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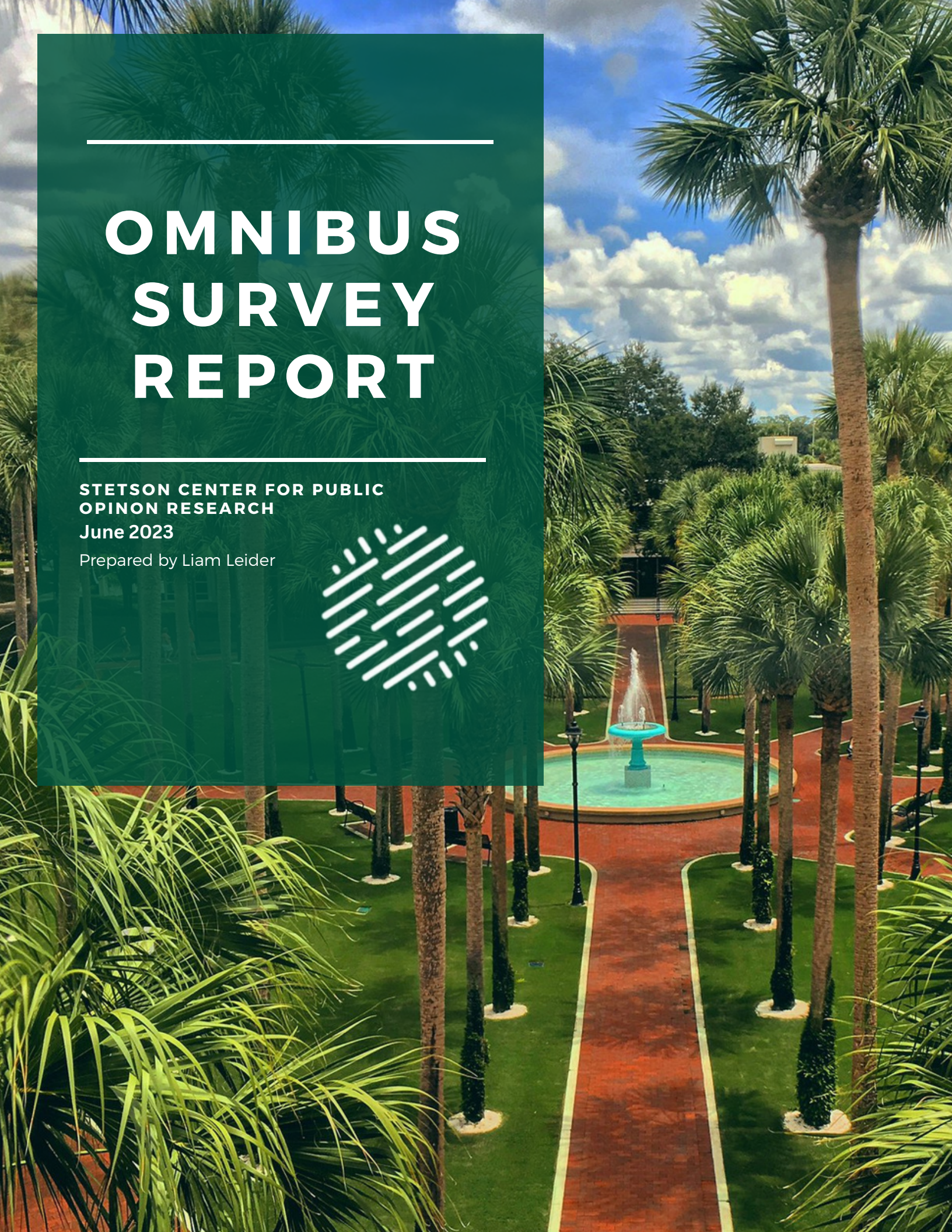
# OMNIBUS SURVEY REPORT

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STETSON CENTER FOR PUBLIC  
OPINION RESEARCH

June 2023

Prepared by Liam Leider



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# ABOUT CPOR

The Center for Public Opinion Research is an independent, non-partisan survey research center at 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.

At the Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR), our vision is to be recognized nationally as a preeminent survey research center, known for producing innovative and rigorous research on the public's opinions on politics, the economy, and social issues. We aim to be a trusted source of information for policymakers, media, and the public, promoting evidence-based decision-making and informed public discourse.

Additionally, we strive to be a leader in providing students with opportunities to engage in experiential learning in survey research and social science methodology, preparing them for successful careers in research, public service, and related fields. We envision a society where public opinion is well-understood and considered in policy-making, and where individuals are equipped with the knowledge and skills to engage meaningfully in democratic processes.

Stetson University's Center for Public Opinion Research is dedicated to following the best practices of the professional field of public opinion research. Stetson's CPOR (and Institute for Social Research) is a member of the Association for Academic Survey Research Organizations (AASRO). CPOR will be applying for membership in AAPOR's TI as soon as it is eligible (after a number of eligible public opinion polls have been fielded).



STETSON UNIVERSITY  
CENTER FOR PUBLIC  
OPINION RESEARCH

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# INTRODUCTION

The past year has been marked by a remarkable array of significant events and evolving societal trends, prompting us to embark on an ambitious endeavor to capture the pulse of public opinion. As part of our commitment to providing accurate and comprehensive insights, we undertook an omnibus survey that aimed to delve into the pressing issues at the forefront of voters' minds. This comprehensive survey was conducted from January to April 2023 and had 810 participants. It covered a wide range of topics to gain a deeper understanding of public sentiment and preferences. From critical discussions surrounding concepts like Critical Race Theory to the growing influence of artificial intelligence in government operations, and even the emerging attitudes towards lab-grown meat, this omnibus survey leaves no stone unturned in exploring the multifaceted landscape of public opinion.

The success of this ambitious project would not have been possible without the dedicated involvement of our student callers. As part of their training and experiential learning, these passionate individuals played a vital role in conducting the survey. They skillfully engaged with respondents, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the data collected. Beyond the instrumental role they played in data collection, our student callers also served as ambassadors for our organization and the Stetson Center for Political Opinion Research.

Through their interactions with survey participants, they helped strengthen our relationships with Stetson alumni, conveying our genuine interest in their perspectives and our commitment to enhancing the quality of education and student experiences at Stetson University. Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication significantly contributed to the overall success of the omnibus survey, reinforcing our organization's mission to provide valuable insights that drive positive change.

Through the collaborative efforts of our team and the invaluable contribution of our student callers, this omnibus survey represents a milestone in our organization's commitment to fostering an informed and engaged public. The data collected from this survey will serve as a foundation for evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, and public dialogue. As we present the findings and analysis of this remarkable survey, we invite you to delve into the nuanced perspectives of our diverse society, gaining a deeper understanding of the issues that matter most to our communities and empowering us all to shape a better future.

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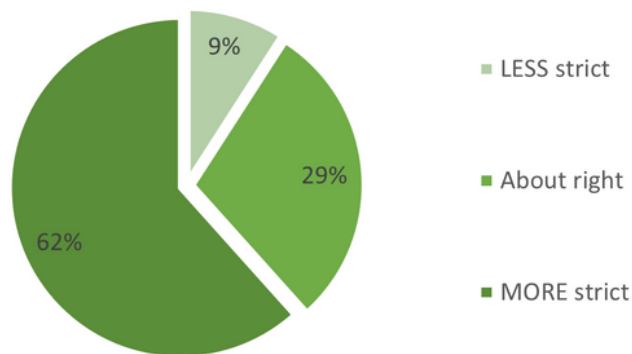
# 62% OF FLORIDIANS WANT STRICTER GUN CONTROL

*Even more support the banning of assault weapons*

A Recent Stetson University Survey Reveals Floridians' Perspectives on Gun Control

Gun violence has become a pressing concern in recent decades, making it crucial to understand the attitudes of Floridians toward gun control. The Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR) at Stetson University conducted a comprehensive survey to capture these sentiments and shed light on public opinion.

Do Floridians Think Gun Control Should be More or Less Strict?

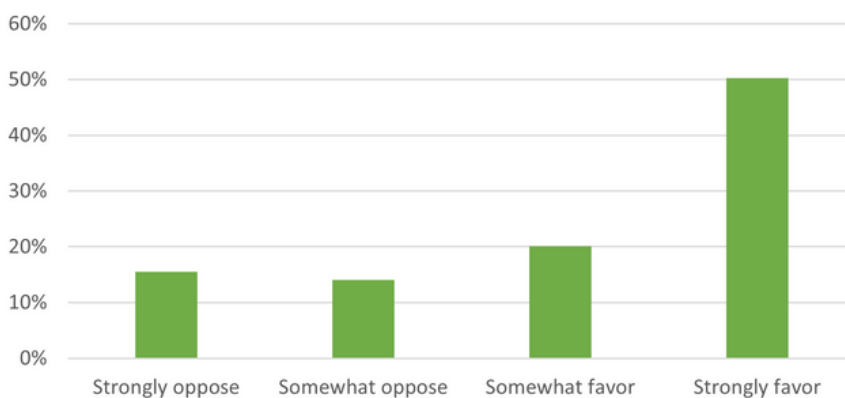


Overall, the survey results indicate that Floridians hold a strong inclination towards stricter gun regulations. A significant majority, 62% of respondents, expressed the belief that gun laws in the state should be more stringent. Conversely, only 9% of participants favored less strict regulations, while the remaining 29% felt the existing laws were adequate.

To gauge public sentiment on specific proposed gun control measures, the survey presented respondents with various propositions. The first proposition aimed to prevent individuals with mental illness from purchasing firearms. An overwhelming majority of Floridians, 90%, expressed at least some level of favorability towards this measure.

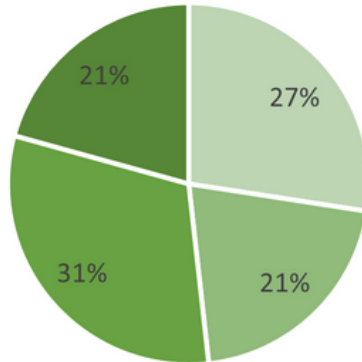
In recent years, assault rifles have been involved in several high-profile mass shootings. Considering this trend, the survey investigated support for a potential ban on assault rifles. Results revealed that 50% of respondents expressed strong favorability towards such a ban, while an even larger percentage, 70%, at least somewhat agreed with the idea.

Do Floridians Support the Banning of Assault Weapons



The issue of concealed carry permits has been a subject of ongoing debate regarding its impact on public safety. The survey found that only 28% of respondents would consider allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons without a permit, while a majority of 53% expressed strong opposition to this idea.

## Do Floridians Want Teachers to be Able to Carry guns in K-12 Schools



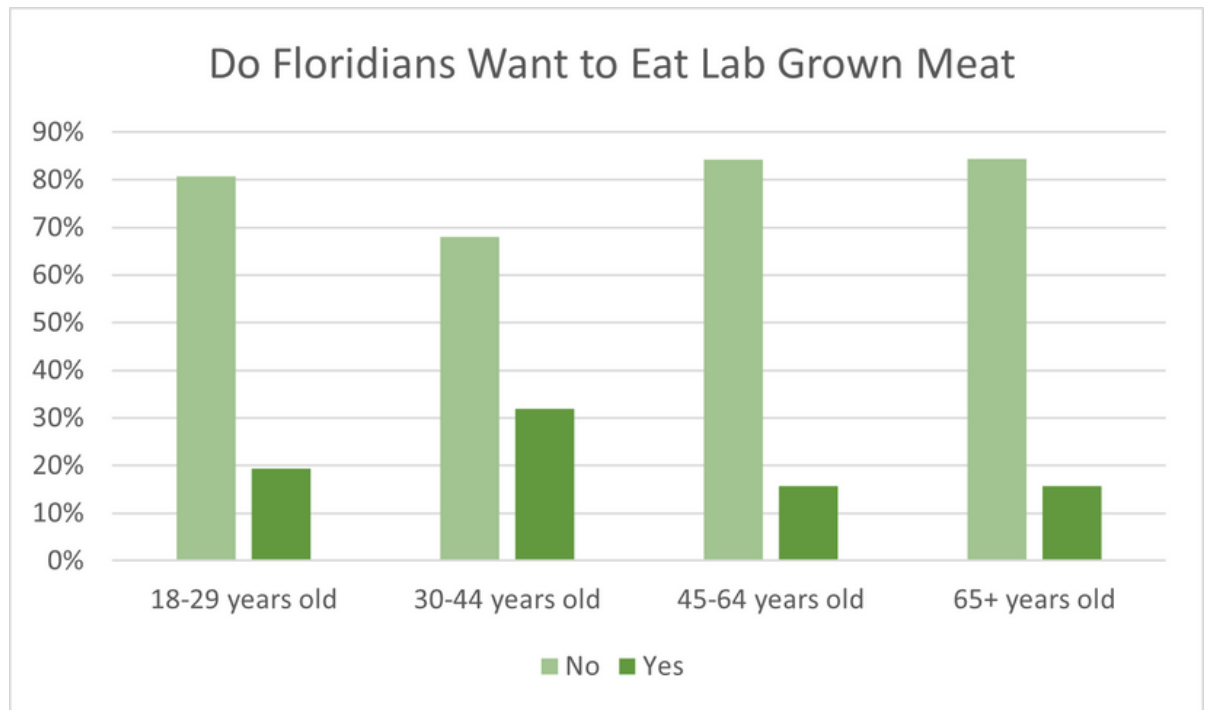
■ Strongly oppose   ■ Somewhat oppose   ■ Somewhat favor   ■ Strongly favor

Lastly, the survey examined public opinion on the controversial topic of allowing teachers to carry guns in K-12 schools. The results showed a divided public, with 52% opposing this idea and 48% in favor. Notably, younger generations, including Millennials and Gen Z, exhibited greater opposition to this proposal compared to other age cohorts.

Across all the questions related to gun control, one consistent pattern emerged. Men were nearly twice as likely as women to support the option of enacting less strict gun laws for every proposed measure.

# MOST FLORIDIANS WOULD NOT TRY LAB-GROWN MEAT

## US Dominates Global Investment in Lab-Grown Meat, But Public Skepticism Persists

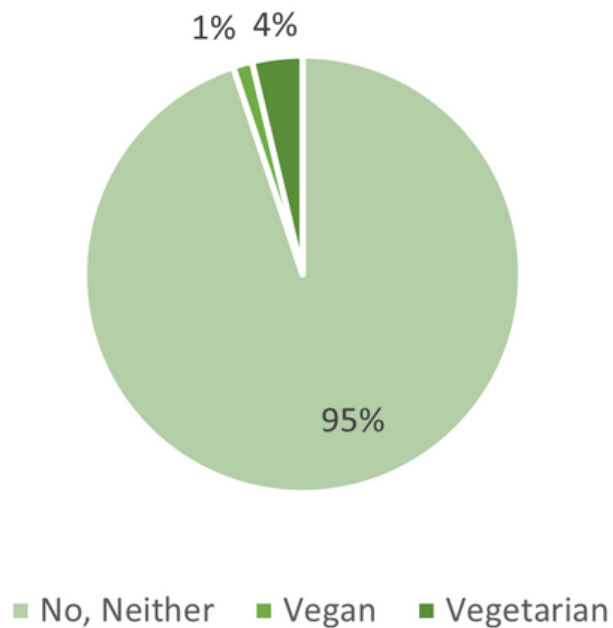


In a significant development, the United States has emerged as the global leader in investment (60%) for lab-grown meat as of January 2023. This achievement comes less than a year after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted approval for cultured meats, deeming them safe for consumption in November 2022. However, despite this progress, a majority of the public still harbors skepticism toward consuming lab-grown meat.

According to the survey conducted by the Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR), a noteworthy 80% of the respondents indicated their unwillingness to try lab-grown meat. Amongst those willing to give it a chance, the highest level of openness was observed among Millennials, with 32% expressing their willingness to try it. Furthermore, the survey revealed a notable gender disparity, with men being twice as likely as women to consider trying lab-grown meat, with respective percentages of 27% and 13%.

Interestingly, CPOR's poll also delved into the dietary preferences of Floridians. Merely 4% of the respondents identified themselves as vegetarians, while an even smaller fraction, just 1%, identified as vegans. For some individuals within these groups, lab-grown meat presents an ethical option to consume animal products, providing an alternative that aligns with their values. On the other hand, there are those who assert that artificial meat is ethically indistinguishable from conventionally produced meat.

## % of Floridians That are Vegetarian or Vegan



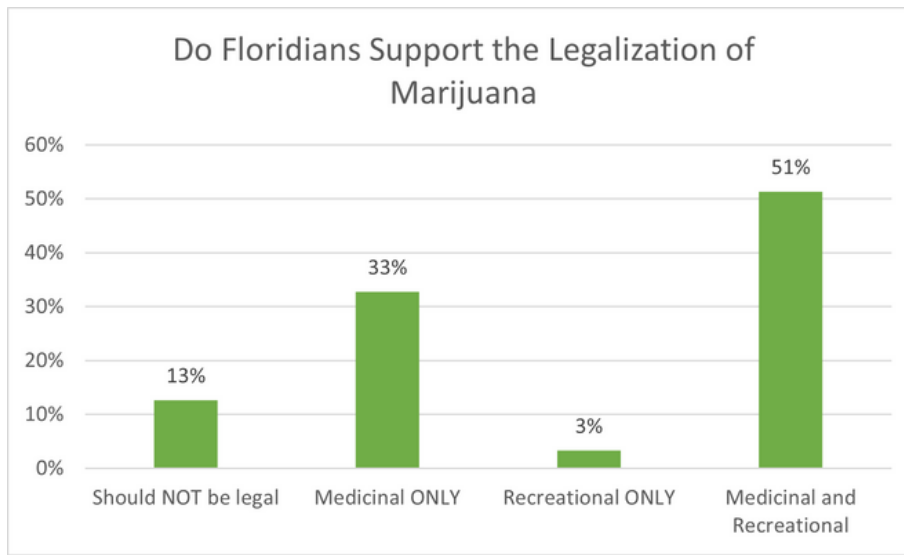
As lab-grown meat gains traction in the US investment landscape, the prevailing public skepticism remains a significant challenge. Understanding the factors driving this skepticism is crucial for industry stakeholders and policymakers as they navigate the path toward wider acceptance and adoption of lab-grown meat. The findings from CPOR's survey shed light on the prevailing attitudes surrounding lab-grown meat and its potential implications for the future of food consumption.



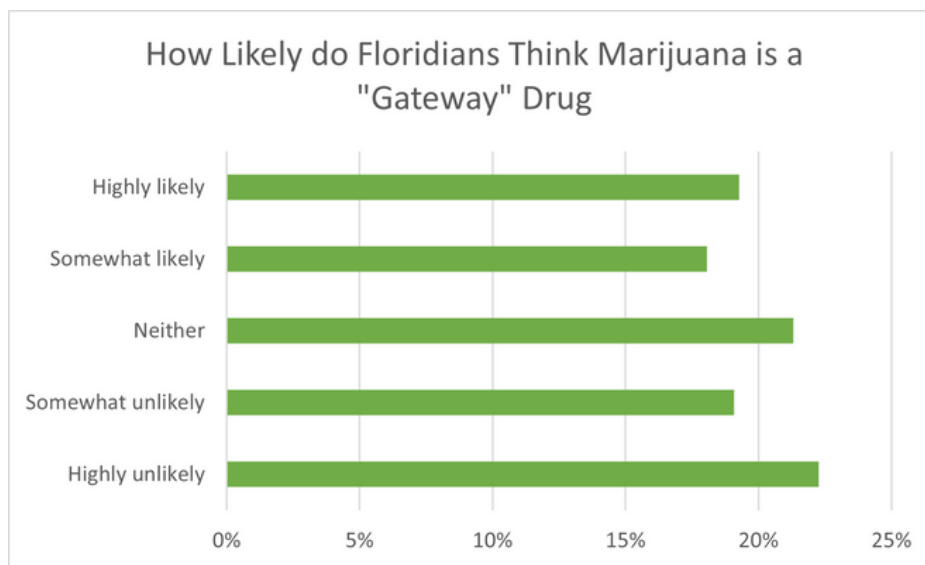
# FLORIDIANS WEIGH IN ON THE PROSPECT OF MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

## *51% want Marijuana Fully Legalized*

With 21 states having already decriminalized marijuana, Floridians have been contemplating whether their state will follow suit and enact legislation to fully legalize it, building upon its existing status as medically legal. To gauge public sentiment on this matter, our survey sought to uncover the views of Floridians regarding the legalization of marijuana.



The results reveal a divided public opinion. Among respondents, 51% expressed support for the full legalization of marijuana, while 36% favored its legalization solely for medicinal purposes. On the other hand, 13% opposed any form of legalization. Notably, the younger generations, including Millennials (66%) and Gen Z (53%), displayed the highest levels of support for both recreational and medicinal marijuana legalization.



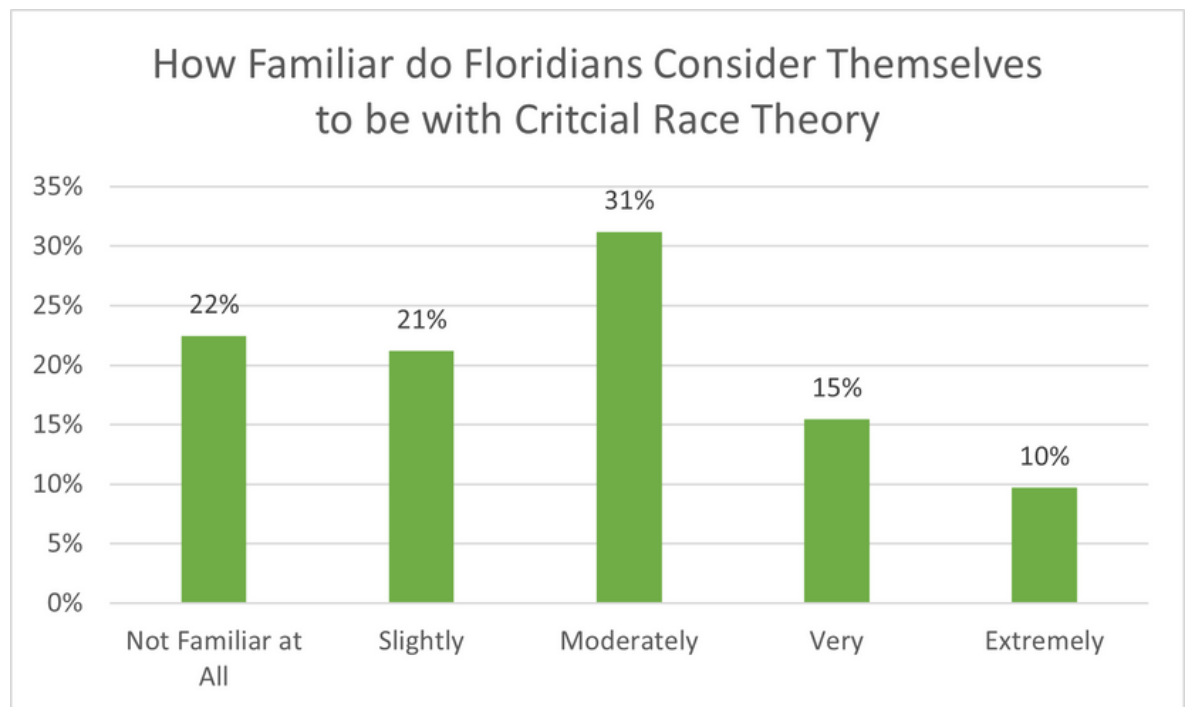
Political affiliation also emerged as a defining factor in these perspectives. Republicans were twice as likely as Democrats to hold the view that marijuana should remain illegal in any capacity. Furthermore, the survey found that individuals with college degrees were slightly more inclined to support the full legalization of marijuana for both recreational and medicinal purposes compared to those without degrees.

The debate surrounding marijuana as a potential "gateway" drug is a topic of contention. The National Institute on Drug Use acknowledges that while some research suggests marijuana could act as a gateway to the use of more dangerous substances, the majority of individuals who try marijuana do not progress to stronger drug choices. The public opinion on this matter remains divided, with 37% considering it somewhat or highly likely that marijuana serves as a gateway drug, while 41% perceive it to be somewhat or highly unlikely.

Polarization, influenced by political affiliation, played a significant role in shaping respondents' views on the gateway drug theory. More Republicans aligned with the belief that marijuana serves as a gateway drug, while Democrats tended to hold the opposite perspective. Additionally, age emerged as a key factor, with individuals under the age of 45 being more likely to consider marijuana as a "highly unlikely" gateway drug compared to their older counterparts.

# Floridians Express Diverse Perspectives on Critical Race Theory

*Public Divided if it Should be Taught in School*

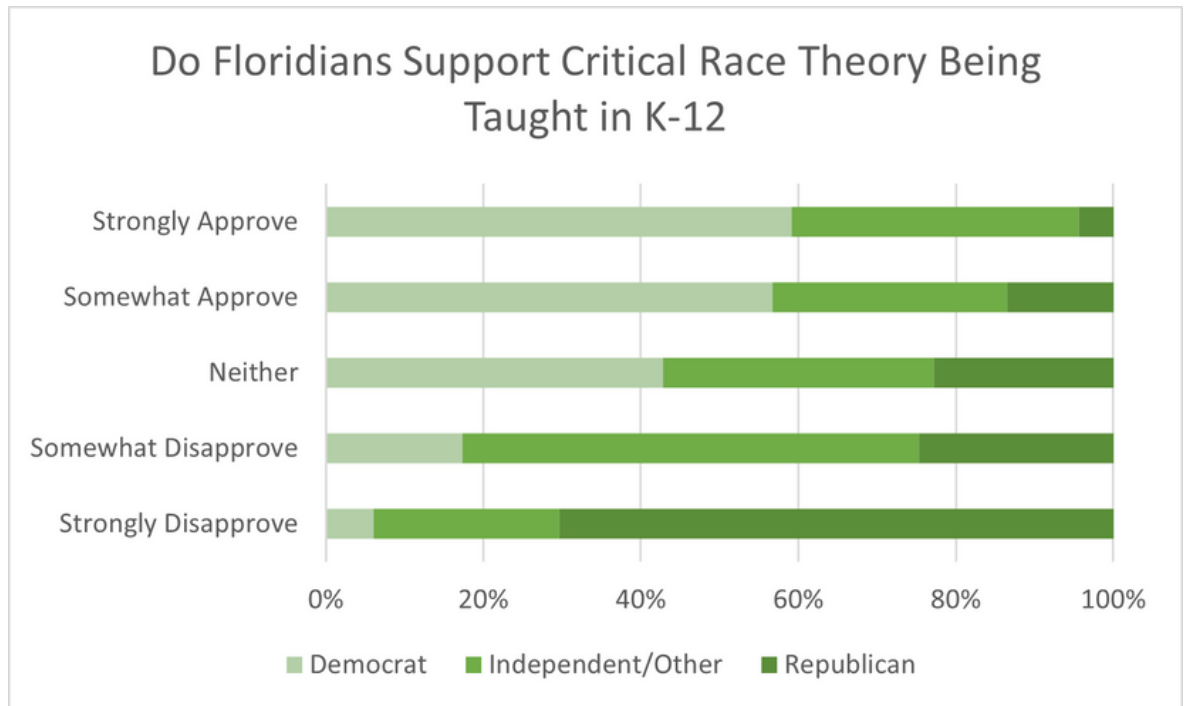


Critical Race Theory (CRT) has emerged as a prominent and contentious topic within state education systems across the country. Our survey sought to understand the level of familiarity among Floridians regarding CRT and examine their perspectives on the teaching strategies associated with it.

The results indicate that a majority of Floridians, 56%, claim to be moderately or more familiar with CRT. This suggests that the concept has garnered significant attention and awareness within the state.

When respondents were presented with the statement, "Critical Race Theory (CRT) says that many American institutions are founded on racist principles," a greater number of individuals agreed with the statement compared to those who disagreed. Notably, more white respondents disagreed with the statement, while black respondents expressed greater agreement compared to individuals of other races.

The survey also explored opinions on whether CRT should be taught in schools. The findings reveal a divided public, with 45% of respondents expressing their belief that CRT should not be taught, while 35% supported its inclusion in the curriculum. Interestingly, a higher proportion of Gen Z (50%) and Millennials (46%) indicated their preference for teaching CRT, while older generations generally expressed opposition. It is worth noting that a significant portion of respondents across all age groups remained undecided on this matter.



As expected, a partisan divide emerged concerning CRT. Half of Democrats believed that CRT teaches that many American institutions are founded on racist principles, while 45% of Republicans held the opposite view. Moreover, the survey found that Republicans overwhelmingly opposed the teaching of CRT in schools (76%), whereas a majority of Democrats supported its inclusion (66%).

# Floridians Express Their Views on Controversial School Topics

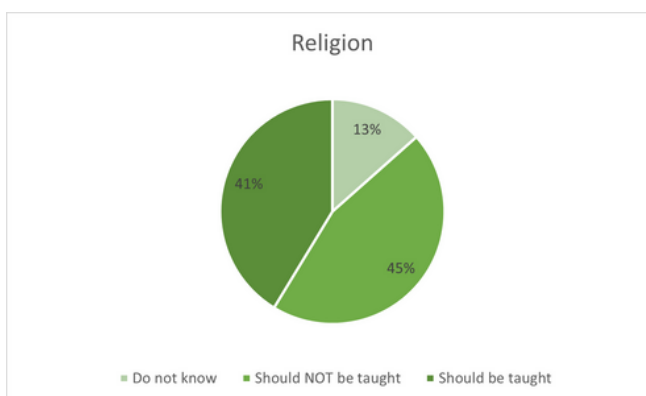
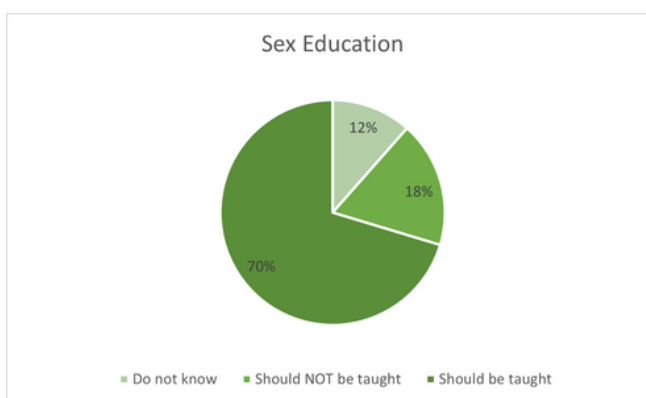
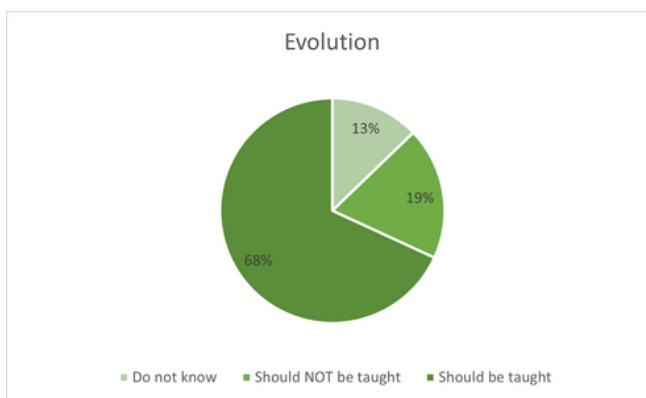
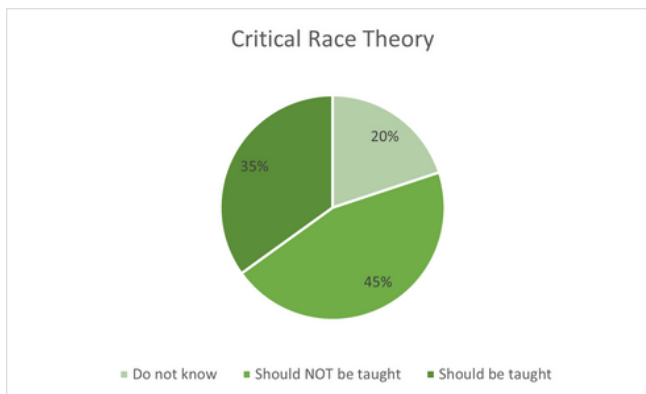
## *Public is Divided over CRT, Gender Identification, and Religion*

Amidst Governor Ron DeSantis's significant actions to reshape education policy in Florida, discussions have arisen regarding what subjects are deemed appropriate for instruction in schools. The recent survey conducted by Stetson University's Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR) sought to shed light on Floridians' perspectives on controversial school topics and whether they should be included in the curriculum of public schools.

Eight contentious topics were identified for assessment: Critical Race Theory (CRT), evolution, sex education, religion, slavery, the Holocaust, gender identification, and African American studies. The survey findings revealed that a majority of Floridians believed that the following subjects should be taught in schools: evolution (68%), sex education (70%), slavery (80%), the Holocaust (81%), and African American studies (70%).

Critical Race Theory remains a polarizing subject for Floridians, with 20% expressing uncertainty regarding whether it should or should not be taught. More respondents indicated their opposition to the inclusion of CRT in the school curriculum (45%), with a significant majority of Republicans (76%) sharing this sentiment. Conversely, a majority of Democrats (66%) favored the teaching of CRT in schools.

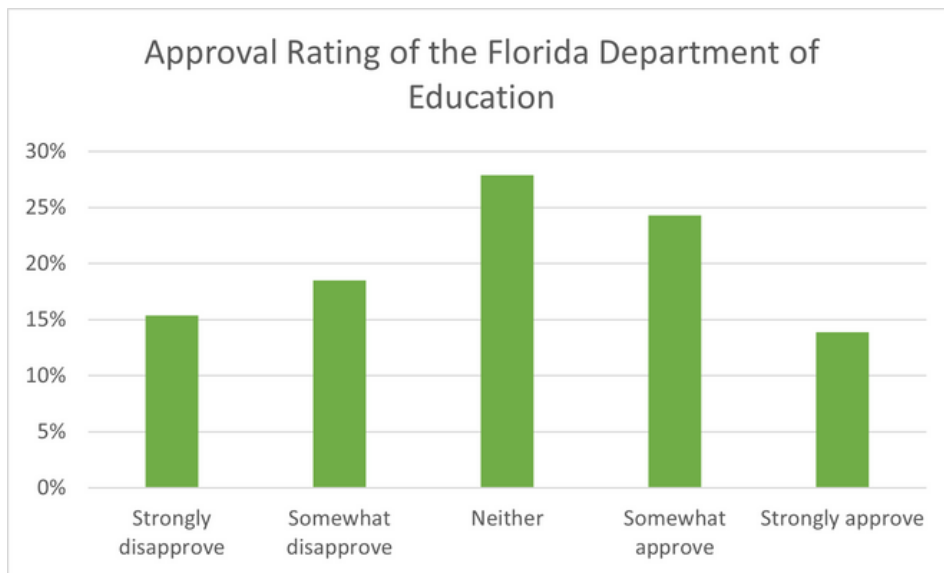
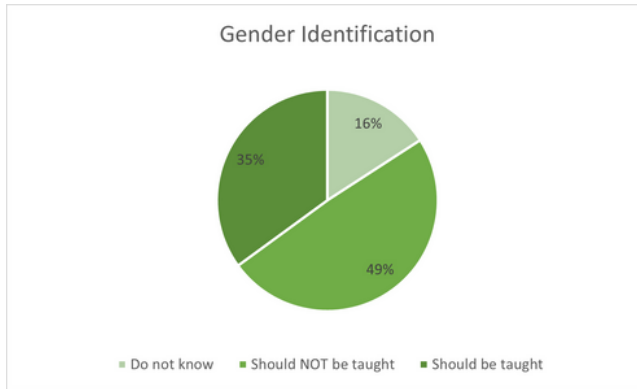
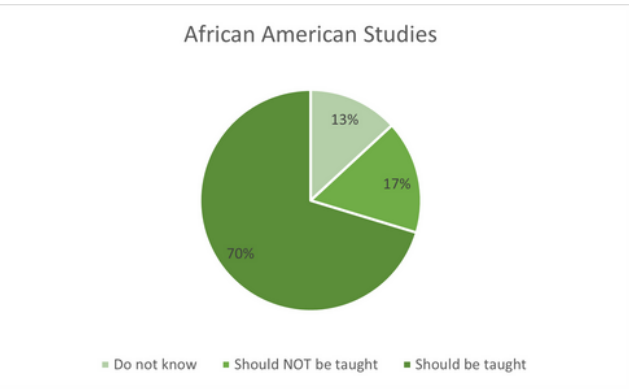
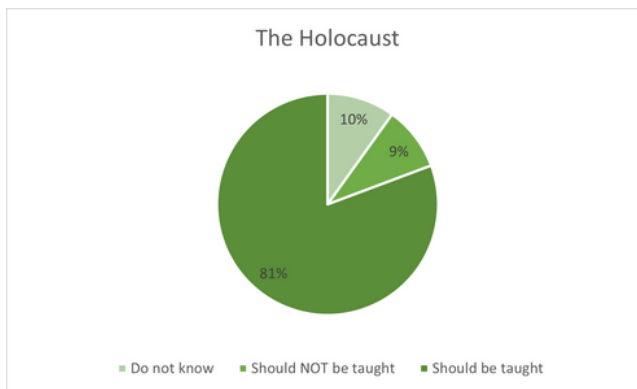
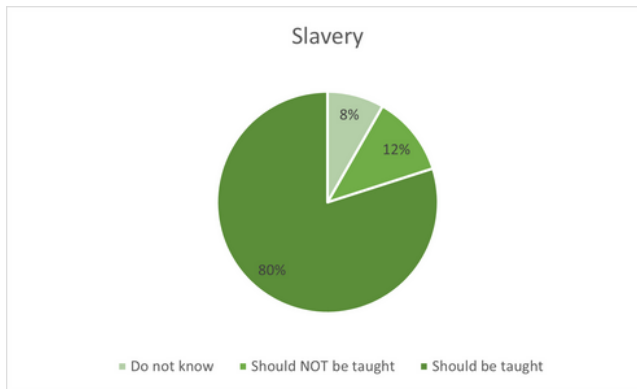
Religion emerged as another topic on which Floridians held divergent views. In a closely divided decision, more respondents expressed their opposition to the teaching of religion (45%), while a similar figure supported its inclusion (41%).



Gender identification, similar to CRT, has become a prominent and contentious issue in Florida due to Governor Ron DeSantis's recent education policies. The CPOR survey found that 49% of Floridians believed that gender identity should not be taught in schools, while 35% argued in favor of its inclusion.

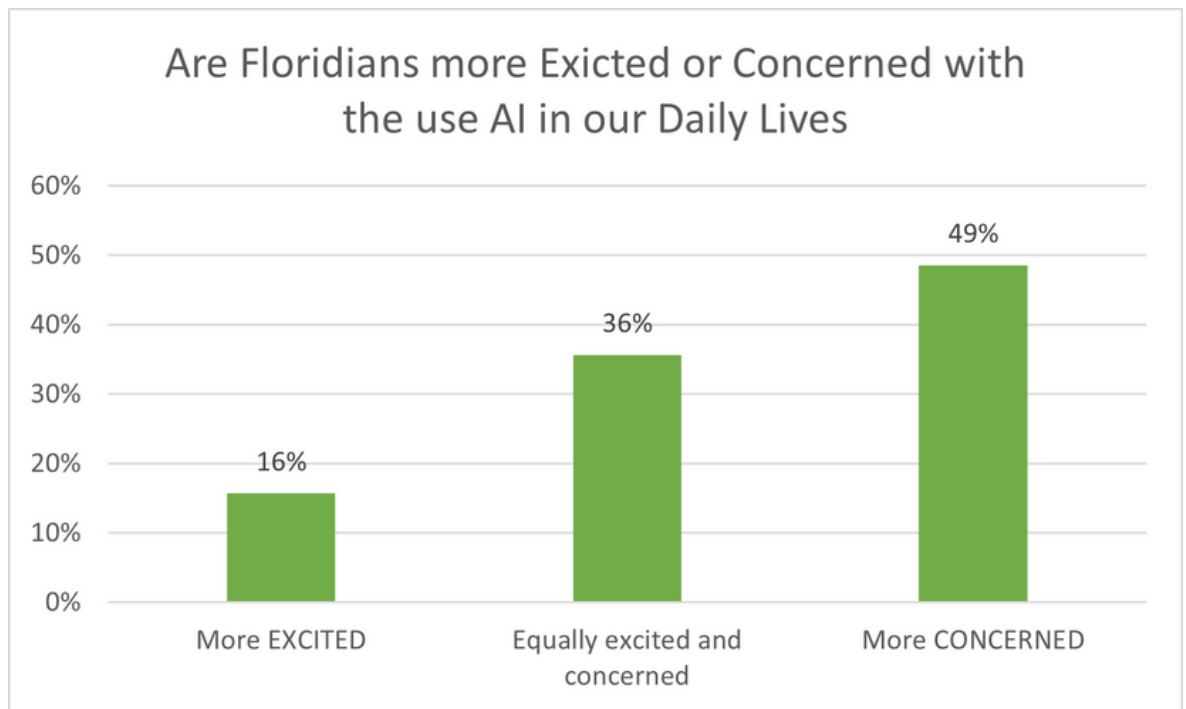
In addition to examining specific topics, the survey assessed Floridians' overall approval of the Department of Education (DOE). The findings indicated that slightly more respondents (38%) approved of the DOE's performance, while 34% expressed disapproval.

Notably, a significant proportion of respondents (28%) neither agreed nor disagreed. These results exhibited a recurring theme of party politics, with a higher proportion of Republicans approving of the DOE's performance and Democrats expressing disapproval.



# Floridians' Views on AI Excitement, Concerns, and Government Usage

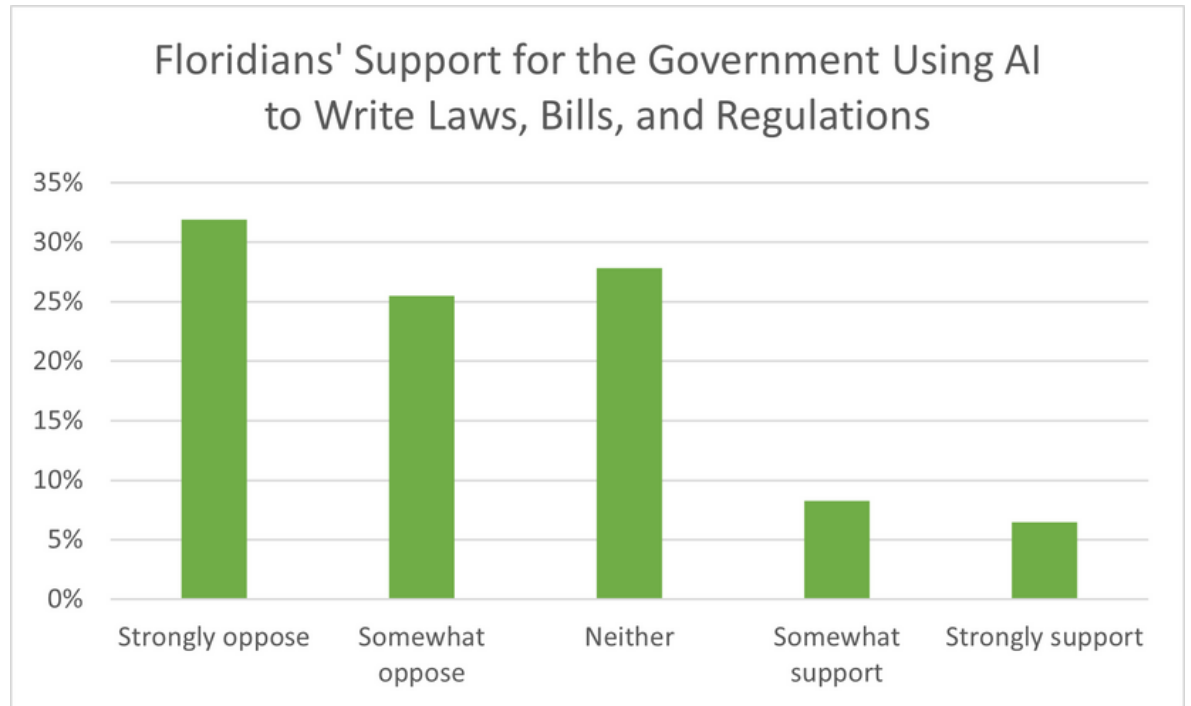
*Many more concerned than excited about AI*



Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become increasingly prevalent in our daily lives, with tools like ChatGPT aiding in writing and thought generation. In the most recent survey conducted by CPOR, we sought to understand Floridians' familiarity with ChatGPT, their level of excitement and concern regarding AI, and their opinions on its usage in government.

The survey revealed that only 42% of Floridians had heard of ChatGPT. Younger individuals (29 and younger) and those with a college degree were more likely to be aware of it, indicating a potential generational and educational gap in awareness.

Participants were asked to indicate whether they were more concerned or excited, or equally concerned and excited, about the use of AI in their daily lives. The findings showed that a majority of Floridians (49%) expressed greater concern than excitement. Conversely, a smaller proportion (16%) reported being more excited than concerned, while the remaining respondents held an equal balance of concern and excitement (36%).



Given the prevailing concern about AI, it is unsurprising that a majority of Floridians (57%) opposed the use of AI in the government to draft laws, bills, and regulations. However, it is worth noting that men and individuals with a college education exhibited slightly more openness to the idea of utilizing AI in governmental processes. This apprehension toward AI usage appears to transcend various demographic groups.



# Floridians' Perspectives on Transgender People

*44% believe society has "gone too far" in accepting transgender people*

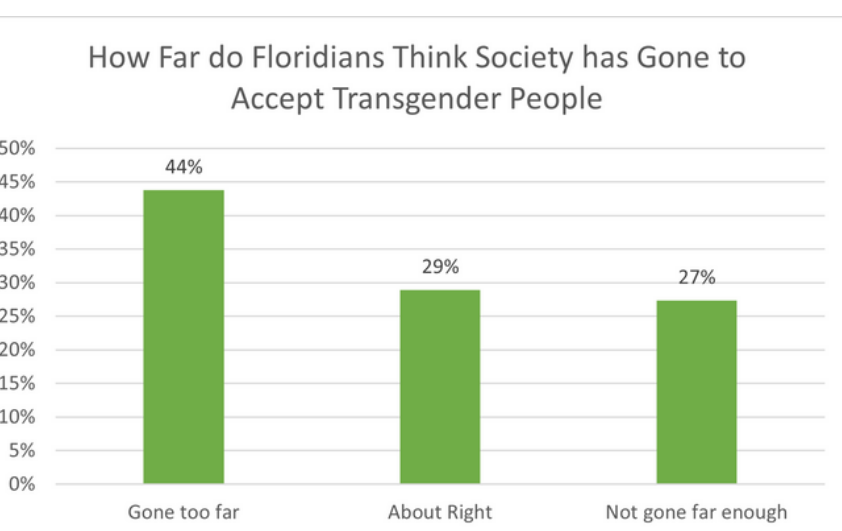
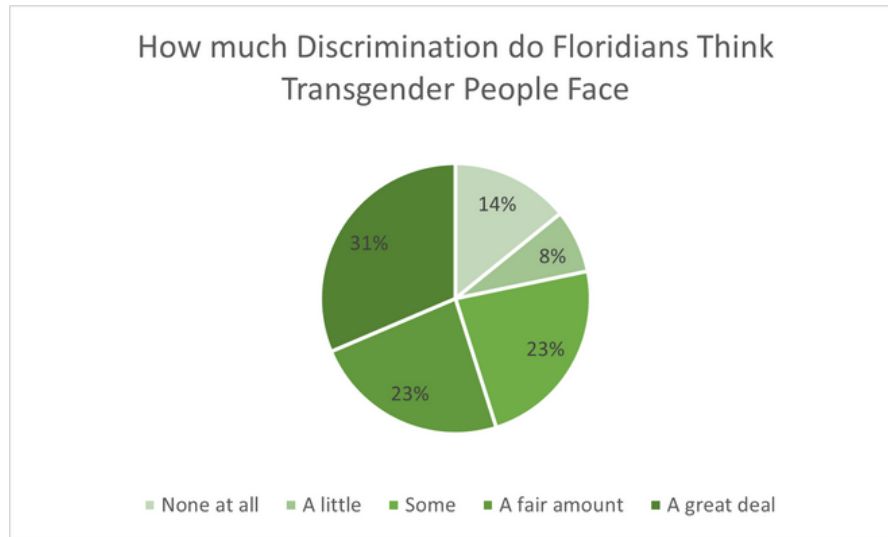
As per a PEW report, approximately 5% of the US population identifies as transgender. In this series of questions, we aimed to explore Floridians' views on discrimination against transgender individuals and other related topics.

For the first question, respondents were presented with two statements and asked to indicate which one they agreed with more.

The statements were: 1) "Whether someone is a man or woman is determined by the sex they were assigned at birth" and 2) "Someone can be a man or woman even if that is different from what they were assigned at birth."

The majority of Floridians (65%) agreed with the first statement, indicating a prevailing belief that gender is determined by the sex assigned at birth.

Next, CPOR sought to gauge Floridians' perception of the level of discrimination faced by transgender people in society today. While 31% believed that transgender individuals face a great deal of discrimination, 14% expressed the opinion that they face no discrimination at all. The majority of respondents fell between the categories of "some" and "a fair amount" of discrimination.



Lastly, we inquired whether society has progressed too far, not far enough, or is about right in accepting transgender individuals. The findings revealed that Gen X and Baby Boomers generally felt that society has gone too far in acceptance, whereas a larger proportion of Millennials and Gen Z believed that we are about right or not far enough.

Overall, the majority of respondents (44%) felt that society has gone too far in accepting transgender individuals, while 27% argued that we have not gone far enough.

This issue reflects a broader divide in partisan politics and an increasingly polarized voter base. Republicans consistently selected options that were in opposition to transgender rights, while Democrats tended to have more supportive views. It is important to note that not all Democrats hold the same perspectives on these questions, but as a majority, they tended to align more with the rights and recognition of transgender individuals.

# The Escalating Polarization in US Politics: Floridians' Perspectives on Political Parties

As tensions rise and polarization reaches new heights in the United States, individuals are increasingly employing offensive voting tactics, casting their vote against one party to prevent the other party from gaining power, rather than voting for the party they align with ideologically.

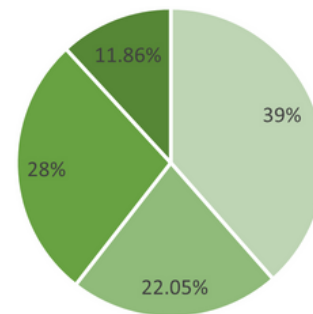
In our survey, we aimed to gauge the favorability of both the Democratic and Republican parties among Floridians. Starting with the Democratic Party, 61% of respondents expressed an "unfavorable" or "very unfavorable" view, while 39% held a "favorable" or "very favorable" opinion. On the other hand, the Republican Party garnered 54% unfavorable ratings and 46% favorable ratings.

When examining the views of white individuals in Florida, we found mixed opinions toward the Republican Party.

However, 48% of white respondents considered the Democratic Party to be "very unfavorable." Black and Hispanic individuals slightly leaned more unfavorably toward the Republican Party, while their opinions on the Democratic Party were more central.

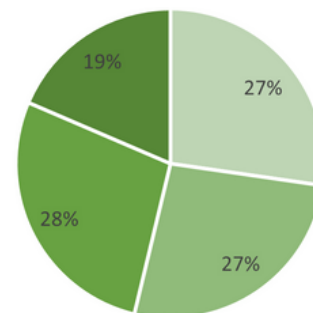
With the exception of party identification, all demographic groups exhibited a more dispersed distribution across the four available response options. Factors such as gender, age, race, and education appear to have mixed impacts on party favorability.

Democratic Party Favorability



■ Very Unfavorable ■ Unfavorable ■ Favorable ■ Very Favorable

Republican Party Favorability



■ Very Unfavorable ■ Unfavorable ■ Favorable ■ Very Favorable

# METHODOLOGY

The poll was conducted March 23rd to March 31st. The survey sample consisted of 810 Florida residents. Results were weighted to the 2020 Florida Census totals of race, gender, education, and geographic areas, and to partisanship based on Department of State records, to ensure representativeness. The margin of error for the overall results is +/-4 percentage points. Data was collected through an online panel provided by Dynata. The polling results will be available on the Center for Public Opinion Research's website. All question wording is also found on our website: [stetson.edu/cpor](https://stetson.edu/cpor).

# FURTHER INFORMATION

To further explore the rich findings of this survey and access additional information and thought-provoking articles, we invite you to visit our official website at [stetson.edu/cpor](https://stetson.edu/cpor).

There, you will find a wealth of resources that delve deeper into the survey results, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse perspectives captured. From detailed analysis to expert commentary, our website serves as a hub for in-depth exploration and meaningful discussions on the topics that matter most.

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# Additional Graphs

