	3%	13%	7%	23%	28%	
Don't Know	15%	19%	9%	18%	14%	17%	15%	16%	13%	7%	10%	17%	13%	15%	16%	13%	17%	
Refusal	1%	2%	<1%	<1%	2%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%	2%	

Do you support or oppose legalizing sports and event betting for individuals age 21 or over, at professional sports venues or online betting platforms, if tax revenue would go toward education in Florida?

	Party			Sex			College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
	Dem n=113	Rep n=130	NPA/Oth n=79	M n=179	F n=161	No n=151	Yes n=189	White n=209	Afr Am/Black n=60	Hisp n=55	Other n=16	18-24 n=48	25-34 n=57	35-44 n=48	45-54 n=46	55-64 n=58	65+ n=83	
Strongly Approve	33%	30%	33%	37%	42%	35%	28%	28%	39%	40%	42%	38%	37%	58%	33%	30%	22%	
Somewhat Approve	27%	28%	20%	32%	26%	25%	30%	27%	23%	31%	19%	45%	37%	14%	22%	25%	25%	
Somewhat Disapprove	8%	10%	9%	6%	10%	7%	13%	9%	10%	9%	<1%	<1%	12%	5%	15%	9%	8%	
Strongly Disapprove	20%	24%	22%	12%	17%	20%	18%	23%	19%	15%	4%	7%	4%	12%	16%	28%	31%	
Don't Know	10%	8%	11%	11%	7%	12%	11%	10%	10%	5%	31%	7%	10%	12%	15%	6%	10%	
Refusal	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	<1%	<1%	4%	3%	2%	<1%	<1%	2%	5%	

Another bill before the Florida Senate would prohibit school districts from encouraging discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in grades K-5, or in a way that is age or developmentally inappropriate.

(The bill would allow parents to sue school districts if they believe a procedure of practice to be in violation of its provisions.)

Do you support or oppose the passage of this bill into law?

	Party			Sex			College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
	Dem n=271	Rep n=259	NPA/Oth n=155	M n=361	F n=324	No n=302	Yes n=383	White n=421	Afr Am/Black n=117	Hisp n=112	Other n=35	18-24 n=93	25-34 n=126	35-44 n=106	45-54 n=91	55-64 n=110	65+ n=159	
Strongly Approve	30%	19%	44%	26%	29%	28%	34%	32%	26%	32%	15%	21%	27%	43%	33%	40%	19%	
Somewhat Approve	10%	7%	10%	14%	12%	9%	10%	11%	11%	10%	8%	14%	14%	8%	11%	8%	9%	
Somewhat Disapprove	13%	14%	7%	18%	11%	14%	13%	11%	11%	23%	17%	18%	12%	13%	14%	14%	10%	
Strongly Disapprove	36%	49%	31%	27%	33%	39%	36%	37%	39%	29%	38%	33%	35%	28%	28%	31%	50%	
Don't Know	10%	9%	7%	13%	10%	9%	10%	8%	9%	11%	11%	11%	11%	9%	14%	3%	10%	
Refusal	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	<1%	<1%	3%	2%	

*note. This was a split sample question, with half of respondents receiving the additional line of information. The questions were combined due to lack of significant difference in responses.

Currently, district school board elections in Florida are nonpartisan, meaning candidates are not associated with a political party. An amendment to the Florida State Constitution has been proposed to require school board candidates to run in partisan elections.

Do you support or oppose this passage of this amendment?

	Total n=685	Party			Sex		College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
		Dem n=271	Rep n=259	NPA/Oth n=155	M n=361	F n=324	No n=302	Yes n=383	White n=421	Afr n=117	Hisp n=112	Other n=35	18-24 n=93	25-34 n=126	35-44 n=106	45-54 n=91	55-64 n=110	65+ n=159
Strongly Support	15%	12%	19%	12%	15%	15%	16%	11%	15%	13%	20%	6%	4%	15%	18%	6%	22%	16%
Somewhat Support	17%	14%	21%	17%	16%	18%	18%	16%	17%	15%	18%	19%	29%	17%	22%	18%	12%	14%
Somewhat Oppose	18%	17%	20%	19%	18%	19%	18%	18%	20%	15%	18%	17%	23%	20%	20%	17%	20%	15%
Strongly Oppose	31%	40%	22%	33%	30%	27%	41%	31%	32%	29%	35%	27%	28%	30%	32%	30%	36%	
Don't Know	16%	15%	15%	19%	15%	17%	18%	13%	14%	23%	16%	22%	16%	19%	10%	22%	13%	16%
Refusal	2%	2%	4%	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	<1%	2%	2%	1%	<1%	4%	3%	3%

Do you believe that politicians and elected officials should be required to publicly disclose their vaccination status against COVID-19?

	Total n=685	Party			Sex		College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
		Dem n=271	Rep n=259	NPA/Oth n=155	M n=361	F n=324	No n=302	Yes n=383	White n=421	Afr n=117	Hisp n=112	Other n=35	18-24 n=93	25-34 n=126	35-44 n=106	45-54 n=91	55-64 n=110	65+ n=159
Yes	38%	52%	24%	38%	35%	41%	40%	35%	33%	52%	45%	42%	40%	28%	27%	39%	35%	49%
No	58%	44%	71%	59%	59%	57%	57%	61%	64%	42%	53%	57%	58%	70%	71%	54%	62%	46%
Don't Know	3%	4%	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%	5%	3%	7%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	8%	3%	4%
Refusal	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%

Do you support or oppose allowing adults in Florida to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for recreational use?

	Total n=685	Party			Sex		College		Race/Ethnicity				Age					
		Dem n=271	Rep n=259	NPA/Oth n=155	M n=361	F n=324	No n=302	Yes n=383	White n=421	Afr n=117	Hisp n=112	Other n=35	18-24 n=93	25-34 n=126	35-44 n=106	45-54 n=91	55-64 n=110	65+ n=159
Strongly Approve	53%	57%	40%	63%	61%	45%	55%	49%	49%	56%	54%	72%	62%	65%	65%	53%	54%	36%
Somewhat Approve	23%	19%	24%	27%	19%	27%	22%	27%	27%	13%	20%	13%	24%	24%	19%	21%	21%	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	6%	5%	10%	3%	5%	7%	4%	9%	6%	9%	7%	2%	7%	6%	5%	9%	4%	5%
Strongly Disapprove	14%	11%	23%	6%	12%	16%	14%	13%	14%	15%	13%	11%	7%	2%	10%	10%	16%	25%
Don't Know	4%	5%	4%	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%	6%	2%	<1%	4%	1%	8%	3%	4%
Refusal	1%	3%	<1%	<1%	1%	1%	2%	<1%	1%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	2%	3%

Nature of the Sample	
Registered Voters	n=685
Party Registration	
Democrat	36%
Republican	36%
NPA/Other	29%
Sex	
Male	47%
Female	54%
Race/Ethnicity	
White	61%
African American/Black	13%
Hispanic/Latino	18%
Other	8%
Education	
No Bachelor's Degree	70%
Bachelor's Degree	30%
Age	
18-24	8%
25-34	16%
35-44	15%
45-54	15%
55-64	17%
65+	29%
Strata	
1	4%
2	2%
3	2%
4	9%
5	2%
6	21%
7	24%
8	10%
9	7%
10	9%
11	11%