

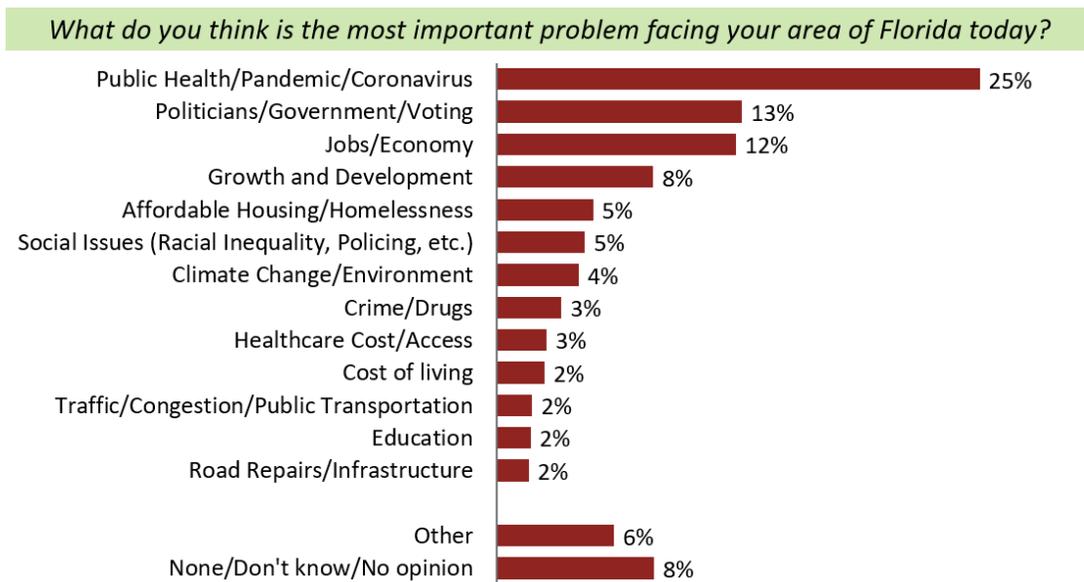


TO: Interested Parties
FROM: EMC Research
RE: Florida Statewide Poll on Legislative Priorities
DATE: January 19, 2021

The following memo outlines general outlook, voter priorities, and support for legislative policy positions in Florida, as found in a recent poll conducted by EMC Research. The survey was conducted among registered voters statewide on behalf of Florida Watch. Please reach out to Jane Rayburn at jane@emcresearch.com or 850-443-0799 for more information.

Political Environment and Outlook

Coronavirus remains a top concern among Florida voters, with a quarter (25%) saying it is the most important problem facing Florida today. Politics, government, and the economy are also top issues (13% mention politicians/government/voting and 12% mention jobs/economy).

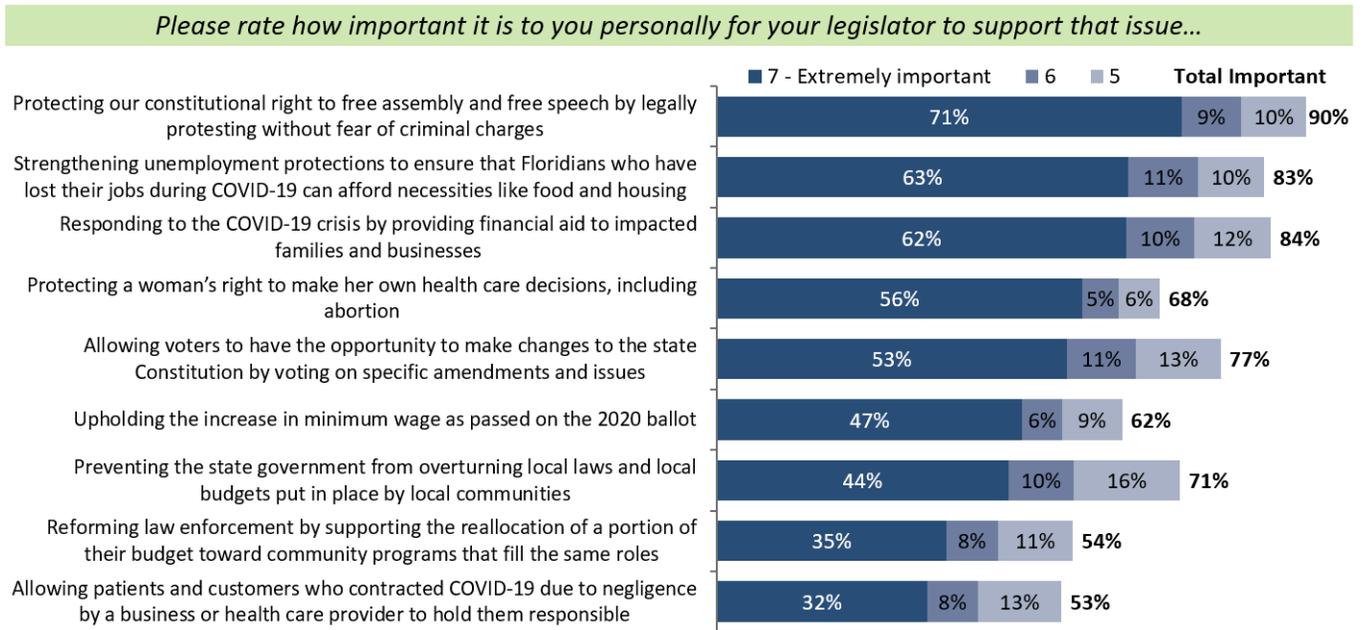


As the federal administration change approaches, President-Elect Joe Biden is rated favorably by a majority (51%) of Florida voters. Statewide voters are split in their feelings toward Governor Ron DeSantis (47% Total Favorable, 47% Total Unfavorable).

Similarly, voters are split on Democrats in the Florida Legislature (45% Total Favorable, 44% Total Unfavorable). Sentiment toward Republicans in the legislature is net negative with half of voters indicating they feel unfavorably (42% Total Favorable, 50% Total Unfavorable).

Voter Legislative Priorities

Voters were presented with a series of nine issues facing Florida and asked to rate how important each is for their legislator to support. Each policy was rated highly with at least a majority of voters indicating they felt the item was important.



Out of all tested issues, **“protecting our constitutional right to free assembly and free speech”** was rated as the most important issue, with seven-in-ten (71%) rating this as Extremely Important. Democrats and Republicans alike rate this as a top priority (71% of Democrats rate as Extremely Important, and 74% of Republicans). Over half (56%) said they would be Much More Likely to support their legislator if they supported **“protecting our constitutional right to free assembly and free speech by legally protesting without fear of criminal charges”** (80% Total More Likely to support).

COVID-19 response was also a top priority, with over 60 percent rating both **“strengthening unemployment protections to ensure that Floridians who have lost their jobs during COVID-19 can afford necessities like food and housing”** and **“providing financial aid to impacted families and businesses”** as Extremely Important (63% and 62% Extremely Important, respectively).

Three-quarters of Florida voters said it is important for their legislator to support **“allowing voters to have the opportunity to make changes to the state Constitution by voting on specific amendments and issues”** (77% Total Important) with strong bipartisan support. Nearly all Democrats (86%) and seven-in-ten Republicans (69%) think this policy position is important for their legislator to support. More so, a strong majority are More Likely to support their legislator for supporting the current process for amending the constitution (45% Much More Likely, 77% Total More Likely).

Seven-in-ten said it is important for their legislator to support **“preventing the state government from overturning local laws and local budgets put in place by local communities”** (71% Total Important). This policy position is supported among both Democrats and Republicans (79% Total Important among Democrats and 64% among Republicans). Though intensity is lower, nearly two-thirds stills said they are



More Likely to support their legislator for supporting this policy (33% Much More Likely, 65% Total More Likely).

Upholding the minimum wage increase as passed on the 2020 ballot is critical to Florida voters, as six-in-ten said this is an important issue for their legislator to support (62% Total Important). Two-thirds are also More Likely to support their legislator if they uphold the minimum wage decision from the 2020 ballot (42% Much More Likely, 65% Total More Likely).

Voters, however, are mixed on **“allowing patients and customers who contracted COVID-19 due to negligence by a business or health care provider to hold them responsible”**, with only one-third saying this is an Extremely Important policy for legislators to support (32% Extremely Important, 53% Total Important). Half (52%) said they would be More Likely to support their legislator for supporting this position, but there is a number of voters who said they would be Much Less Likely to support their legislator for supporting this policy (23% Much Less Likely, 37% Total Less Likely).

Methodology

EMC Research conducted a multi-modal survey of 600 likely registered voters in Florida from January 7-10, 2021. Interviews were conducted via both landline and cell phone and online; interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish. This survey was conducted following violence at the U.S. Capitol building during the Senate confirmation hearing of Biden’s presidency, and before the start of the Florida legislative session. The margin of error for overall results is ± 4.0 percentage points.