

OCTOBER 2026



**INSTITUTE FOR
GOVERNANCE & CIVICS**
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

IGC POLL REPORT

Florida's 2026 Election: Statewide Races and Constitutional Amendments

*Findings from an
October 2026
Survey of Florida
Likely Voters*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Institute for Governance and Civics at Florida State University surveyed 988 Florida likely voters from October 2 to 9, 2026, about the race for Governor, U.S. Senate, and Attorney General and three proposed constitutional amendments. The findings provide a snapshot of voting intentions shortly before Election Day.

- **Republican candidates Donalds, Moody, and Uthmeier lead in all three statewide races**

Republican leads over Democrat candidates are 10.1 percentage points in the governor's race, 7.9 points in the Senate race, and 8.9 points in the attorney general's race—all statistically significant.

- **Approval of DeSantis is more strongly associated with support for the Republican candidate for Governor than approval of Trump.**

After accounting for party affiliation, demographic characteristics, and approval of the other officeholder, predicted support for Donalds differs by 41.6 percentage points between DeSantis approvers and disapprovers, compared to 10.5 points between Trump approvers and disapprovers.

- **Amendments 2 and 3 draw majority support—only Amendment 2 reaches the 60% threshold.**

Amendment 1 (Budget Stabilization Fund changes) has the weakest support (26.8%) and greatest uncertainty, with 42.7% of likely voters saying they are not sure how they will vote on it. Amendment 2 (agricultural property tax exemption) has 62.4% support and Amendment 3 (homestead and property tax changes) has 56.3%.

INTRODUCTION

Where do Florida's statewide races stand as Election Day approaches, and how do likely voters view the three proposed constitutional amendments?

To examine these questions, the Institute for Governance and Civics at Florida State University surveyed 988 Florida likely voters from October 2 to 9, 2026.¹ We asked which candidates they intended to vote for—or leaned toward—in the governor, U.S. Senate, and attorney general races. Additionally, we asked how they would vote on the proposed constitutional amendments and whether they approved of President Donald Trump and Governor Ron DeSantis.

Republican candidates lead in all three statewide races in our survey, even though a majority of likely voters disapprove of President Donald Trump. Their leads are broadly comparable to those recorded in selected pre-election polls at a similar stage in 2022. Support for Byron Donalds in the governor's race is more closely linked to approval of DeSantis than to approval of Trump. The amendments present a less settled picture. Amendment 2 (agricultural property tax exemption) draws the strongest support. A smaller majority favors Amendment 3 (homestead and property tax changes). Voters are most uncertain about Amendment 1 (Budget Stabilization Fund changes). Each measure needs 60% of votes cast on it to pass, so what currently unsure voters do could affect the final results.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES LEAD IN THE THREE KEY STATEWIDE RACES IN OUR SURVEY

Table 1 shows Republican candidates leading in all three statewide races among likely voters in our survey. In the governor's race, Byron Donalds (R) leads by 10.1 percentage points (48.8% support vs. 38.6% for David Jolly (D)). In the U.S. Senate race, Ashley Moody (R) leads by 7.9 percentage points (48.8% vs. 40.9% for Angie Nixon (D)).

In the attorney general's race, James Uthmeier (R) leads by 8.9% (47.5% vs. 38.6% for José Javier Rodríguez (D)). Uncertainty is highest in this race: 10.0% of likely voters are not sure for whom they would vote, while another 4.0% would vote for someone else. All three Republican leads are statistically significant, with 95% confidence intervals above zero.

Other recent polls show Republican leads in the race for Governor and Senate.² The RealClearPolling (RCP) average of polls

¹ Ipsos conducted the survey online in English and Spanish through KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel recruited using address-based sampling. The final sample included 1,247 Florida adults, of whom 988 met the likely-voter criteria: U.S. citizens who reported being definitely or probably registered at their current address and planning to vote or having already voted. See the Poll Information section for additional methodological information as well as a table of sample demographic and political characteristics.

² For the Senate race averages, see RealClearPolling. (n.d.). 2026 Florida Senate special election—Moody vs. Nixon. Retrieved October 22, 2026, from <https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/senate/general/2026/florida/moody-vs-nixon>. For the gubernatorial race averages, see RealClearPolling. (n.d.). 2026 Florida governor—Donalds vs. Jolly. Retrieved October 22, 2026, from <https://www.realclearpolling.com/polls/governor/general/2026/florida/donalds-vs-jolly>.

conducted between September 24 and October 20, 2026, gives Donalds a 5.6-point lead in the gubernatorial race, compared to 10.1 points in our survey. Donalds's support is nearly identical across the two—48.6% in the average and 48.8% in our survey—but Jolly receives 43.0% in the average, compared to 38.6% in our survey. Our Senate results are closer to the RCP average, which covers polls conducted between September 8 and October 20. That average gives Moody a 7.0-point lead, compared to 7.9 points in our survey.³

Race	Republican Candidate (R)	Democratic Candidate (D)	Someone else	Not sure	R - D lead
Governor: Donalds (R) vs. Jolly (D)	48.8%	38.6%	6.8%	5.8%	+10.1 points (3.8, 16.5)
U.S. Senate: Moody (R) vs. Nixon (D)	48.8%	40.9%	4.0%	6.3%	+7.9 points (1.3, 14.4)
Attorney General: Uthmeier (R) vs. Rodriguez (D)	47.5%	38.6%	4.0%	10.0%	+8.9 points (2.6, 15.2)

Table 1. Candidate Support Among Florida Likely Voters, October 2026

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 988). Candidate support includes respondents who initially gave a "Not sure" response before selecting a candidate when subsequently asked which candidate they lean towards voting for. Parentheses show 95% confidence intervals for the Republican–Democratic lead, calculated from unrounded percentages. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

The Republican leads in our survey are broadly comparable to those in selected pre-election polls at a similar stage in 2022 (Appendix Table B1). Although Republicans ultimately won those races by larger margins, those results do not establish whether our survey understates Republican support.

REPUBLICAN LEADS ARE LARGER AMONG WHITE VOTERS, OLDER ADULTS, AND THOSE WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE

Republican candidates' current statewide leads vary substantially across demographic groups. As shown in Table 2, all three Republican candidates lead among both men and women, though their margins are larger among men (11.1 to 15.1 percentage points) than women (3.6 to 7.0 points). Republican leads are largest among adults ages 50 and older, ranging from 14.2 to 18.5 percentage points across the three races. Adults ages 30–49, in contrast, favor the Democratic candidates in all three contests by 9.5 to 12.4 points. Among the youngest adults, ages 18–29, Republican candidates lead by 3.3 points in the gubernatorial race and 10.3 points in the attorney general's race, while the Democratic candidate leads by 5.1 points in the Senate contest. However, none of these margins among the youngest adults are statistically significant, and estimates are less precise because of the small sample size (n = 60).

³ These averages include polls of registered voters as well as likely voters, conducted over different field periods and using different methods. Our survey was conducted October 2–9, 2026, and reports candidate support exclusively among likely voters.



Group	Unweighted Sample Size	Governor	U.S. Senate	Attorney General
All likely voters	988	+10.1*	+7.9*	+8.9*
Sex				
Men	460	+15.1*	+12.7*	+11.1*
Women	528	+5.8	+3.6	+7.0
Age				
18 to 29	60	+3.3	-5.1	+10.3
30 to 49	218	-9.5	-12.4	-9.5
50 to 64	291	+18.2*	+15.0*	+14.2*
65 or older	419	+18.4*	+18.5*	+16.6*
Race/Ethnicity				
White	678	+25.7*	+27.5*	+26.4*
Black	87	-53.5*	-76.5*	-66.0*
Hispanic	173	+0.3	-4.6	+0.1
Education				
No college degree	537	17.6*	12.7*	+16.8*
College degree	451	-1.2	+0.5	-3.1
Region				
North Florida	136	+16.7*	+12.8	+8.6
Tampa Bay Area	233	+18.2*	+16.9*	+19.9*
Orlando / Central Atlantic Coast	232	+13.6*	+12.0	+13.5*
Central Gulf Coast	99	+28.0*	+27.7*	+28.6*
Miami / Gold Coast/ Keys	288	-10.3	-13.6*	-11.2
Party Affiliation				
Democrat	260	-83.8*	-90.1*	-85.2*
Lean Democrat	156	-61.8*	-73.4*	-64.3*
Independent/Other	26	+14.5	+6.5	-6.7
Lean Republican	162	+54.2*	+52.8*	+45.0*
Republican	384	+82.7*	+86.6	+86.6*

Table 2. Republican–Democratic Margins Among Florida Likely Voters, by Voter Group and Race

*Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 988). Entries show Republican minus Democratic candidate support in percentage points; positive values indicate Republican leads and negative values indicate Democratic leads. Estimates are weighted to represent Florida likely voters (n = 988) and include follow-up candidate leaners. “Someone else” and “Not sure” responses remain in the denominator. Margins are calculated from unrounded percentages. *p < .05 for a test of whether the margin differs from zero; asterisks do not indicate statistically significant differences between voter groups.*

The youngest adults show the largest observed differences between men and women: Republican candidates lead among men ages 18–29, while Democratic candidates lead among women of the same age. These sex differences are statistically significant in the governor’s and Senate races, although the small samples—19 men and 41 women—warrant caution (Appendix Table B2).

By race/ethnicity, the three races are much closer among likely Hispanic voters than among other groups, with Republican leads of 0.3 points in the gubernatorial race and 0.1 points in the attorney general’s race, and a Democrat lead of 4.6 points in the Senate contest. None of these leads are statistically significant. Republican candidates lead among likely White voters by similar margins (25.7 to 27.5 percentage points) in all three races. Likely Black voters, in contrast, consistently favor the Democrat candidate, though the Democratic lead ranges from 53.5 points in the governor’s race to 76.5 points in the Senate race—a statistically significant difference. The smaller Democrat lead in the governor’s race reflects both greater support among likely Black voters for Donalds than Moody (12% vs. 6%) and higher proportions selecting “Someone else” or saying they are not sure whom they would support.

Support for Republican candidates is greater among likely voters without a college degree than among those with one. Among likely voters without a degree, Republican candidates lead in all three contests by statistically significant margins ranging from 12.7 to 17.6 percentage points. College graduates, in contrast, are closely divided: Democrat candidates lead by 1.2 points in the gubernatorial race and 3.1 points in the attorney general’s race, while the Republican candidate leads by 0.5 points in the Senate race. None of these margins among college graduates are statistically significant.

Geographically, all three Republican candidates lead in four of Florida’s five regions, by margins ranging from 8.6 to 28.6 percentage points. Miami/Gold Coast/Keys is the sole exception: likely voters there favor all three Democrat candidates by 10.3 to 13.6 points, although only the Democrat lead in the Senate race is statistically significant.

As expected, candidate preferences closely track party affiliation. Democrat identifiers favor their party’s candidates by 83.8 to 90.1 percentage points, while Republican identifiers favor theirs by 82.7 to 86.6 points. Leaners favor their respective parties, but by smaller margins: 61.8 to 73.4 points among Democrat leaners and 45.0 to 54.2 points among Republican leaners. The smaller Republican leads among Republican leaners reflect both willingness of this group to cross party lines as support Democrat candidates (12.6%–14.2%, compared to 2.8%–4.4% among Republican identifiers) and higher proportions selecting “Someone else” or remaining unsure (20.6%–26.5%, compared to 5.3%–8.5%).

REPUBLICAN LEADS ARE LARGER AMONG WHITE VOTERS, OLDER ADULTS, AND THOSE WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE

As noted earlier, Republican candidates lead in all three statewide races, even though a majority of Florida likely voters disapprove of President Trump. In our survey, just 41% of likely voters in our survey approve of Trump’s job performance, while 52% disapprove. Evaluations of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis are nearly the reverse: 52% approve, and 39% disapprove. This raises the question of whether Republican candidate support is more closely tied to approval of DeSantis than to approval of Trump.

Figure 1 sheds light on this question by showing predicted support for each Republican candidate across levels of Trump and DeSantis approval, accounting for approval of the other officeholder, party affiliation, age, sex, race/ethnicity, income, education, and region. This allows us to compare how approval of each officeholder relates to candidate support while holding the other characteristics constant.

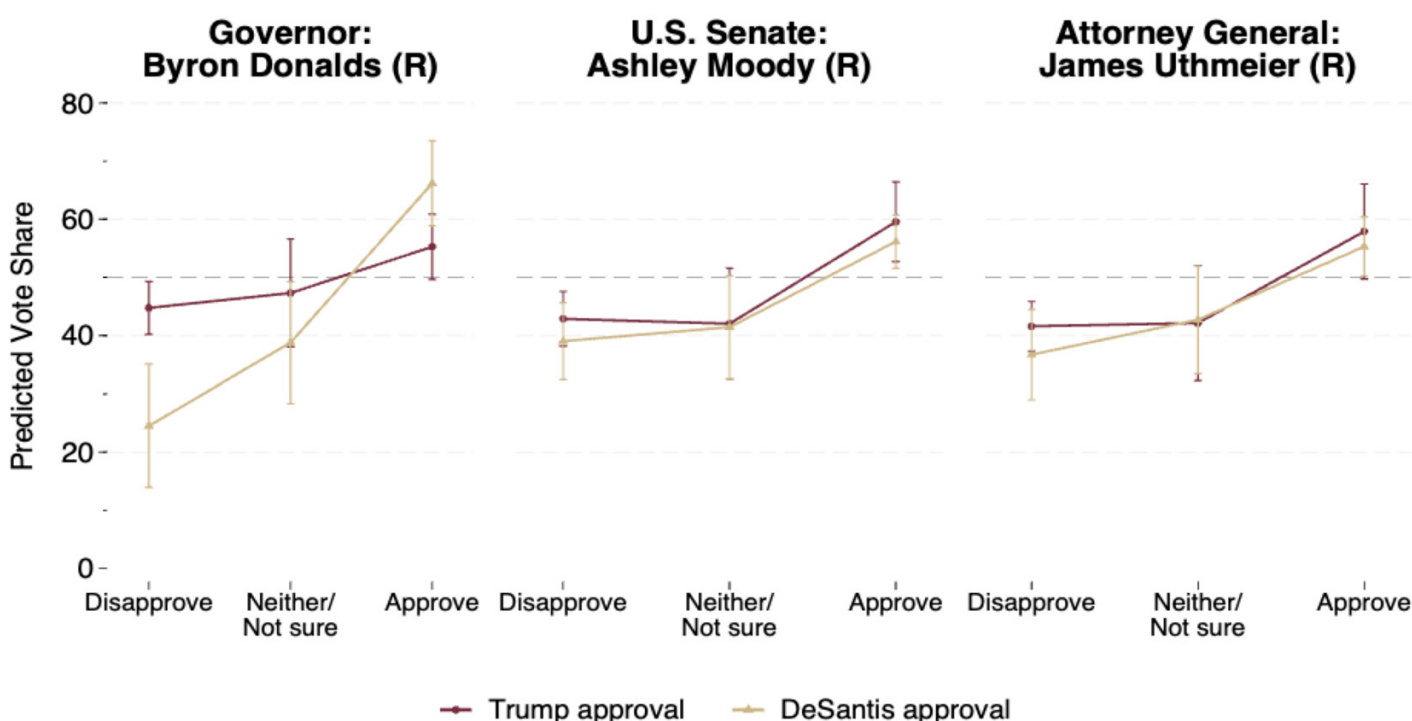


Figure 1. Republican Candidate Support by Trump and DeSantis Job Approval

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 987 across models). Markers represent the adjusted predicted support for each Republican candidate by level of Trump and DeSantis job approval. Each model includes Trump and DeSantis job approval, party affiliation, age, sex, race/ethnicity, household income, college degree attainment, and Florida region. Approval categories combine strong and somewhat approval or disapproval; “Neither/Not sure” combines neutral and unsure responses. Candidate support includes initial choices and follow-up leaners; “Someone else” and “Not sure” remain in the outcome categories. Error bars are 95% confidence intervals. Dashed horizontal lines mark 50% support.

The left panel shows a stronger link between support for Donalds and approval of DeSantis than between approval of Trump and support for Donalds. Specifically, predicted support for Donalds rises from 24.5% among DeSantis disapprovers to 66.2% among approvers—a 41.6-percentage-point difference. The corresponding difference by Trump approval is significantly smaller. Those who disapprove of Trump still have an estimated 44.8% chance of backing Donalds, while those who approve of Trump are only 10.5 points more likely to do so (55.3%).

The middle and right panels show similar links between approval of Trump and DeSantis and support for Moody in the Senate race and Uthmeier in the attorney general race. Thus, the data suggests the comparatively stronger relationship between DeSantis approval and voting intentions is unique to the gubernatorial race.

MAJORITIES SUPPORT AMENDMENTS 2 AND 3, WHILE UNCERTAINTY IS HIGHEST ON AMENDMENT 1

In addition to choosing candidates for statewide office, Florida voters will decide on three proposed amendments to the state constitution. Each requires at least 60% of the votes cast on the measure to pass. These measures concern the state's Budget Stabilization Fund, a tax exemption for agricultural tangible personal property, and changes to homestead exemptions, property assessments, and restrictions on local government spending.

Figure 2 shows rates of support, opposition, and uncertainty among likely voters for each amendment. Respondents were given brief descriptions of the proposed changes rather than the full official ballot language.⁴ The exact question wording is provided in the figure note.

If the election were held today, would you vote
YES to approve Amendment [#] or NO to reject it?

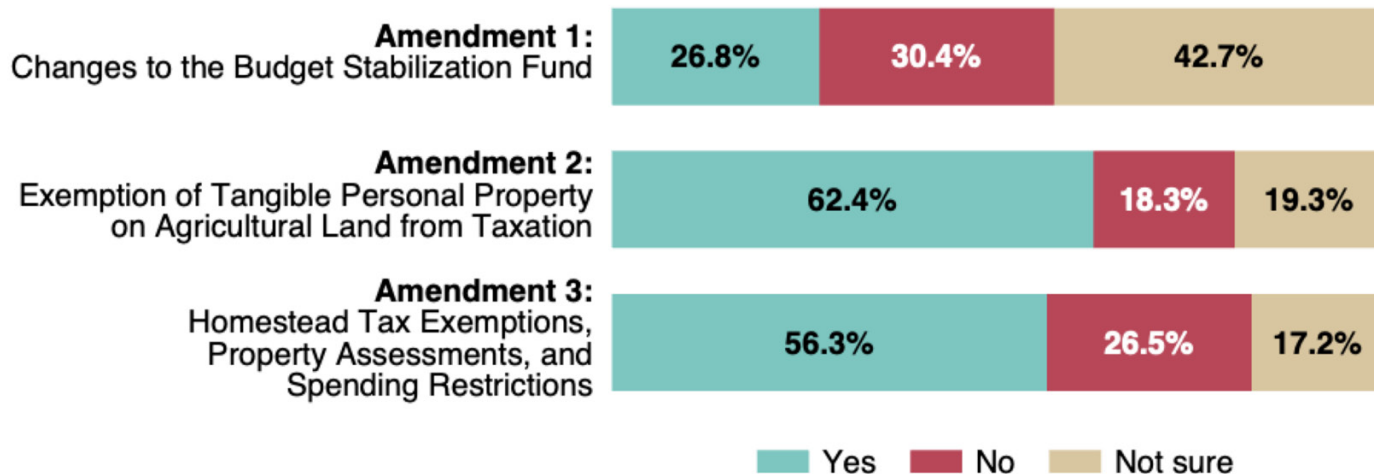


Figure 2. Support for Florida's Proposed Constitutional Amendments Among Likely Voters, October 2026

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 984–988 across amendments). Amendment descriptions given to respondents read as follows: "Florida Amendment 1 would increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of net general revenue among other changes"; "Amendment 2 would exempt agricultural-related tangible personal property, such as farm equipment or tools, from property taxes"; "Florida Amendment 3 would increase the homestead tax exemption, decrease the cap on how much the assessed value of non-homestead properties can increase, and limit how municipalities can spend property tax revenue."

Of the three initiatives, Amendment 2, which would exempt qualifying agricultural tangible personal property from taxation, receives the greatest support: 62.4% of likely voters would vote Yes, 18.3% would vote No, and 19.3% are unsure. Of course, "Not sure" is not an option on the actual ballot. But even if all currently unsure respondents ultimately voted No, the estimated Yes share would remain above the 60% passage threshold, provided current supporters and opponents maintained their preferences between now and election day. At the same time, allowing for the survey's margin of error, support could be as low

⁴ Brief descriptions were taken from Ballotpedia and used to limit survey length and respondent burden, as reproducing the full official ballot language would have substantially lengthened this portion of the questionnaire.

as 59.0% or as high as 65.7%. Therefore, we cannot be certain support will exceed the 60% passage threshold on Election Day.

A smaller but still clear majority of likely voters would vote Yes (56.3%) on Amendment 3, which would increase the homestead tax exemption, lower the cap on annual increases in assessed values for non-homestead properties, and restrict how local governments can spend property tax revenue. Another 26.5% would vote No, while 17.2% are unsure. When considering the margin of error, support among all likely voters ranges from 52.9% to 59.8%, below the 60% passage threshold. Voter turnout and the choices of currently undecided voters could strongly affect whether this ballot initiative passes on Election Day.

Compared to the other two initiatives, Amendment 1 starts from a less favorable position. Among other changes, this measure would raise the maximum amount retained in Florida's Budget Stabilization Fund—a reserve for budget shortfalls—from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections. At 26.8%, support for this initiative trails opposition (30.4%) in our sample. The largest group is voters who are unsure about their position on this amendment (42.7%). This high level of uncertainty could reflect ambiguity about the issue or a lack of knowledge among voters. Both the pro and con sides still have plenty of ground to cover between now and Election Day.

AMENDMENT SUPPORT VARIES BY PARTY, WITH A HOMEOWNERSHIP DIVIDE ON AMENDMENT 3

Although no party label is attached to them, support for the three amendments shows a clear partisan pattern. As shown in Figure 3, Republican identifiers and leaners show greater support, while their Democrat counterparts show greater opposition across all three measures. These divides are greatest for Amendments 2 and 3. Among Republican identifiers, 76.2% say they will vote Yes on Amendment 2 (7.5% No), and 75.3% say the same for Amendment 3 (11.5% No). Among Democrat identifiers, support falls to 49.7% and 36.6%, respectively, while opposition climbs to 29.3% and 47.2%. On Amendment 1, the partisan pattern is weaker but still apparent: 31.4% of Republican identifiers plan to vote Yes (24.0% No), compared to 23.4% of Democrat identifiers, nearly 40% of whom intend to vote No.

These differences in support and opposition between Republican and Democrat identifiers remain statistically significant after adjustment for demographic characteristics, but narrow substantially when Trump and DeSantis job approval are taken into account.⁵ This suggests the partisan differences in amendment preferences overlap substantially with voters' evaluations of the president and governor.

Partisanship, however, is not the only dividing line in amendment preferences. As shown in Appendix Table A3, support for Amendment 3—which includes changes to homestead exemptions and property taxes—is greater among likely voters who own a home than among those living in rented or rent-free housing: 60.9% would vote Yes, compared to 36.8%. Those in rented or rent-free housing are also more likely to remain unsure (31.0% vs. 13.9%). Importantly, this association between homeownership and support is apparent among both Democrats and Republicans, including leaners, with no clear statistical evidence it differs between these partisan groups.

⁵ Adjusted comparisons are based on separate survey-weighted multinomial logistic regressions for each amendment, retaining Yes, No, and Not sure as outcome categories. Models include party identification, age, sex, race/ethnicity, household income, college degree attainment, Florida region, urbanicity, and homeownership. Expanded models additionally include Trump and DeSantis job approval. Comparisons use average adjusted predictions, with robust standard errors. Figure 3 displays unadjusted weighted percentages.

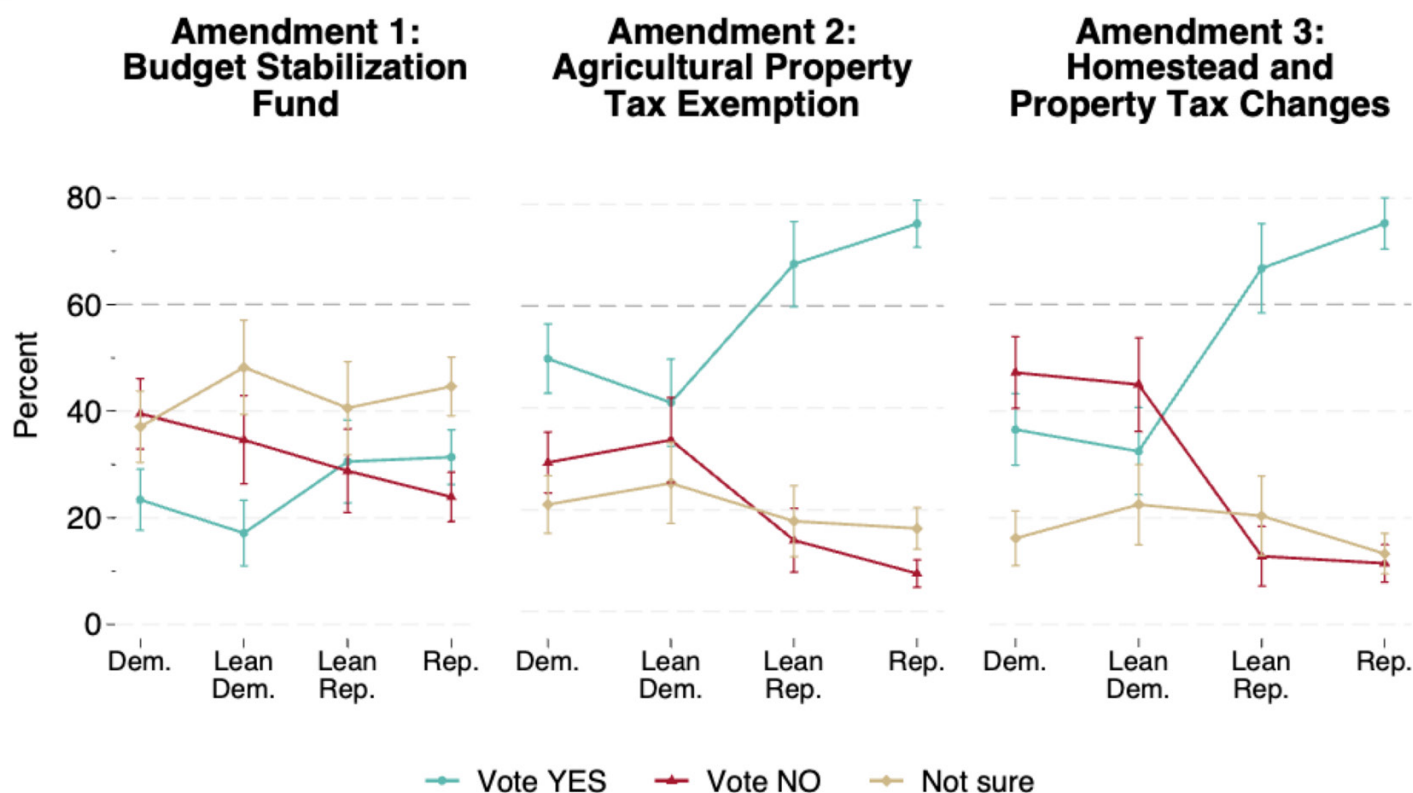


Figure 3. Support, Opposition, and Uncertainty on Florida's Proposed Amendments, by Party Identification

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent Florida likely voters (n = 984–988 across amendments). Markers show the percentage selecting Yes, No, or Not sure within each party-identification category. Leaners are respondents who lean toward a party without identifying as Democrats or Republicans. Independent/Other respondents are omitted because of the small sample size (n = 26); their responses appear in Appendix Tables A1–A3. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals. Dashed horizontal lines mark the 60% passage threshold, which applies to Yes votes among votes cast on each measure.

Support for the amendments varies across other demographic groups.⁶ Women are less likely than men to say they would vote Yes across all three amendments, while adults under 50 are less supportive than those ages 50 and older on Amendments 1 and 2 (Appendix Tables A1–A3).⁷ In both cases, however, lower support is accompanied more by greater uncertainty than by greater opposition. Women and adults under 50 are significantly more likely to give a “Not sure” response than their male and older counterparts, respectively. These patterns suggest differences in expressed support partly reflect whether voters have formed a preference.

⁶ Somewhat surprisingly, despite Amendment 2's focus on agricultural property taxation, we find no clear evidence that responses significantly differ between rural and nonrural likely voters. Estimated support is slightly higher among rural voters (65.4% vs. 62.0%), while opposition is lower (13.4% vs. 18.8%) and uncertainty is similar (21.3% vs. 19.1%). The overall association between rural residence and responses to the amendment is not statistically significant ($p = .517$).

⁷ The groups presented vary across Appendix Tables A1–A3. Each table highlights characteristics associated with meaningful differences in support, opposition, or uncertainty for that amendment.

CONCLUSION

Republican candidates lead in all three statewide races among likely voters in Florida. These advantages persist despite majority disapproval of President Donald Trump. Republicans now hold a substantially larger advantage in active voter registration than before either of the previous two midterm elections. Evaluations of state leadership appear relevant: even after accounting for party affiliation and demographic characteristics, support for Byron Donalds is more strongly associated with approval of Governor Ron DeSantis than with approval of President Donald Trump. Together, these findings suggest voters consider more than their views of the president when choosing statewide candidates.

The proposed constitutional amendments present a less settled picture. Amendment 2 (agricultural property tax exemption) receives the strongest support, while Amendment 1 (Budget Stabilization Fund changes) faces both limited support and widespread uncertainty. Amendment 3 (homestead and property tax changes) attracts majority support, with 56.3% of all likely voters currently saying they would vote Yes. Crucially, however, Florida law requires 60% of positive votes cast on each amendment to pass. Currently unsure voters may ultimately vote Yes, vote No, or skip each measure, with different implications for its prospects. Current support therefore provides a starting point, not a determination of whether an amendment will pass.

Ultimately, these results are a snapshot, not a forecast. For now, Florida likely voters give Republican candidates leads in all three statewide races, while the fate of the proposed amendments depends in part on how currently unsure voters respond on Election Day.

POLL INFORMATION

This study was conducted online in English and Spanish from October 2 to 9, 2026, by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based online panel recruited through address-based sampling. The full sample consisted of 1,247 Florida adults age 18 or older, including the 988 likely voters examined in this report. Likely voters were U.S. citizens who reported being definitely or probably registered at their current address and planning to vote or having already voted. Results were weighted to represent the Florida adult and likely-voter populations using demographic, geographic, party-registration, and past-vote characteristics. The maximum margin of sampling error for the likely-voter sample is ± 3.48 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, inclusive of the design effect. Weighted demographic characteristics of each sample are presented in Table 3 on the next page.



Table 5. Descriptive Characteristics by Survey Sample

Category	Likely Voters	All Florida Adults
Sex		
Female	53%	53%
Age		
18 to 29	9%	16%
30 to 49	25%	31%
50 to 64	28%	27%
65 or older	38%	27%
Race/Ethnicity		
White	66%	52%
Black	12%	13%
Hispanic	19%	28%
Other	3%	7%
Education		
Less than HS	4%	9%
HS Graduate	27%	27%
Some college	29%	29%
BA Degree	24%	22%
Postgrad/Prof. Degree	16%	13%
Income		
Less than \$50,000	16%	24%
\$50,000—\$74,999	28%	29%
\$75,000—\$149,999	24%	21%
\$150,000 and over	32%	25%
Partisanship		
Democrat	27%	25%
Lean Democrat	15%	20%
Independent/Other	2%	6%
Lean Republican	17%	18%
Republican	39%	32%
N	988	1,247



APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Group	Unweighted Sample Size	Vote Yes	Vote No	Not sure
All likely voters	984	26.8%	30.4%	42.7%
Sex				
Men	459	33.6%	31.5%	34.9%
Women	525	20.9%	29.4%	49.7%
Age				
18 to 29	59	28.4%	18.1%	53.4%
30 to 49	218	19.4%	29.6%	51.0%
50 to 64	291	26.8%	33.1%	40.1%
65 or older	416	31.4%	31.7%	37.0%
Education				
No college degree	534	25.8%	27.1%	47.1%
College degree	450	28.5%	35.4%	36.1%
Party Affiliation				
Democrat	259	23.4%	39.5%	37.1%
Lean Democrat	155	17.1%	34.6%	48.2%
Independent/Other	26	25.7%	16.9%	57.5%
Lean Republican	162	30.6%	28.8%	40.6%
Republican	382	31.4%	24.0%	44.6%
Trump approval				
Disapprove	524	21.7%	39.0%	39.3%
Neither/Not sure	65	32.2%	20.4%	47.4%
Approve	395	32.5%	21.2%	46.3%
DeSantis approval				
Disapprove	405	19.0%	40.5%	40.4%
Neither/Not sure	71	18.7%	21.1%	60.2%
Approve	507	34.1%	24.3%	41.6%

Table A1. Support, Opposition, and Uncertainty on Amendment 1 (Changes to the Budget Stabilization Fund), by Voter Group

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 984). Amendment 1 description given to respondents reads as follows: "Florida Amendment 1 would increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of net general revenue among other changes".



Group	Unweighted Sample Size	Vote Yes	Vote No	Not sure
All likely voters	988	62.4%	18.3%	19.3%
Sex				
Men	460	63.7%	21.6%	14.8%
Women	528	61.2%	15.5%	23.3%
Age				
18 to 29	60	55.6%	14.0%	30.5%
30 to 49	218	54.0%	17.9%	28.1%
50 to 64	291	66.5%	19.9%	13.7%
65 or older	419	66.2%	18.4%	15.4%
Party Affiliation				
Democrat	260	49.7%	29.3%	21.0%
Lean Democrat	156	41.0%	33.7%	25.2%
Independent/Other	26	72.0%	4.1%	23.9%
Lean Republican	162	68.2%	14.0%	17.7%
Republican	384	76.2%	7.5%	16.3%
Trump approval				
Disapprove	526	50.9%	28.2%	20.9%
Neither/Not sure	65	62.4%	7.8%	29.9%
Approve	397	77.0%	7.6%	15.4%
DeSantis approval				
Disapprove	406	45.2%	32.0%	22.7%
Neither/Not sure	72	67.8%	7.4%	24.8%
Approve	509	74.5%	9.8%	15.8%

Table A2. Support, Opposition, and Uncertainty on Amendment 2 (Exemptions of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation), by Voter Group

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 988). Amendment 2 description given to respondents reads as follows: "Amendment 2 would exempt agricultural-related tangible personal property, such as farm equipment or tools, from property taxes".



Group	Unweighted Sample Size	Vote Yes	Vote No	Not sure
All likely voters	988	56.3%	26.5%	17.2%
Sex				
Men	460	60.7%	28.0%	11.3%
Women	528	52.5%	25.1%	22.3%
Homeownership				
Lives in an owned home	803	60.9%	25.1%	13.9%
Lives in a rented or rent-free home	185	36.8%	32.2%	31.0%
Party Affiliation				
Democrat	260	36.6%	47.2%	16.2%
Lean Democrat	156	32.5%	45.0%	22.5%
Independent/Other	26	42.5%	20.2%	37.4%
Lean Republican	162	66.8%	12.8%	20.4%
Republican	384	75.3%	11.5%	13.3%
Trump approval				
Disapprove	526	39.0%	42.8%	18.1%
Neither/Not sure	65	55.0%	10.5%	34.5%
Approve	397	78.7%	8.4%	12.9%
DeSantis approval				
Disapprove	406	30.1%	51.4%	18.5%
Neither/Not sure	72	57.3%	10.0%	32.7%
Approve	509	76.1%	10.3%	13.6%

Table A3. Support, Opposition, and Uncertainty on Amendment 3 (Homestead Tax Exemptions, Property Assessments, and Spending Restrictions), by Voter Group

Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the Florida likely voter population (n = 988). Amendment 3 description given to respondents reads as follows: "Florida Amendment 3 would increase the homestead tax exemption, decrease the cap on how much the assessed value of non-homestead properties can increase, and limit how municipalities can spend property tax revenue."

APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTARY ANALYSES

Midterm elections are often regarded as a referendum on the incumbent president. The Republican leads are notable because a majority of Florida likely voters in our survey disapprove of President Donald Trump. How do these leads compare with Republican candidates' standing at a similar stage in previous midterm campaigns—and with their eventual margins of victory?

Table B1 compares the current Republican leads in our survey with both pre-election polling averages and actual margins of victory in the 2018 and 2022 elections. The historical polling averages draw on selected likely-voter polls from comparable stages of those campaigns.⁸

Race	Measure	2018 election	2022 election	October 2026 poll
Governor	Pre-election polling	D +3.4	R +8.6	R +10.1
	Election result	R +0.4	R +19.4	
U.S. Senate	Pre-election polling	D +1.7	R +5.7	R +7.9
	Election result	R +0.1	R +16.4	
Attorney General	Pre-election polling	D +2.0*	R +10.0	R +8.9
	Election result	R +6.0	R +21.2	

Table B1. Florida Statewide Races: Pre-Election Polling and Election Margins, 2018–2026

*Note: Entries show the difference between Republican and Democratic candidate support in percentage points; R indicates a Republican lead and D a Democratic lead. Historical polling entries are authors' averages of selected likely-voter polls from comparable stages of the 2018 and 2022 campaigns, as described in the text footnote. Election results use all votes cast for each office. October 2026 estimates are weighted to represent Florida likely voters, include follow-up candidate leaners, and retain "Someone else" and "Not sure" responses in the denominator. Historical polling margins use published percentages at the precision available; election margins and October 2026 margins are calculated before rounding. Sources: RealClearPolling historical polling archives and individual poll releases; Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, official general election results for 2018 and 2022; authors' calculations. *The 2018 attorney general polling estimate is based on a single poll.*

⁸ Historical polling averages include polls whose fieldwork ended between September 13 and October 12, 2018, and between September 15 and October 14, 2022. These 30-day windows end 25 days before Election Day, matching the timing of our survey's completion on October 9, 2026. The governor and Senate averages each include seven polls in 2018 and three in 2022. We used likely-voter polls listed in RealClearPolling's historical archives for the [2018 governor](#), [2018 Senate](#), [2022 governor](#), and [2022 Senate](#) races, retaining the latest eligible poll from each pollster and weighting each poll equally. Attorney general estimates were gathered separately using the same timing rule: one [Cherry Communications/Florida Chamber poll in 2018, reported by Florida Politics](#), and polls from [Spectrum News/Siena College](#) and [Mason-Dixon](#) in 2022. These are averages calculated for this report, rather than RealClearPolling's published averages.

In 2018, during Trump's first term, pre-election polls showed Democrat leads of 3.4 percentage points in the governor's race and 1.7 points in the Senate race. The single attorney general poll identified for this period showed a 2.0-point Democratic lead. In contrast, polls conducted before the 2022 election, when Democrat Joe Biden was President, showed Republicans leading in all three races, with polling averages of 8.6 points for governor, 5.7 points for Senate, and 10.0 points for attorney general. Our current estimates—Republican leads of 10.1, 7.9, and 8.9 points, respectively—are thus broadly comparable to those 2022 polling figures.

Republicans ultimately performed better than these earlier polls indicated in both elections. In 2018, they narrowly won the governor's and Senate races, by 0.4 and 0.1 percentage points, respectively, while winning the attorney general's race by 6.0 points. In 2022, with Democrat Joe Biden holding the presidency, Republican winning margins reached 19.4, 16.4, and 21.2 points—roughly 11 points larger than the corresponding polling averages shown in Table 2. Although Republican leads in our survey are smaller than the party's winning margins in 2022, they resemble its polling leads at a similar point in the 2022 campaign. Additionally, presidential unpopularity characterized these earlier midterms. The Florida likely-voter polls reviewed here put Trump's approval at an average of 44.0% in 2018 and Biden's at 42.4% in 2022, compared to 40.8% for Trump in our survey.⁹ These comparisons provide context for the current Republican leads, but cannot establish how much Trump's unpopularity has affected their size. Past gaps between polling and election results also do not establish whether our survey underestimates Republican support.

Florida's changing partisan registration provides additional context for Republican candidates' continued strength despite Trump's unpopularity. Official state records show Democrats held a 2.0-percentage-point advantage among active registered voters before the 2018 election.¹⁰ By the registration deadline for the 2022 election, Republicans held a 2.1-point advantage. As of September 30, 2026, the advantage had widened to 11.3 points, with Republicans accounting for 41.5% of active registered voters and Democrats for 30.2%. In our survey, the Republican registration advantage among likely voters is 13.5 percentage points: 43.7% report being registered Republicans, compared to 30.2% registered Democrats. Although registration does not determine vote choice or turnout, this shift provides a more favorable electoral foundation for Republican candidates than in either previous midterm election.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN CANDIDATE PREFERENCES VARY BY AGE AND RACE

Candidate preferences differ not only across demographic groups, but between men and women within some of those groups. Table B2 shows Jolly leading Donalds among Black likely voters by 67.5 percentage points among women and 33.5 points among men. The pattern reverses in the attorney general's race: Rodríguez leads Uthmeier by 79.8 points among Black men, compared

⁹ Historical Florida presidential approval averages are authors' calculations from four likely-voter polls in 2018—[Florida Atlantic University](#), [NBC News/Marist](#), [Quinnipiac University](#), and [Gray Television/Strategic Research Associates](#)—and three in 2022—[USA TODAY/Suffolk University](#), [Spectrum News/Siena College](#), and [Mason-Dixon, as reported by Florida Politics](#). Each poll receives equal weight and meets the fieldwork-end-date criteria used for Table 2. These averages summarize the polls reviewed rather than an exhaustive set of Florida approval polls; question wording and likely-voter definitions vary across surveys.

¹⁰ Authors' calculations from Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, active voter registration records: [2018 general election registration deadline, October 9, 2018](#); [2022 general election registration deadline, October 11, 2022](#); and [party affiliation totals as of September 30, 2026](#). Percentages use all active registered voters, including those registered with minor parties or no party affiliation. Party registration advantages are calculated before rounding.



to 56.3 points among Black women. Neither within-race difference in margins reaches conventional statistical significance, but the reversal across races is statistically significant.

Group	Unweighted Sample Size	Governor	U.S. Senate	Attorney General
All likely voters	988	+10.1*	+7.9*	+8.9*
Race x Sex				
White: Men	316	+25.6*	+30.7*	+27.7*
White: Women	362	+25.8*	+24.9*	+25.2*
Black: Men	35	-33.5*	-73.8*	-79.8*
Black: Women	52	-67.5*	-78.5*	-56.3*
Hispanic: Men	88	+7.0	-0.0	+6.0
Hispanic: Women	85	-7.6	-9.8	-6.7
Age x Sex				
18 to 29: Men	19	+33.1	+31.9	+34.8
18 to 29: Women	41	-22.2	-36.7*	-10.7
30 to 49: Men	104	-2.7	-5.2	-2.5
30 to 49: Women	114	-15.4	-18.5*	-15.5
50 to 64: Men	134	+20.0*	+15.7	+9.3
50 to 64: Women	157	+16.8*	+14.5	+18.1*
65+: Men	203	+19.0*	+17.6*	+15.7*
65+: Women	216	+17.8*	+19.2*	+17.4*
Education x Sex				
No college degree: Men	243	+22.7*	+15.9*	+18.3*
No college degree: Women	294	+13.3*	+10.0	+15.6*
College degree: Men	217	+4.3	+8.1	+0.9
College degree: Women	234	-6.3	-6.7	-6.8
Party x Sex				
Democrat: Men	190	-74.1*	-86.5*	-81.1*
Democrat: Women	226	-77.1*	-82.0*	-74.8*
Republican: Men	262	+75.6*	+80.1*	+73.0*
Republican: Women	284	+72.6*	+72.9*	+74.9*

Table B2. Republican–Democratic Margins by Race/Ethnicity, Age, Education, and Party Affiliation, Separately for Men and Women

Note: Entries show Republican minus Democratic candidate support in percentage points; positive values indicate Republican leads and negative values indicate Democratic leads. Estimates are weighted to represent Florida likely voters and include candidate leaners. “Someone else” and “Not sure” responses remain in the denominator. Party affiliation groups include their respective partisan leaners. Margins are calculated from unrounded percentages. * $p < .05$ for a test of whether the margin differs from zero; asterisks do not indicate statistically significant differences between men and women or across races.

These two sex gaps among Black likely voters reflect different response patterns. In the governor's race, Black men report greater support for Donalds than Black women (22.4% vs. 3.9%), with similar levels of uncertainty. In the attorney general's race, estimated support for Uthmeier is similar among Black men and women (6.3% vs. 8.6%), but women are more likely to remain unsure (19.7% vs. 5.0%) or select someone else (6.8% vs. 2.7%). These exploratory findings warrant caution, however, given the small samples of Black men ($n = 35$) and Black women ($n = 52$).

Among Hispanic likely voters, men show more Republican-leaning vote margins than women across all three races, although none of these sex differences is statistically significant. Among White likely voters, Republican candidates lead by 25.6 to 30.7 percentage points among men and 24.9 to 25.8 points among women. None of these sex differences are statistically significant either.

The youngest adults show the largest observed sex differences of any group in Table B2. Among those ages 18–29, Republican candidates lead among men by 31.9 to 34.8 percentage points, while Democratic candidates lead among women by 10.7 to 36.7 points. The differences between men's and women's vote margins are statistically significant in the governor's and Senate races, but not the attorney general's race. Still, because these estimates are based on small samples—19 men and 41 women—caution is warranted.

Sex differences appear among college-educated likely voters, with men narrowly favoring Republican candidates (+0.9 to +8.1) and women favoring Democratic candidates (-6.3 to -6.8) across all three races. None of these differences are statistically significant, however.

Finally, no statistically significant sex differences emerge within the two major partisan groups. Male and female Democrats consistently back Democrat candidates by similar margins across all three races, and vice versa for male and female Republicans.