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STETSON UNIVERSITY

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Poll: Florida Voters Worried About Illegal Drugs in Halloween Candy

60% of Floridians at least “a little worried” about illegal drugs disguised in candy

DELAND, Florida, Oct. 28, 2022 – Just yesterday, [Florida’s Attorney General, Ashley Moody, warned families about Halloween candy tainted with fentanyl](#). According to Stetson’s Center for Public Opinion Research’s poll of registered Florida voters, 60% of Floridians are at least “a little worried” about illegal drugs being disguised in candy this year.

“Interestingly, this is not a partisan issue — most Democrats and Republicans are at least a little worried this year, and about 15% of Democrats and 18% of Republicans are ‘very worried,’” said Steven Smallpage, PhD, associate professor of political science and director of Stetson’s Center for Public Opinion Research.

“Despite concern over drugs, Floridians love their Halloween candy,” said Kelly B. Smith, PhD, assistant professor of political science at Stetson University. “Handing out Reese’s Peanut Butter cups on Halloween is likely to make you the most popular house on the block.”

A new survey from Stetson’s Center for Public Opinion Research reports that 53% of Florida registered voters say peanut butter cups are their favorite Halloween candy.

More than 1,000 registered Floridians were surveyed about their favorite Halloween candies. The survey included 20 different types and brands of popular Halloween candy. Peanut Butter cups, Kit Kats (46%), M&Ms (45%), Snickers (42%) and Kisses (42%) are the five most-liked Halloween candies among registered Florida voters. The five-least liked: Gummy Bears (23%), Candy Corn (22%), Twizzlers (21%), Tootsie Rolls (20%) and Licorice (12%).

Although chocolate candies are more popular overall, younger Floridians are more likely to enjoy fruit-flavored candies than older Floridians. Nearly half (48%) of 18- to 24-year-olds marked Skittles as their favorite candy, while only 8% of those Floridians over 65 years old did so. The same is true for gummy bears: from 40% for 18- to 24-year-olds to only 8% for those 65 and older.

The survey of 1,067 registered Florida voters was conducted Oct. 16-20. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points. The data was weighted by geographic area, ethnicity, age, education, partisan identity and gender. Data was collected through an online panel provided by Dynata. The polling results are available by visiting [the Center's website](#).

About Stetson University

Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 4 on U.S. News & World Report's 2023 list of Best Regional Universities (South) and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 388 Best Colleges in America, 2023 edition.

About Stetson University's Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR)

Founded in 2022, the Center for Public Opinion Research is an independent, non-partisan survey research center of Stetson University. The purpose of CPOR is to produce knowledge about how the public thinks about politics, the economy and other social issues. Stetson's CPOR also advances our students' education in the dynamic science of survey research and social science methodology.

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