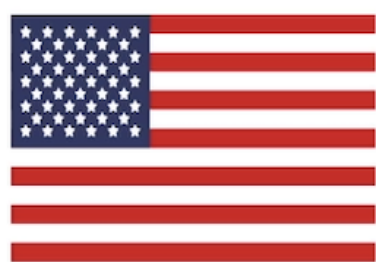


STETSON UNIVERSITY
Center for Public Opinion Research



**MIDTERM
ELECTIONS
2024**



STETSON UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR PUBLIC
OPINION RESEARCH

Poll: Donalds, Moody Maintain Double-Digit Leads as Florida Amendments Face 60% Threshold

Center for Public Opinion Research - Stetson University*

2026-10-13

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1 Poll: Donalds, Moody Maintain Double-Digit Leads as Florida Amendments Face 60% Threshold

Both Republicans lead 52% to 41% among likely voters; cost of living remains voters' top concern, while no tested amendment reaches the support needed to pass.

DELAND, Florida, October 12, 2026 — Republican candidates continue to hold double-digit leads in Florida's races for governor and U.S. Senate, and nine points in the generic ballot, while three proposed constitutional amendments have yet to reach the 60% support required for passage, according to a new statewide survey from Stetson University's Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR).

The survey of 826 Florida adults — including 716 registered voters, on whom all electoral results are based — conducted October 1–9, finds Republican Byron Donalds leading Democrat David Jolly 52% to 41% in the governor's race among modeled likely voters. In the U.S. Senate contest, Republican Sen. Ashley Moody holds the same 52% to 41% advantage over Democrat Angie Nixon. The results include respondents who initially said they were undecided but subsequently leaned toward a candidate.

About 5% remain undecided in the governor's race, with another 3% supporting a different candidate. In the Senate race, 6% remain undecided and 2% prefer another candidate. The findings remain close to CPOR's September estimates, with neither contest showing a meaningful change between the two surveys.

"Republicans continue to have an advantage in both races; the Senate race has narrowed slightly, though within the survey's margin of error," said Kelly Smith, PhD, an associate professor of political science at Stetson and co-director of CPOR. "As Election Day approaches, turnout remains an important part of the picture."

A generic congressional ballot points to the same Republican advantage independent of the candidates on the ticket. Asked which party's candidate they would support for the U.S. House in their district, 50% of likely voters chose the Republican candidate and 41% the Democratic candidate, with 8% undecided. The 9-point Republican edge in Florida stands in contrast to national generic-ballot polling, which has shown Democrats ahead this fall — a measure of how far the state's electorate now sits from the national average.

The survey also finds that most voters describe their choice as support for a candidate rather than opposition to the other party's nominee. Among those naming a candidate, 63% say their governor vote is more for their preferred candidate, while 16% say it is more against the opponent. In the Senate race, 59% say they are voting more for their candidate, compared with 16% voting more against the opponent.

The survey also measured job approval for key officeholders. President Donald Trump stands at 50% approval and 49% disapproval among Florida likely voters, while Gov. Ron DeSantis — term-limited and not on the November ballot — stands at 55%–41%. Sen. Ashley Moody, appointed to her seat in 2025 and now seeking a full term, is at 55% approval and 34% disapproval, with 12% saying they haven't heard enough about her to say.

Cost of living and inflation remain the leading concern, with 40% of likely voters naming them as the issue that matters most when deciding how to vote. Threats to democracy rank second

at 14%, followed by immigration and border security, property taxes, and housing affordability, each at 7%.

The proposed constitutional amendments present a more uncertain picture. Amendment 1, which would raise the maximum size of Florida’s budget stabilization fund, draws 46% support, 30% opposition, and 23% undecided. Amendment 2, concerning property-tax exemptions for certain agricultural equipment and agritourism activities, receives 56% support, with 21% opposed and 23% unsure.

Support for the homestead exemption amendment has grown since September but remains below the 60% threshold. 56% support, 21% opposition, and 23% undecided. Although both Amendments 2 and 3 receive majority support, none of the three measures reaches the 60% required to pass in the current survey.

“Getting a majority is not enough for a constitutional amendment in Florida,” Smith said. “With nearly a quarter of voters still unsure about each proposal, there is considerable uncertainty about how these measures will fare in November.”

Another finding points to a contrast in voters’ confidence in election administration. Fifty-six percent of likely voters say they are very confident votes in Florida will be counted accurately in November, compared with 37% who express the same level of confidence about vote counting in other states. “Floridians express substantially more confidence in their own state’s election administration than in the rest of the country’s,” says Dr. Venturelli, an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Co-Director of CPOR at Stetson.

At CPOR’s website you can find the full report which also examines attitudes toward data centers, Flock license plate cameras, and other

2 About 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.

3 Methodology

The CPOR October 2026 Survey interviewed 826 Florida adults via an online non-probability panel administered by Qualtrics, fielded October 1–9, 2026.

Weighting. Two weights are used in this report. `gp_weight` is a raking (iterative proportional fitting) weight calibrated to population margins for age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, and Nielsen DMA-based region, with item-missing demographics randomly imputed prior to raking (imputation seed recorded in the analysis script). Beginning with this wave, the age and education margins use corrected American Community Survey targets for Florida adults (18–24/25–44/45–64/65+ = 10/31/32/27; college/no college = 34/66); earlier waves used targets that misstated the age banding, and all trend comparisons in this report re-estimate prior waves under the corrected targets. `gp_weight` is used for attitude and policy items and is described

as reflecting “Florida adults” or “Floridians.” **w_weight** is the electoral weight, computed among self-reported registered voters ($n = 716$): respondents are raked to the demographic margins above *plus* the certified 2024 Florida presidential result (Trump 56.09%, Harris 42.99%, other 0.92%, scaled to the share of respondents reporting a 2024 vote), and the resulting weight is multiplied by each respondent’s predicted likelihood of voting (see below) and renormalized to a mean of 1. **w_weight** is used for all electoral items — the governor and Senate horse races, the generic congressional ballot, the three constitutional amendments, candidate rejection and favorability, vote type (for/against), and job approval — and is described as reflecting “likely voters.” Rake weights are capped at 3 to limit the influence of any single respondent. In topline figures, undecided respondents who lean toward a candidate are allocated to that candidate; specification comparisons in the appendix are shown unallocated. Percentages in text, figures, and tables may not sum to exactly 100 due to rounding.

Anchoring to the certified 2024 result. We validate each wave’s weights by comparing the weighted sample’s recalled 2024 presidential vote to the certified Florida result. In this wave, the demographic-only specification failed that check: its modeled electorate recalled a 61.3% two-party Trump vote against the certified 56.6%, indicating that the panel sample over-represented 2024 Trump voters in ways demographic weighting cannot correct. The published specification therefore anchors the electoral weight to the certified result, a specification included in our September robustness analysis. This rule now applies symmetrically in all future waves, whichever direction the sample drifts. Both specifications, and the full validation table, are reported in the appendix.

Most-likely-voter (MLV) model. Turnout probability was estimated with a logistic regression predicting self-reported 2022 midterm turnout from 2024 presidential turnout, self-reported voting frequency, stated chance of voting in 2026, attention to the 2026 election, and mail-ballot status. The model’s predicted probabilities enter **w_weight** as described above.

Margins of error. Design-effect-adjusted margins of error are ± 3.7 percentage points for the full sample ($n = 826$; design effect 1.15; effective $n = 717$) and ± 4.2 percentage points for likely voters ($n = 716$; design effect 1.34; effective $n = 536$). Throughout this report, differences of less than roughly six points between waves or between large subgroups are described as within the margin of error rather than as change; smaller subgroups require larger differences.

Comparability with earlier waves. Trend comparisons with the September 2026 wave and the Spring 2026 wave ([available here](#)) re-estimate those waves under this report’s weighting specification (corrected demographic targets; 2024-recall anchor; likely-voter adjustment), so that movement across waves reflects changes in opinion rather than changes in method. Trend figures may therefore differ slightly from numbers as originally published; original reports remain available unchanged. The Spring Senate figure comes from a pre-primary candidate scenario administered to a random half-sample ($n \approx 351$).

4 2026 Elections

4.1 Florida Governor Race: Donalds vs. Jolly

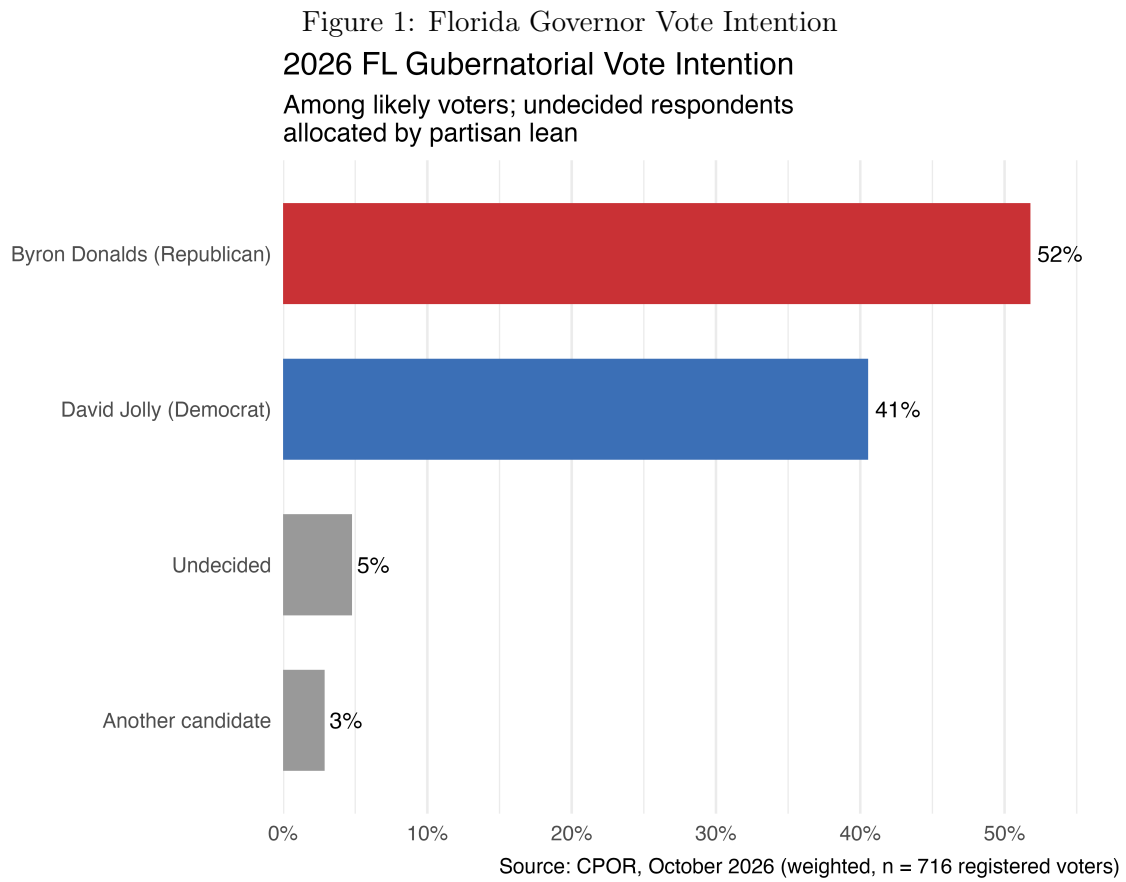
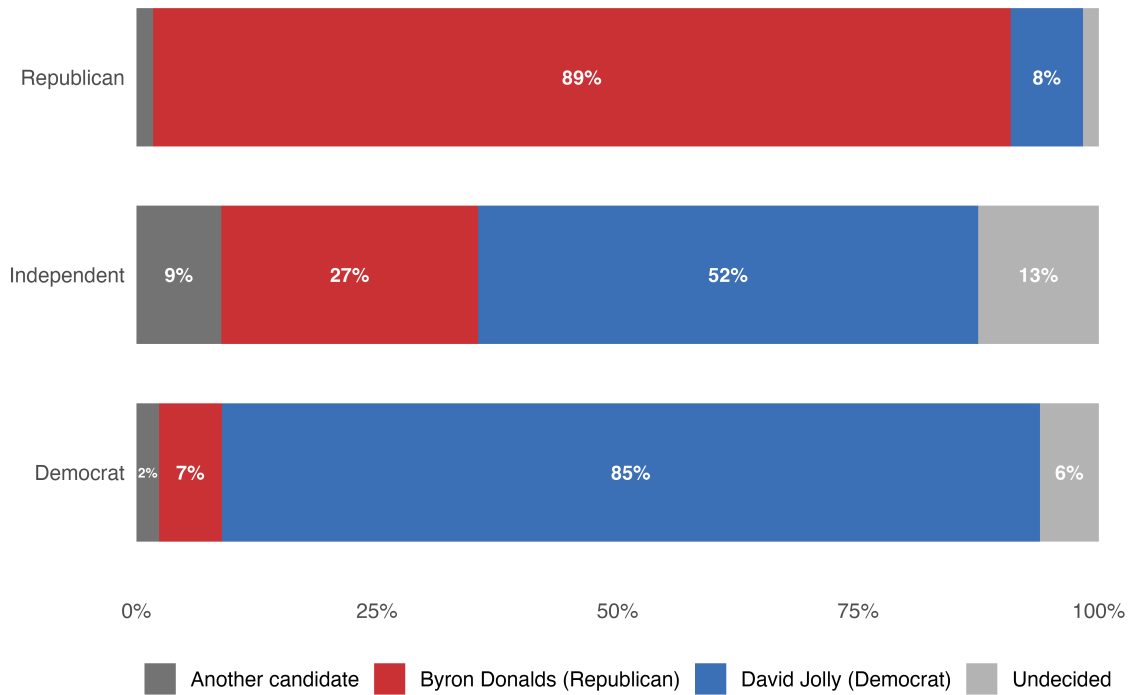
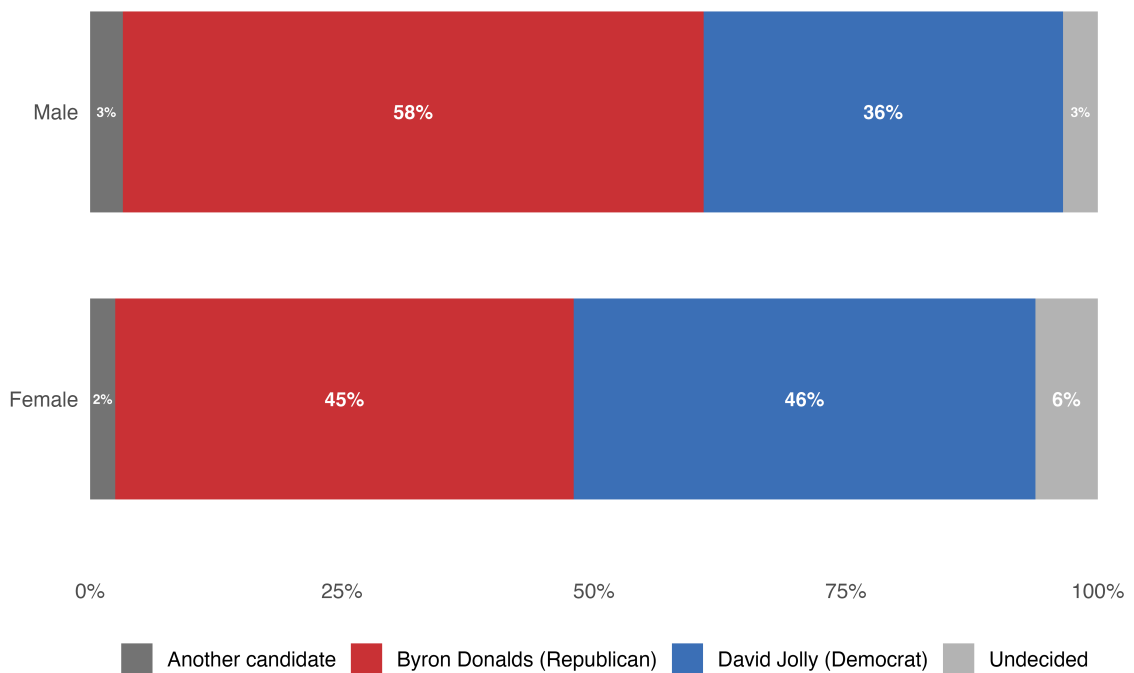


Figure 2: Florida Governor by Party Identification
Governor Vote by Party ID



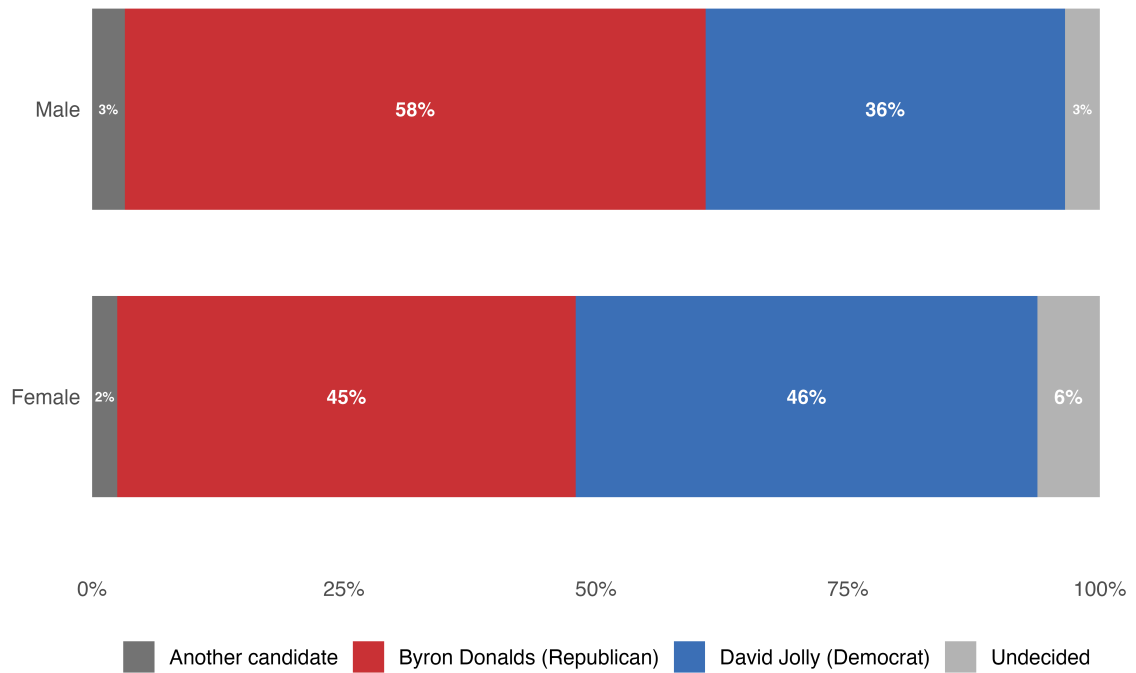
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 3: Florida Governor Vote Intention by Gender
Governor Vote by Gender



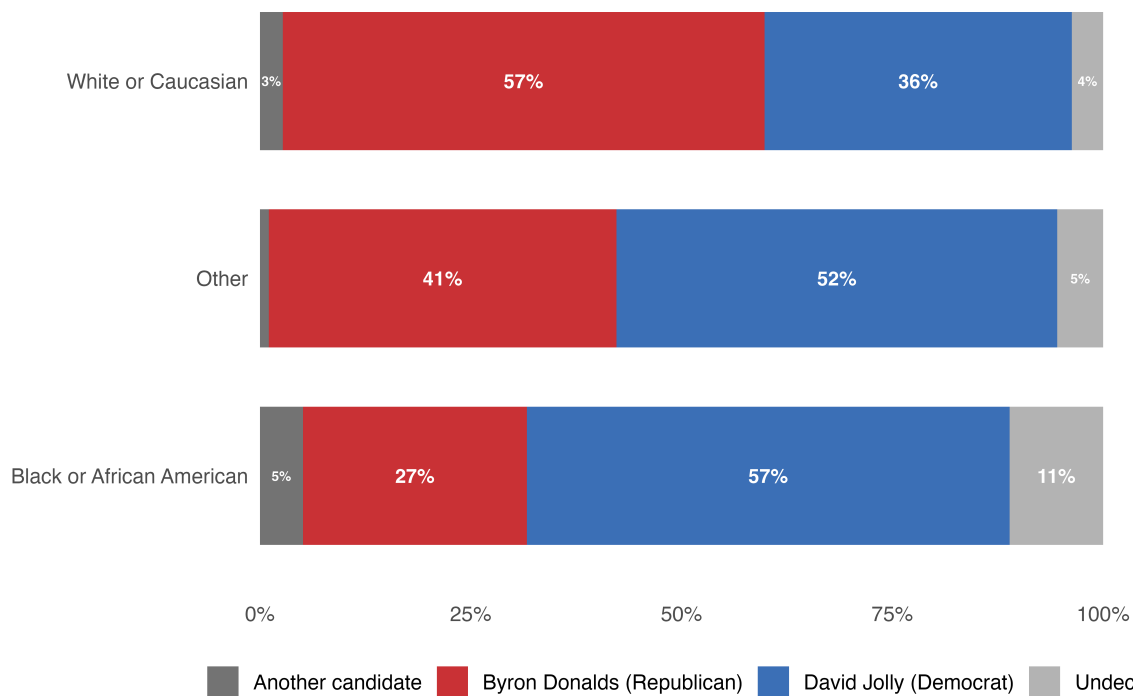
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 4: Florida Governor Vote Intention by Gender
Governor Vote by Gender



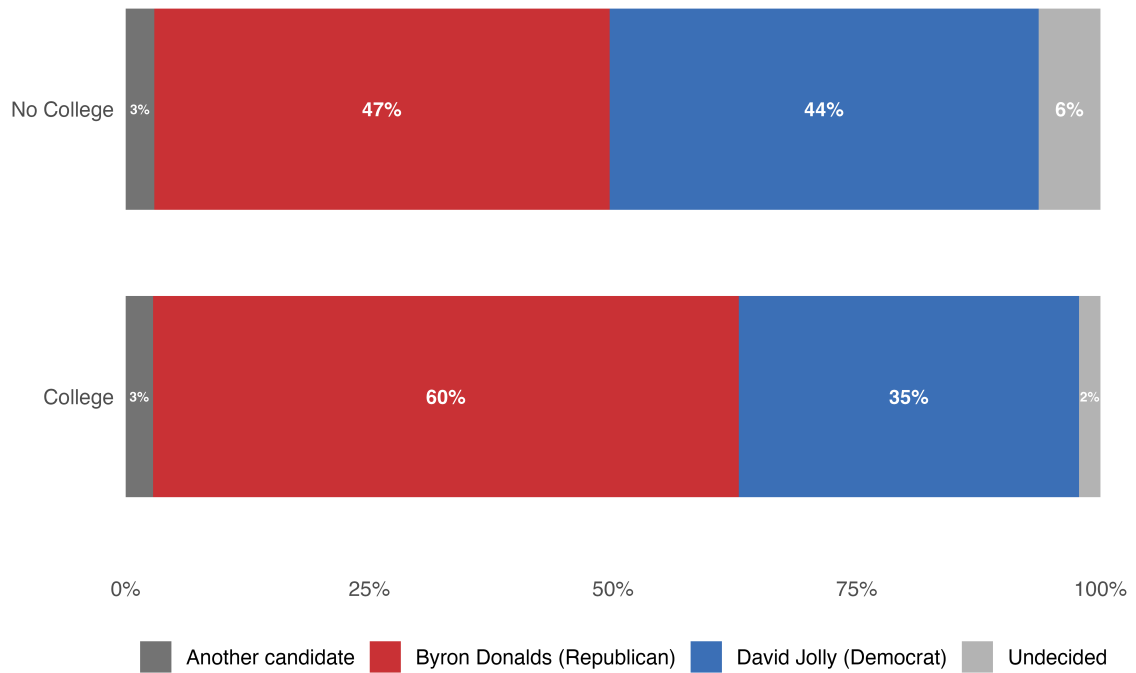
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 5: Florida Governor Vote Intention by Race
Governor Vote by Race



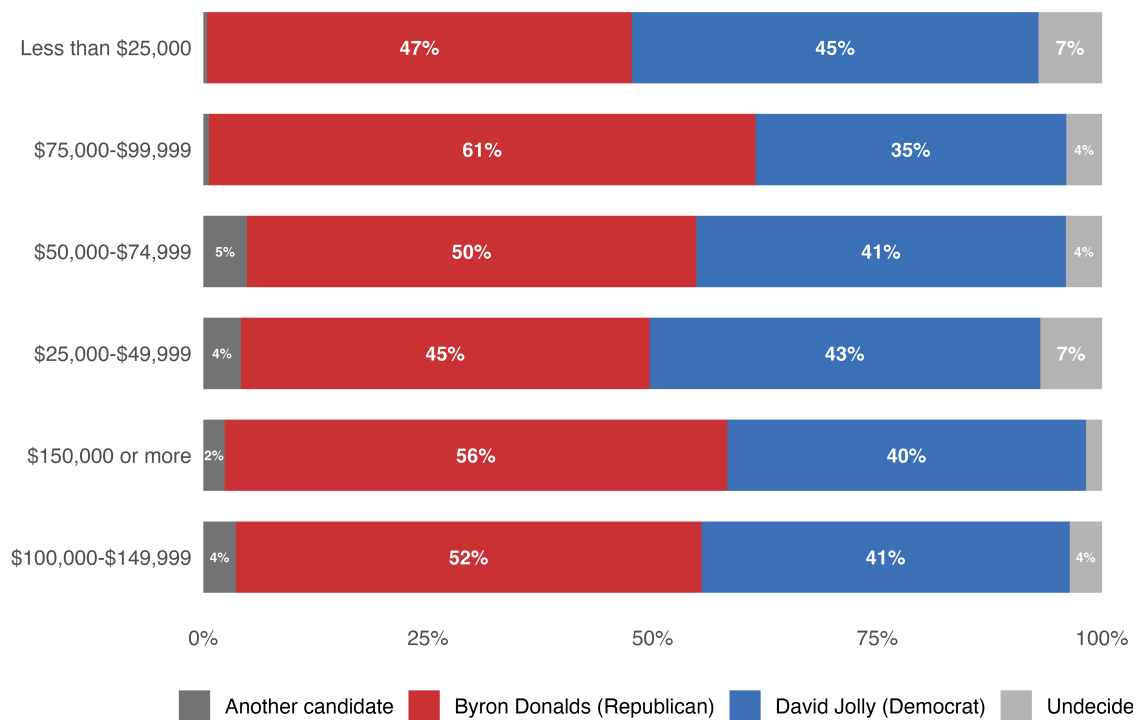
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 6: Florida Governor Vote Intention by Education
Governor Vote by Education



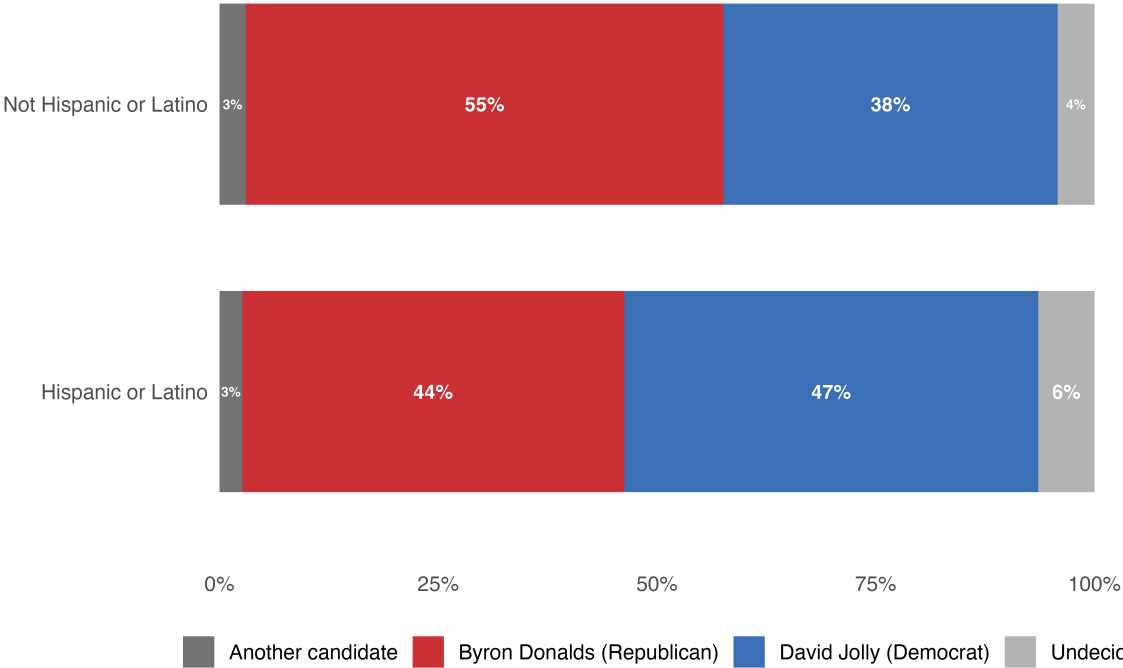
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 7: Florida Governor Vote Intention by Household Income
Governor Vote by Household Income



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 8: Florida Governor Vote Intention by Hispanic Origin
Governor Vote by Hispanic Origin



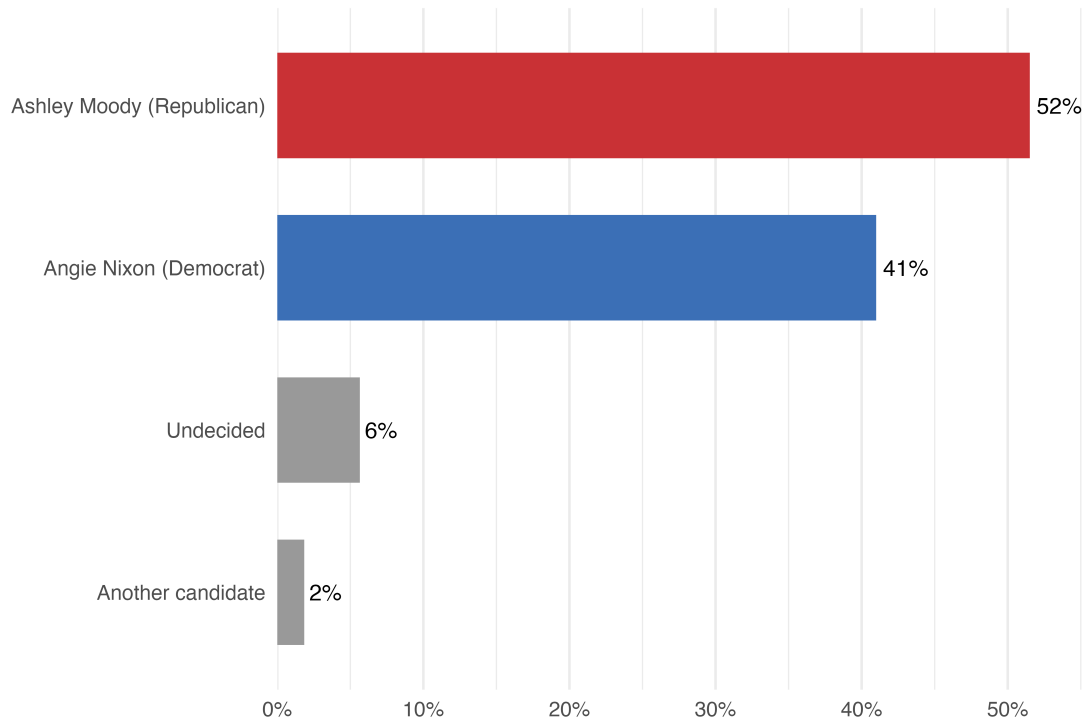
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

4.2 U.S. Senate Race: Moody vs. Nixon

Figure 9: Florida U.S. Senate Vote Intention

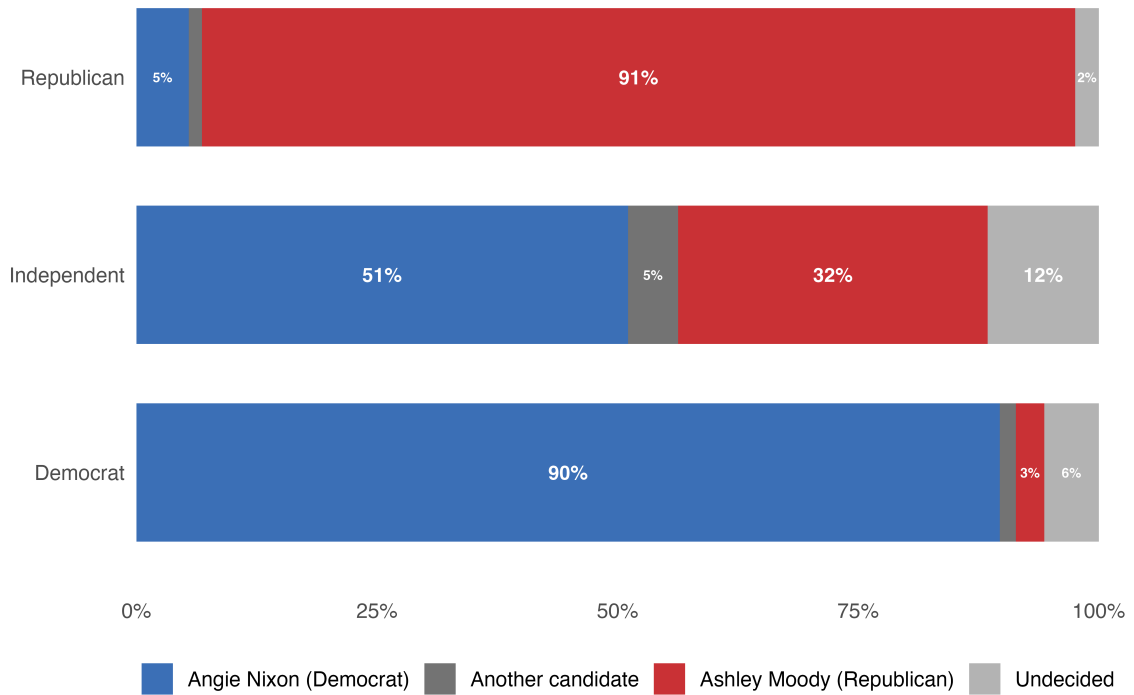
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention

Among likely voters; undecided respondents allocated by lean



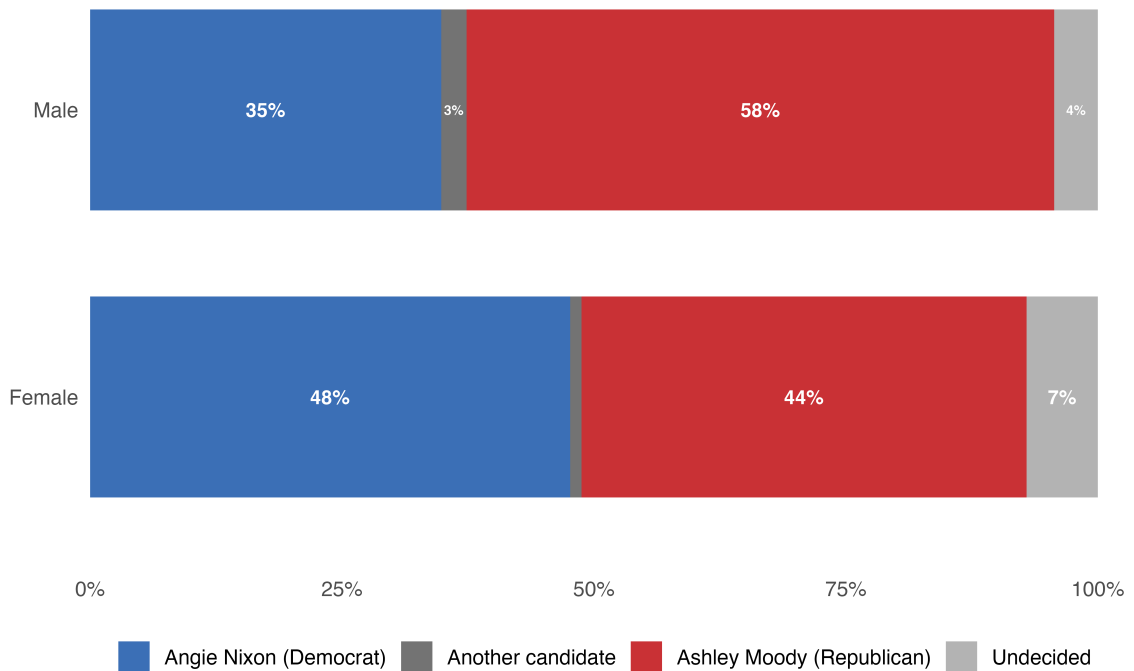
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 10: Florida U.S. Senate Vote Intention by Party Identification
Senate Vote by Party ID



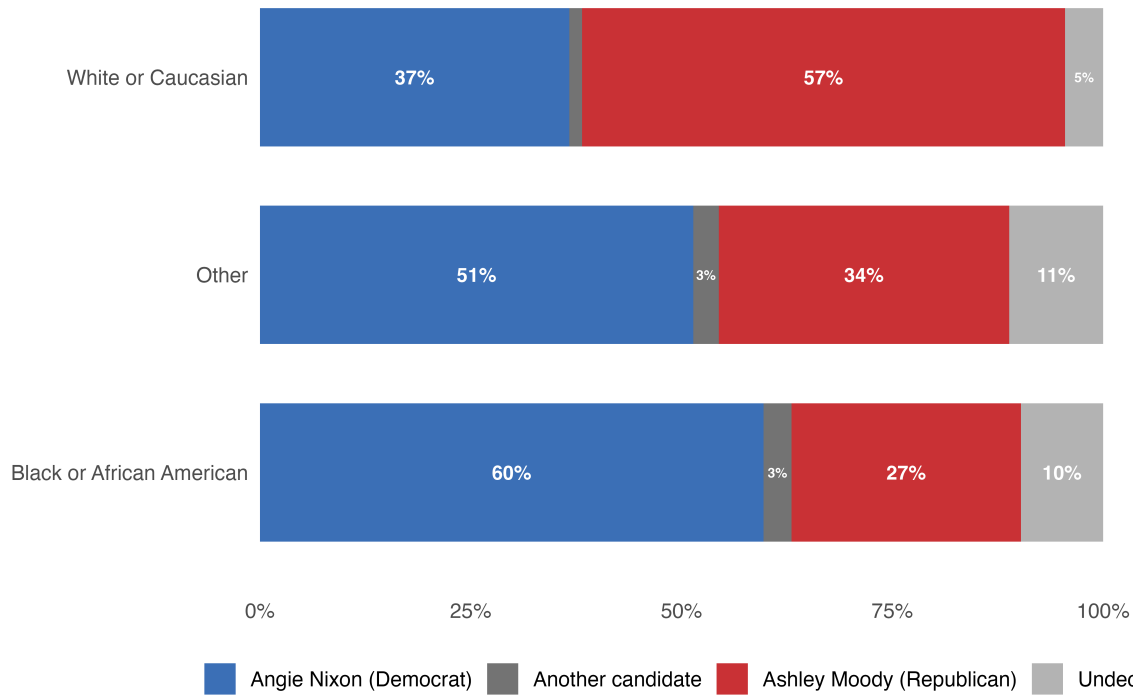
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 11: Florida U.S. Senate Vote Intention by Gender
Senate Vote by Gender



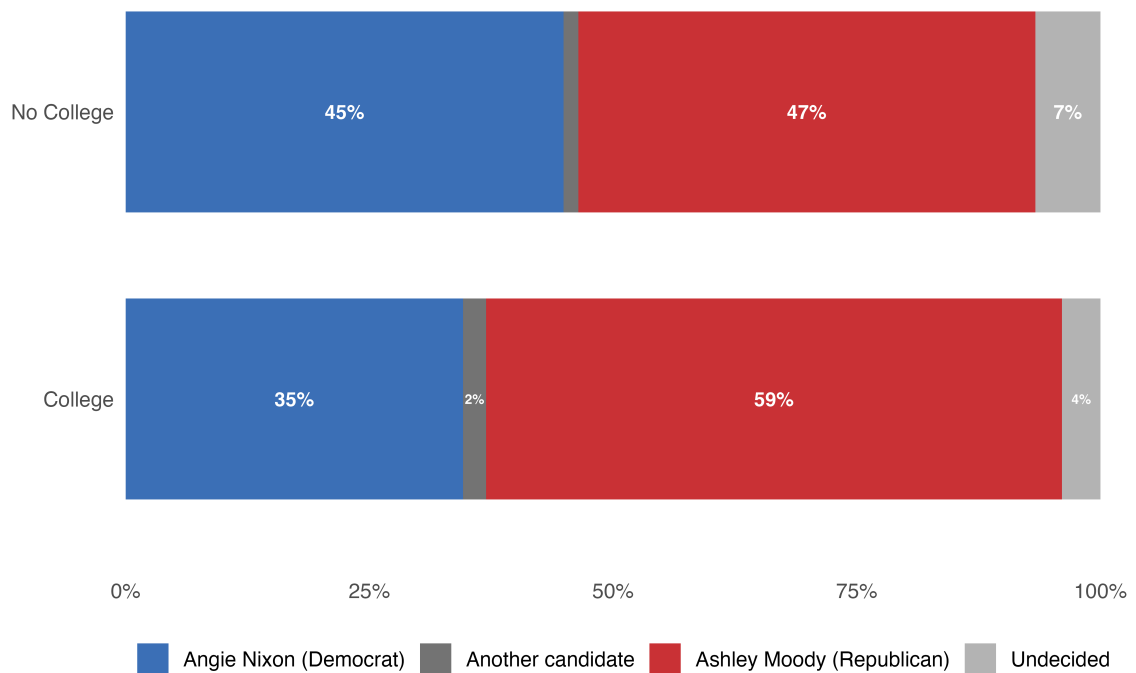
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 12: Florida U.S. Senate Vote Intention by Race
Senate Vote by Race



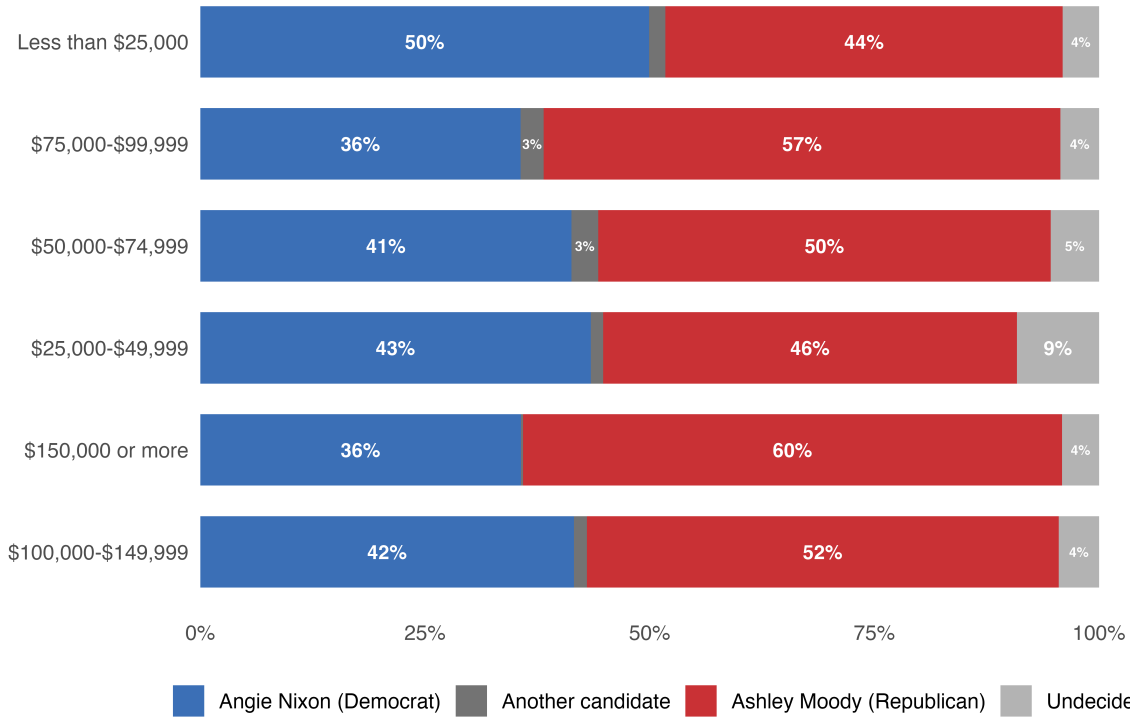
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 13: U.S. Senate Vote Intention by Education
Senate Vote by Education



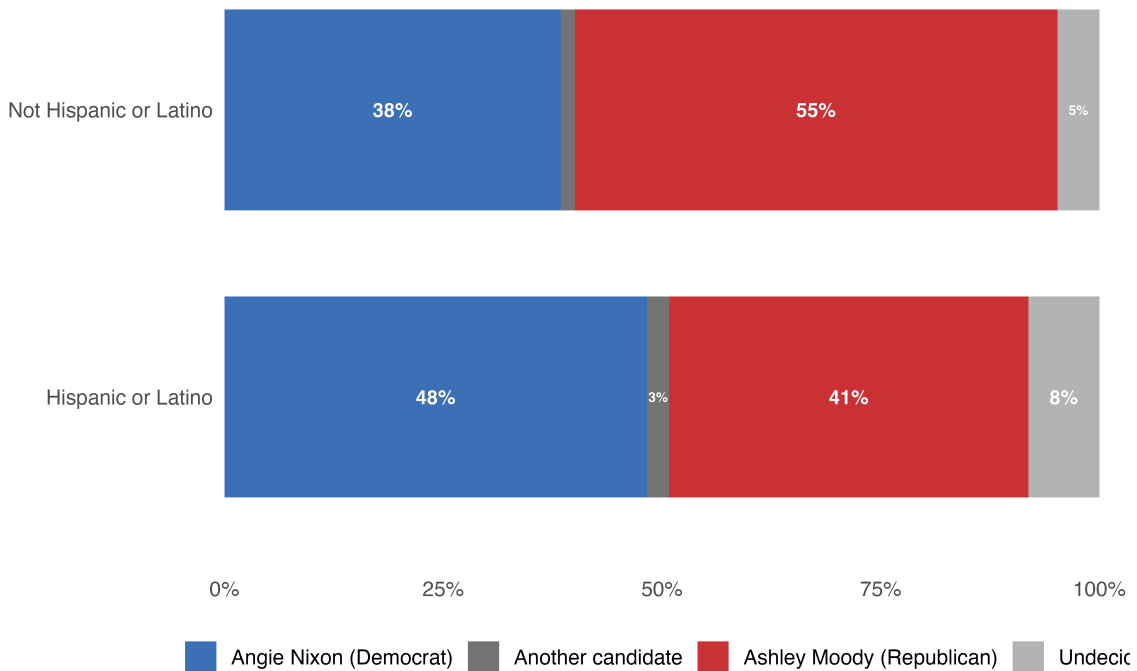
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 14: U.S. Senate Vote Intention by Household Income
Senate Vote by Household Income



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 15: U.S. Senate Vote Intention by Hispanic Origin
Senate Vote by Hispanic Origin



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

4.3 Florida: Generic Ballot

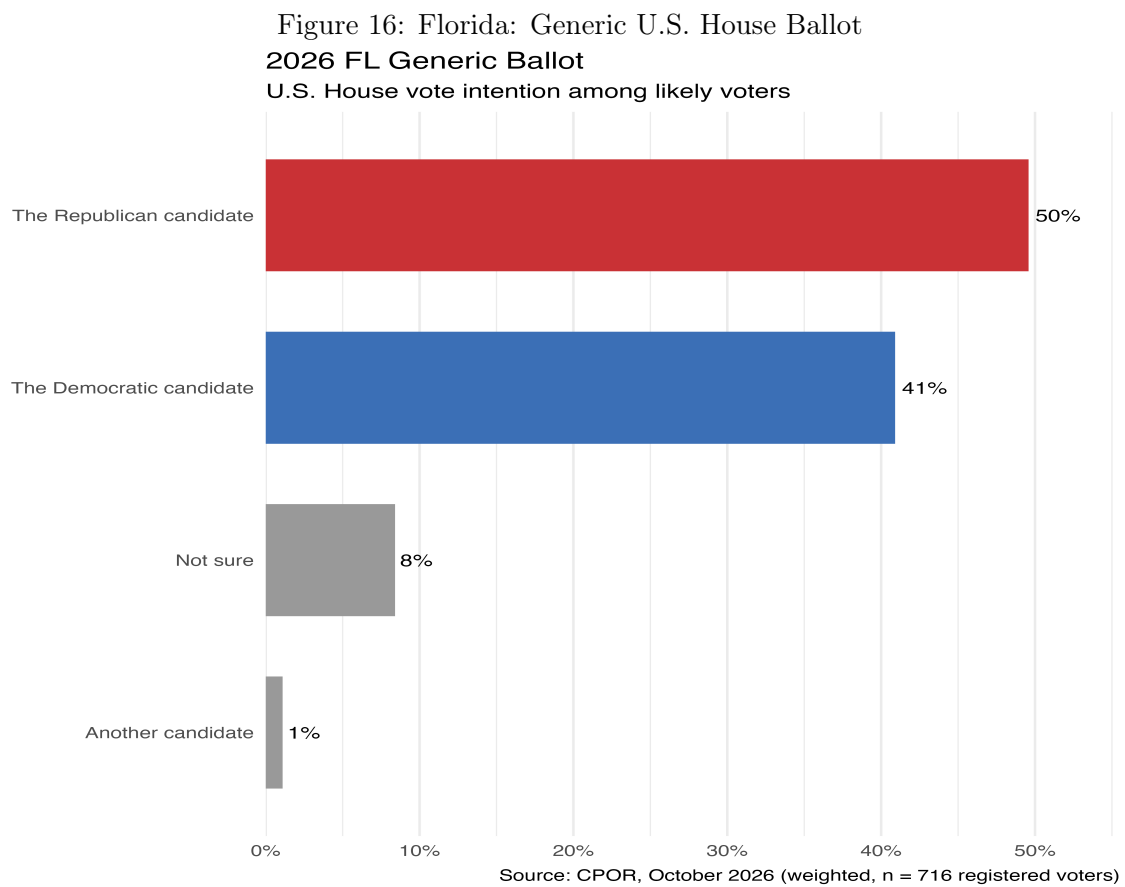
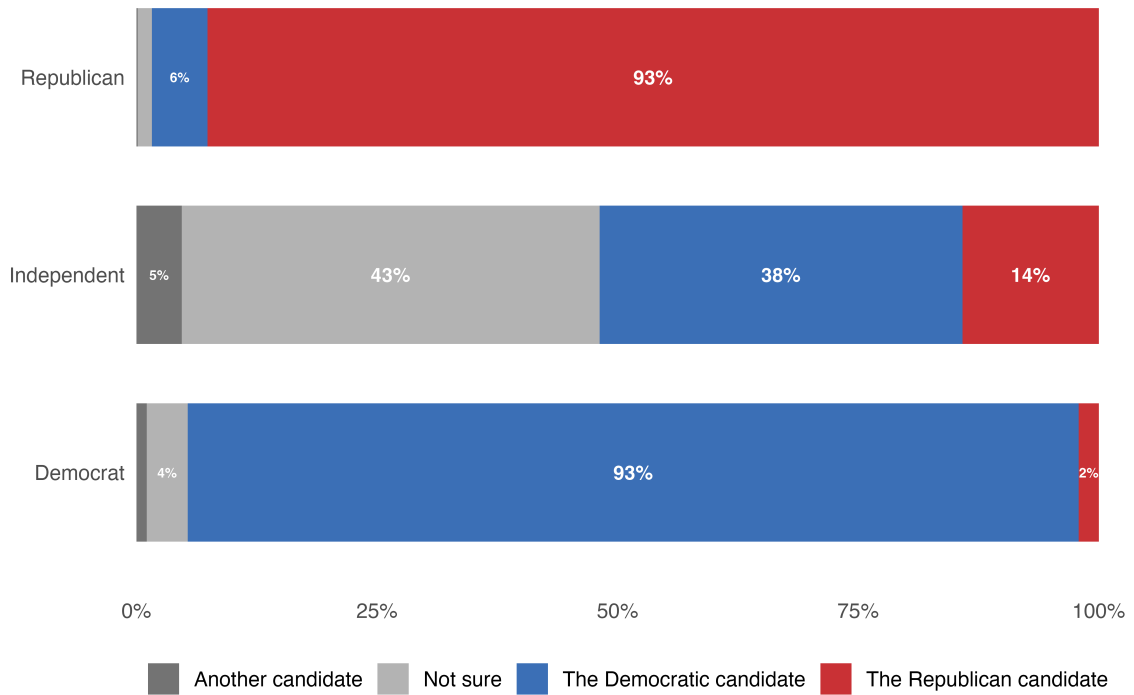
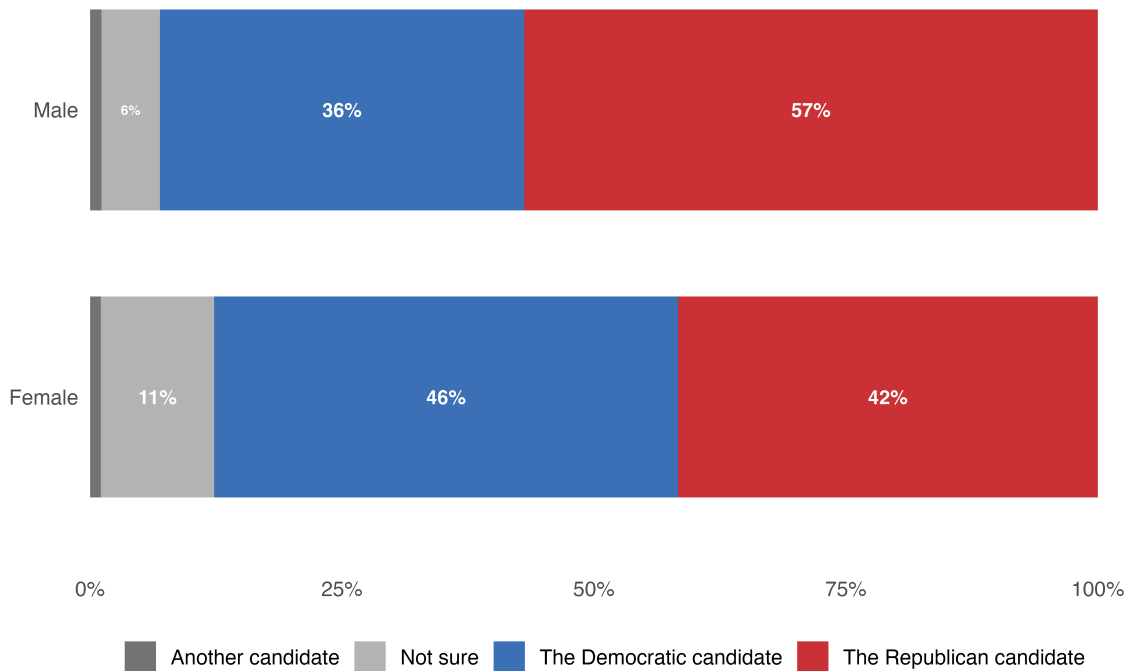


Figure 17: Generic U.S. House Ballot by Party Identification
Generic U.S. House Ballot by Party ID



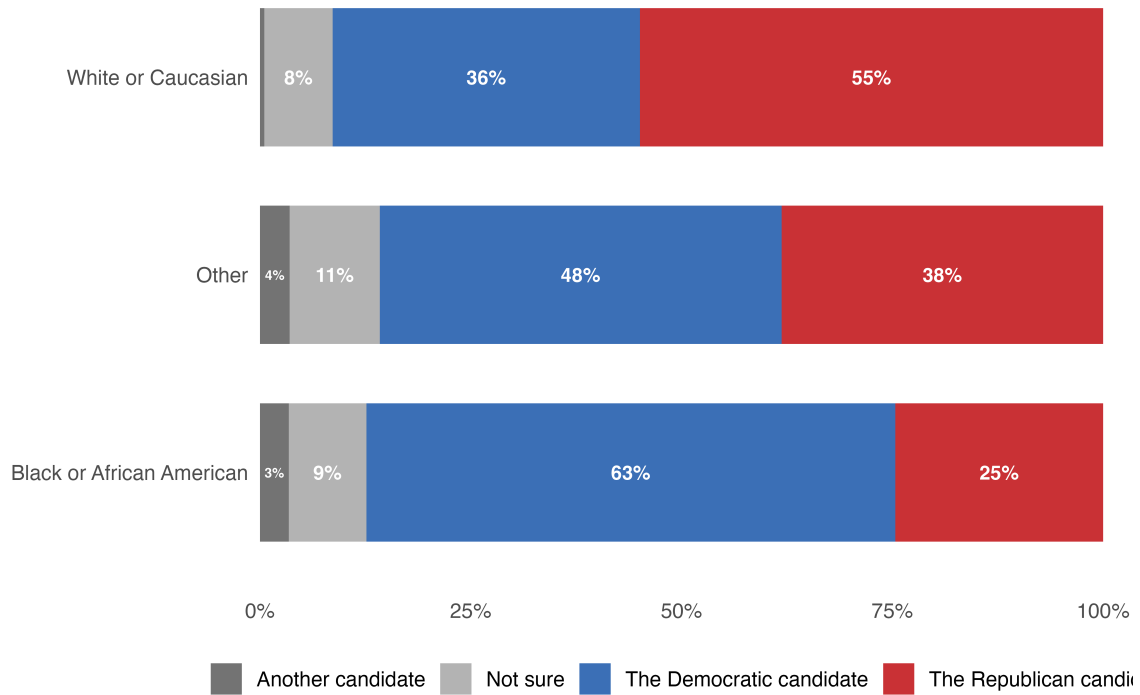
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 18: Generic U.S. House Ballot by Gender
Generic U.S. House Ballot by Gender



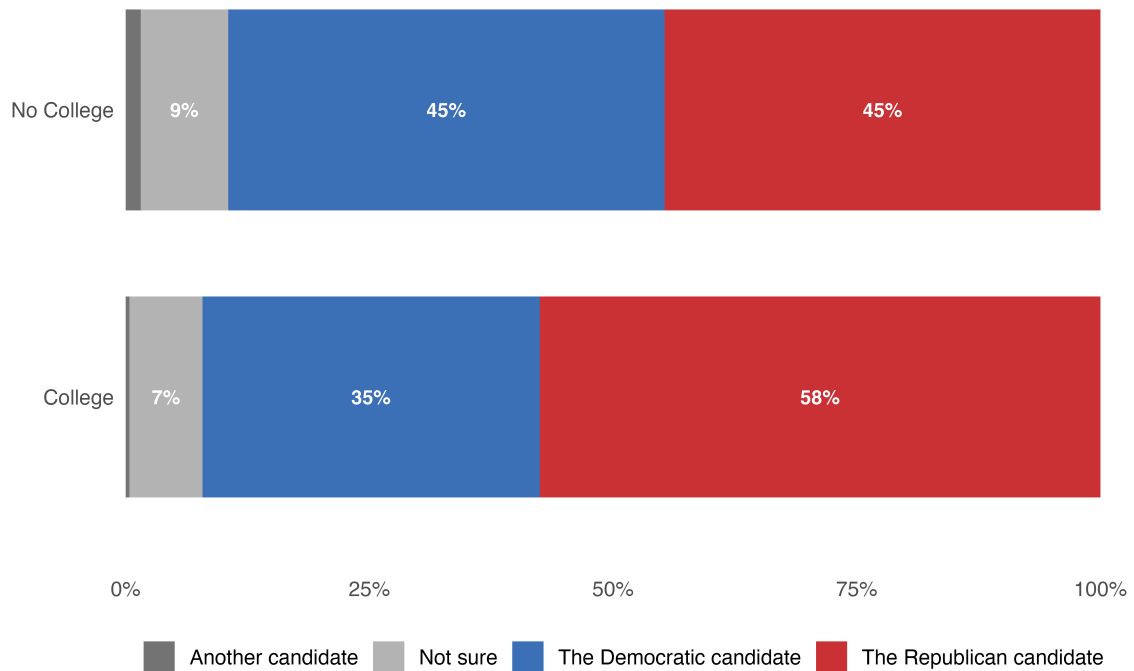
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 19: Generic U.S. House Ballot by Race
Generic U.S. House Ballot by Race



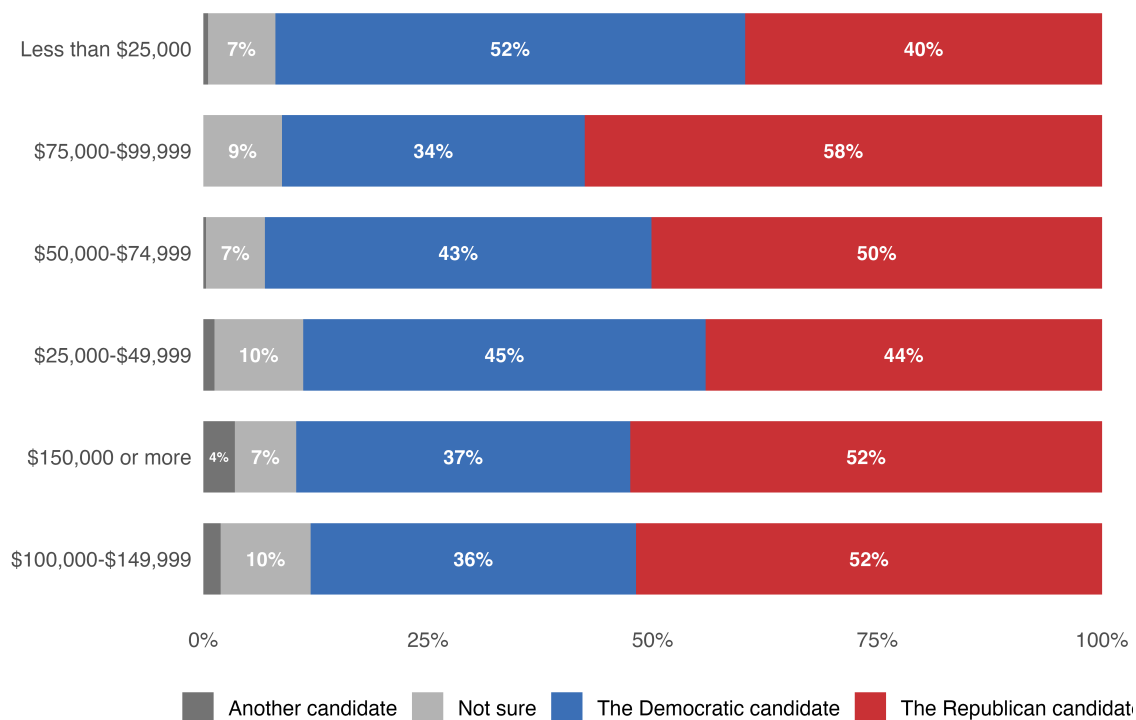
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 20: Generic U.S. House Ballot by Education
Generic U.S. House Ballot by Education



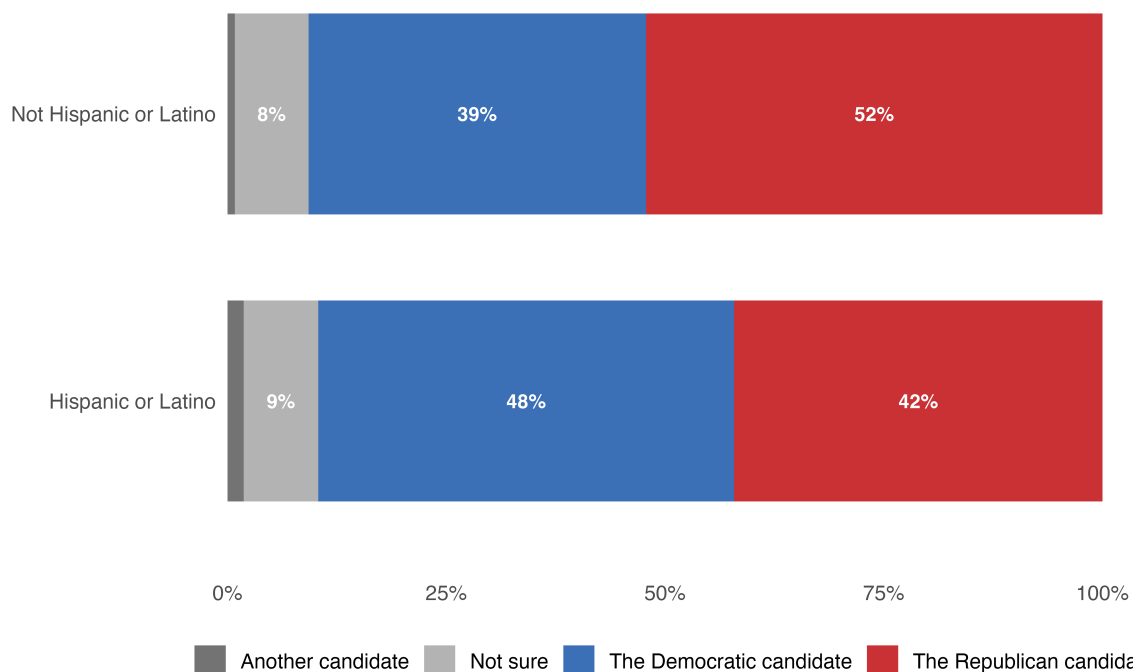
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 21: Generic U.S. House Ballot by Household Income
Generic U.S. House Ballot by Household Income



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 22: Generic U.S. House Ballot by Hispanic Origin
Generic U.S. House Ballot by Hispanic Origin



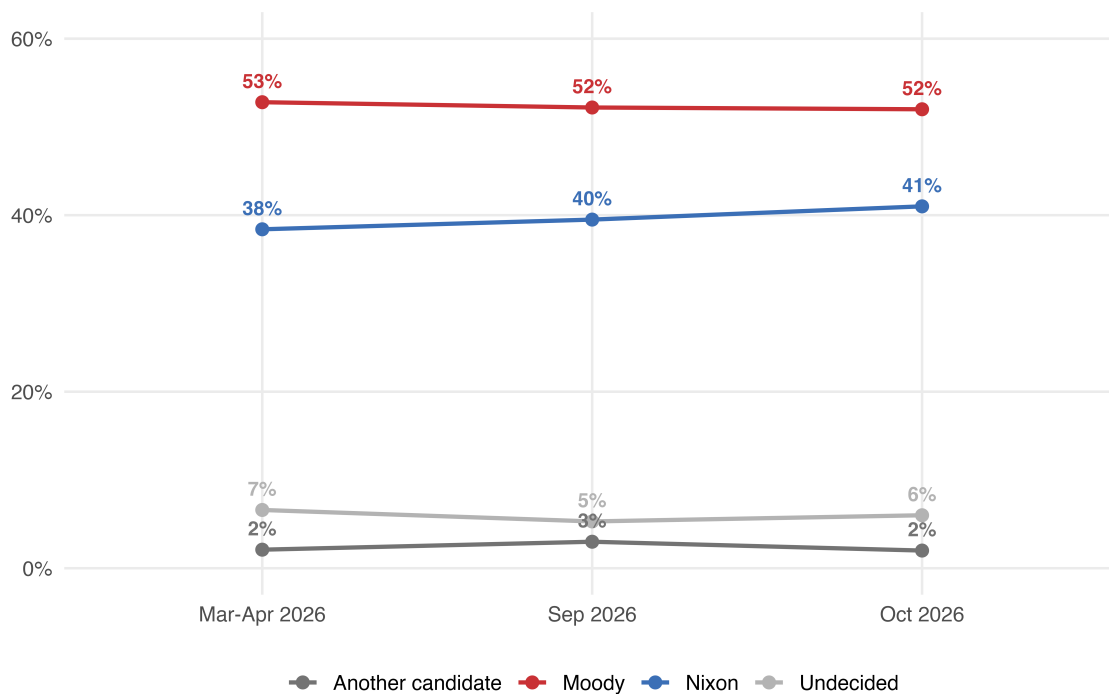
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

4.4 Tracking the Races

Figure 23: 2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention Over Time

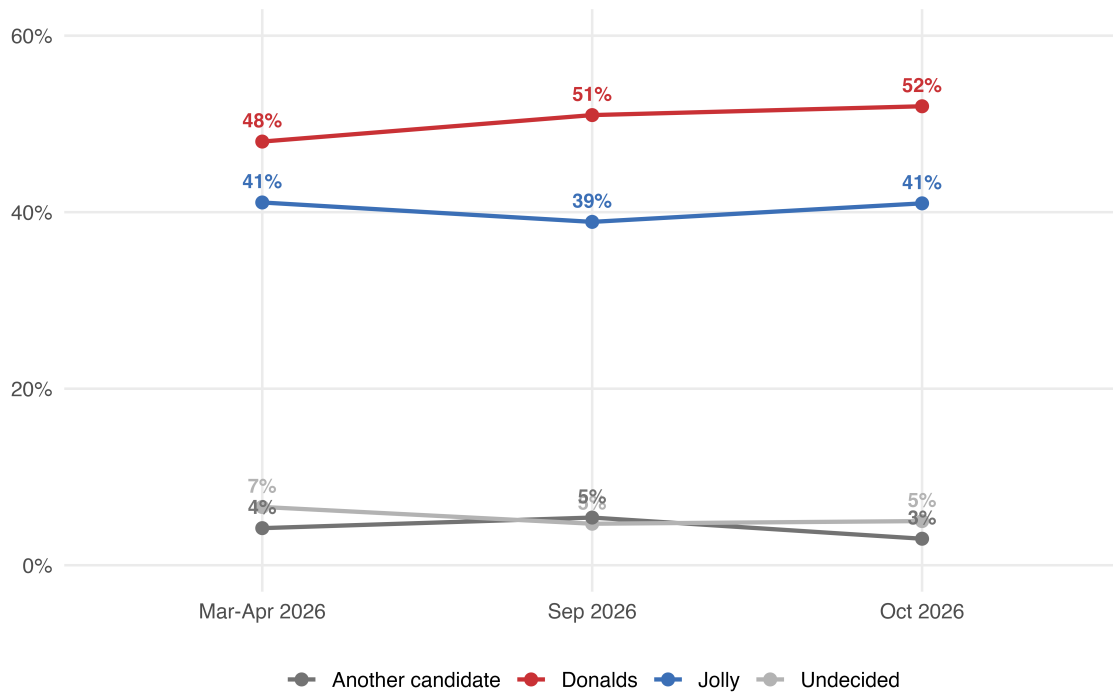
2026 U.S. Senate Vote Intention Over Time

Among likely voters; undecided respondents who lean toward a candidate are allocated



Source: CPOR Florida Omnibus, 2026. All waves estimated under the current weighting specification; figures may differ from numbers as originally published. Mar-Apr values from pre-primary candidate scenarios.

Figure 24: 2026 Florida Gubernatorial Vote Intention Over Time
 2026 FL Gubernatorial Vote Intention Over Time
 Among likely voters; undecided respondents who lean toward a candidate are allocated

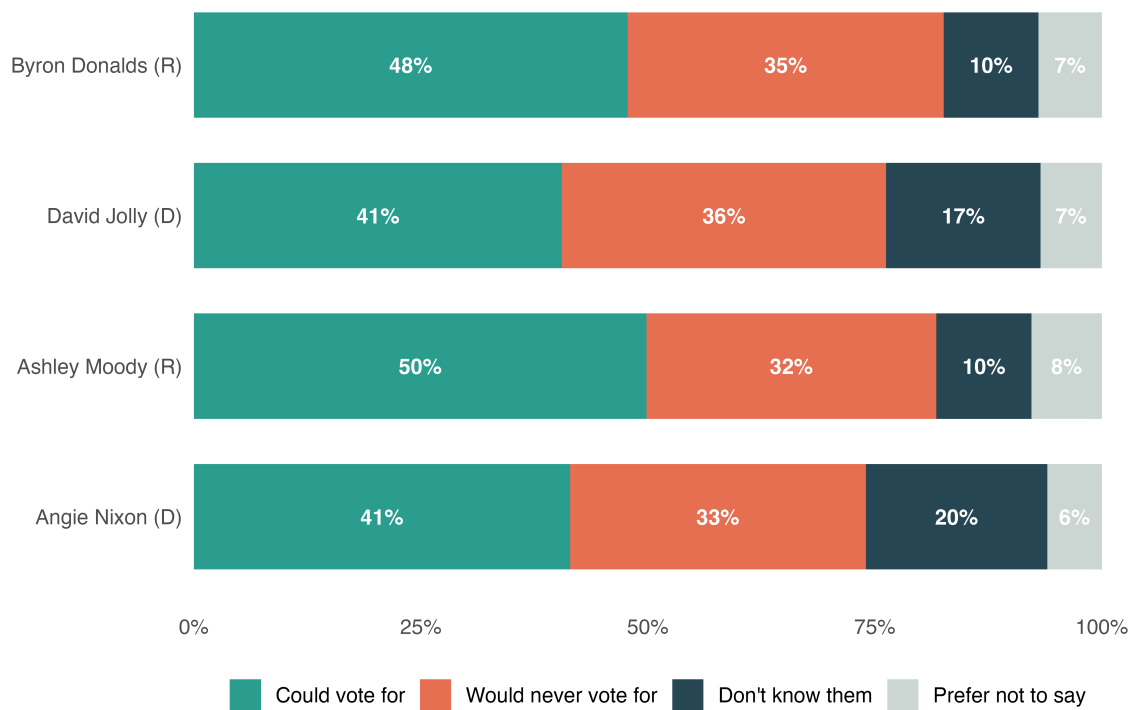


Source: CPOR Florida Omnibus, 2026. All waves estimated under the current weighting specification; figures may differ from numbers as originally published. Mar-Apr values from pre-primary candidate scenarios.

4.5 Candidate Familiarity and Rejection

Figure 25: Candidate Rejection: Could You Ever Vote for Them?

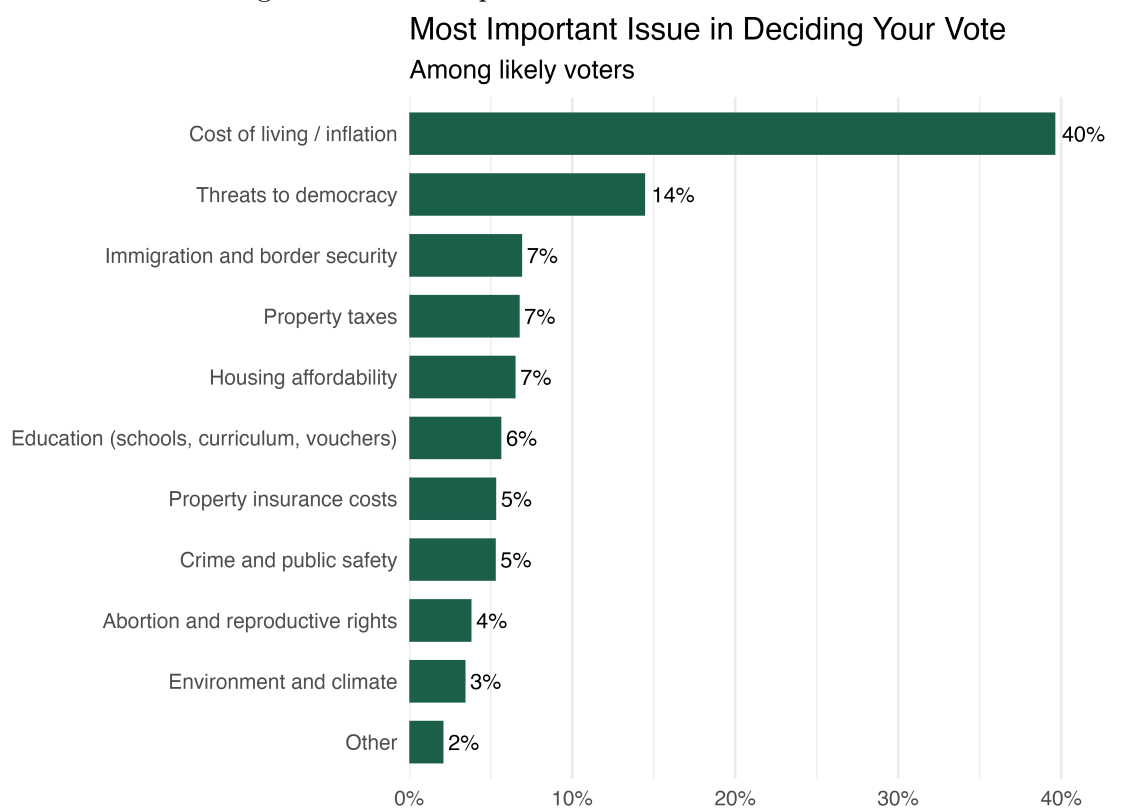
Candidate Rejection: Could You Ever Vote for Them?



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

4.6 What Drives the Vote

Figure 26: Most Important Issue in the 2026 Election



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

4.7 Vote For or Against Candidate

Figure 27: Is Your Senate Vote FOR Your Candidate or AGAINST the Opponent?

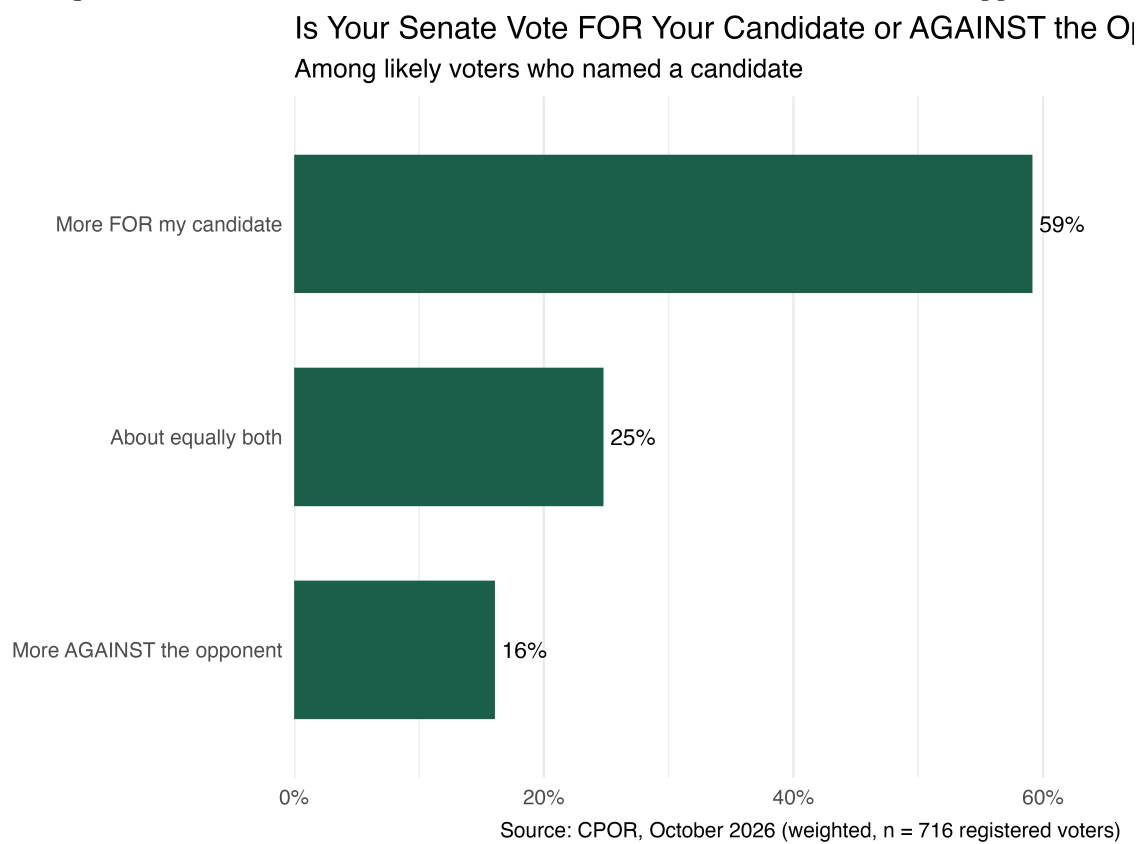
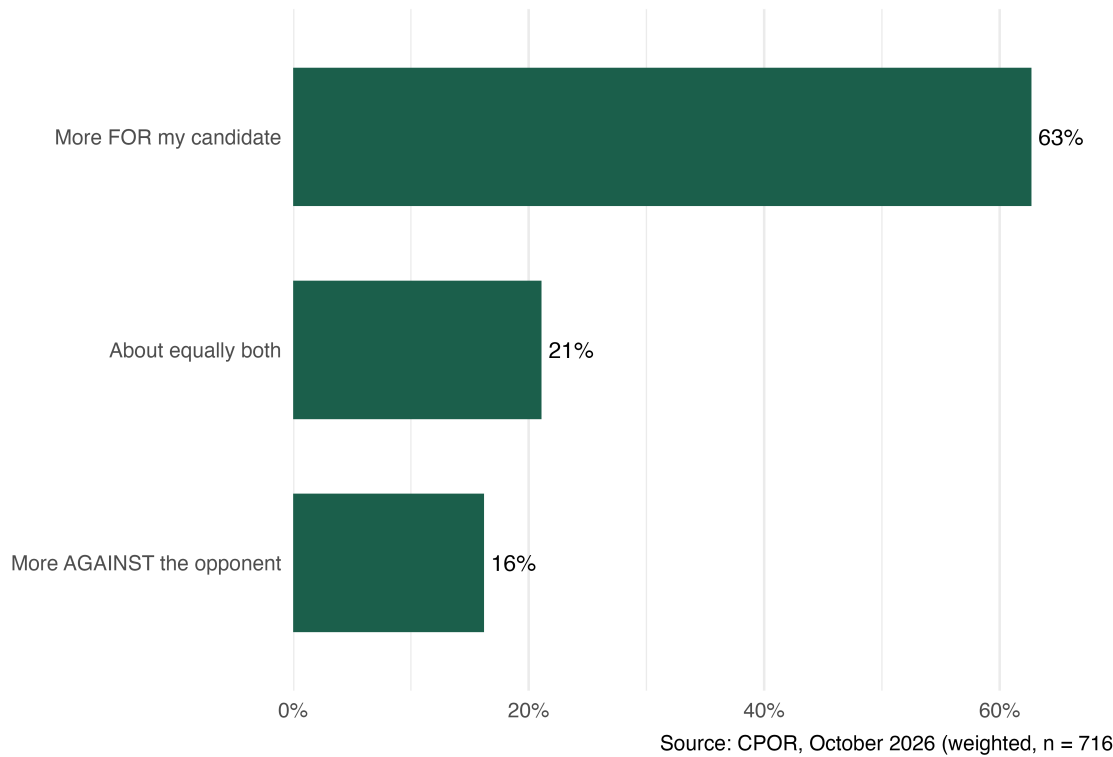


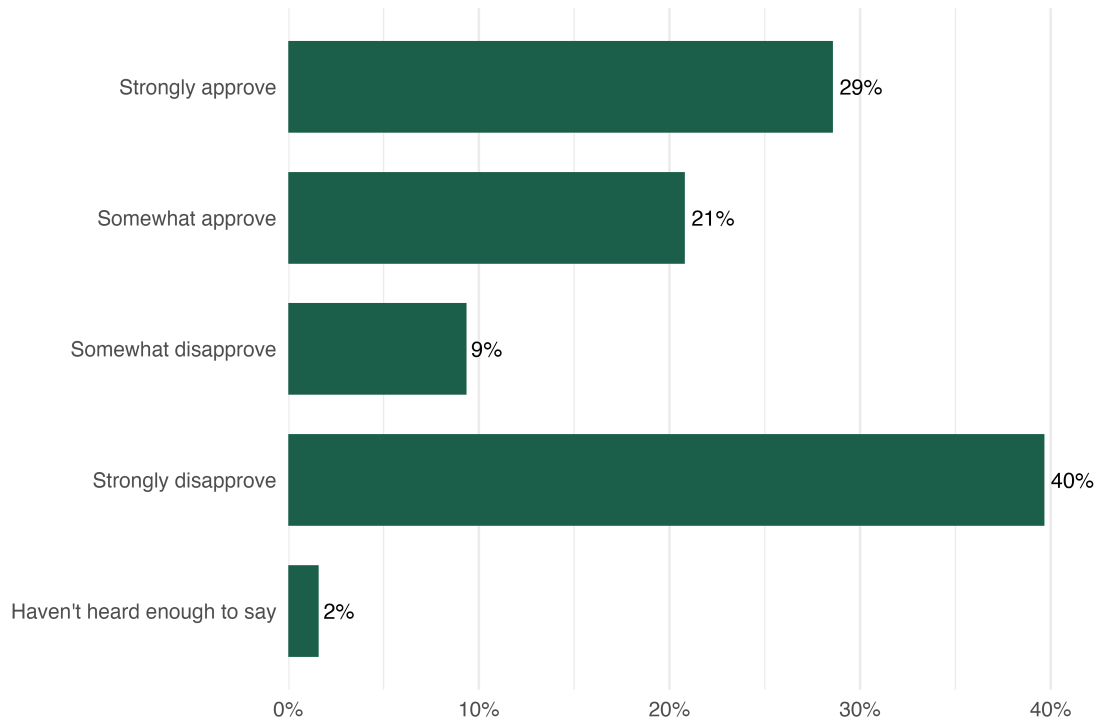
Figure 28: Is Your Governor Vote FOR Your Candidate or AGAINST the Opponent?
Is Your Governor Vote FOR Your Candidate or AGAINST the
Among likely voters who named a candidate



5 Approval Ratings and Direction of the Country

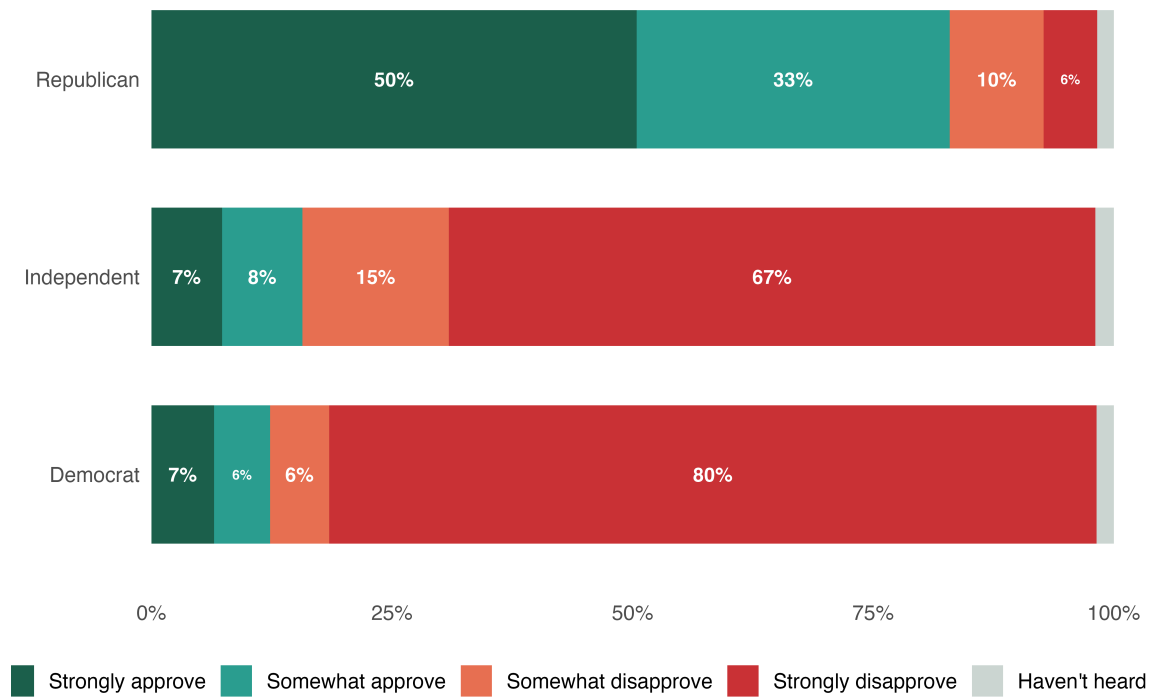
5.1 President Trump

Figure 29: Approval Rating: President Trump
Job Approval: President Donald Trump
Among likely voters



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 30: Approval Rating by Party Identification: President Trump
Approval Rating by Party Identification: President Trump



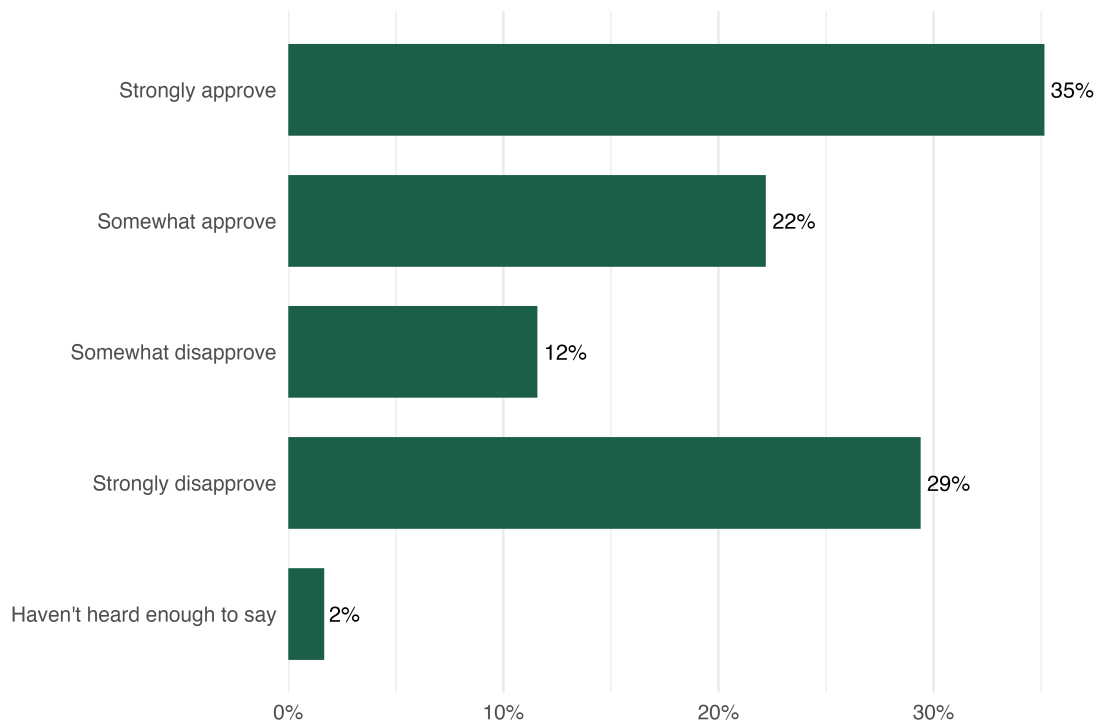
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

5.2 Governor DeSantis

Figure 31: Approval Rating: Governor DeSantis

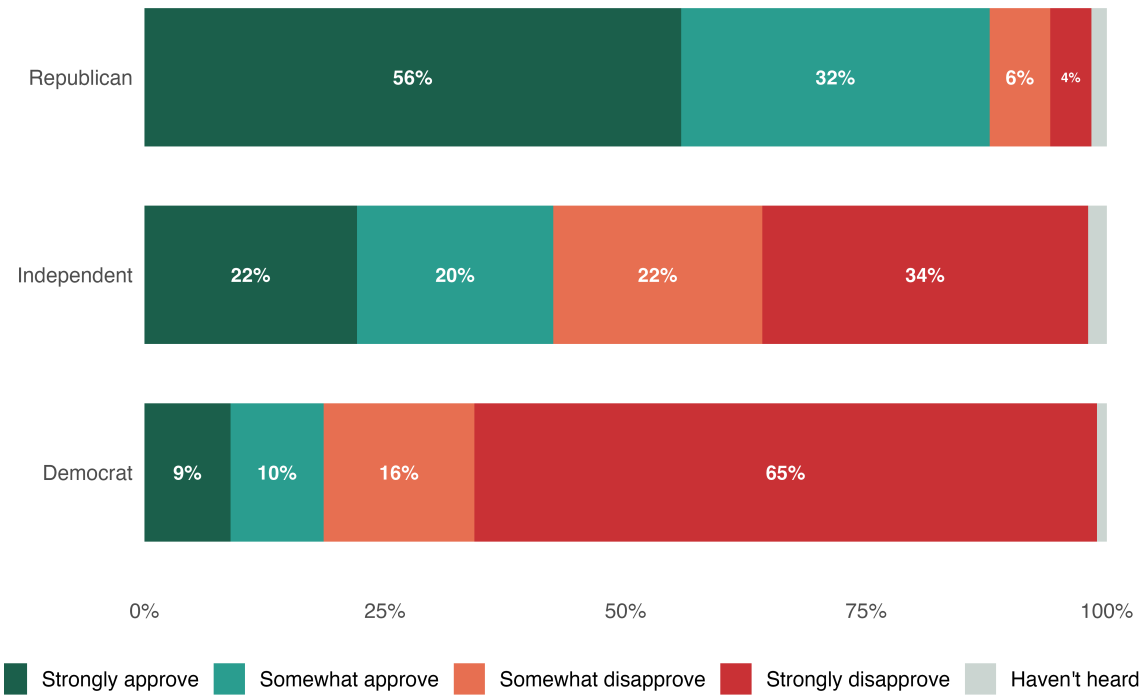
Job Approval: Governor Ron DeSantis

Among likely voters



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 32: Approval Rating by Party Identification: Governor DeSantis



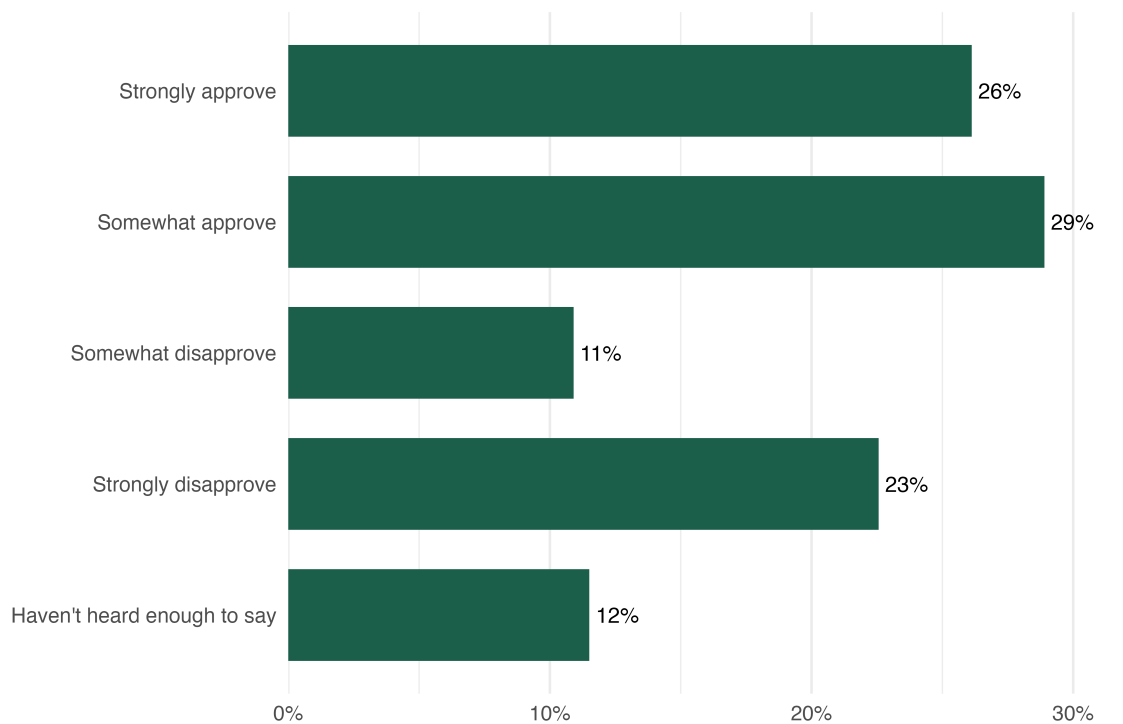
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

5.3 Senator Moody

Figure 33: Approval Rating: Senator Moody

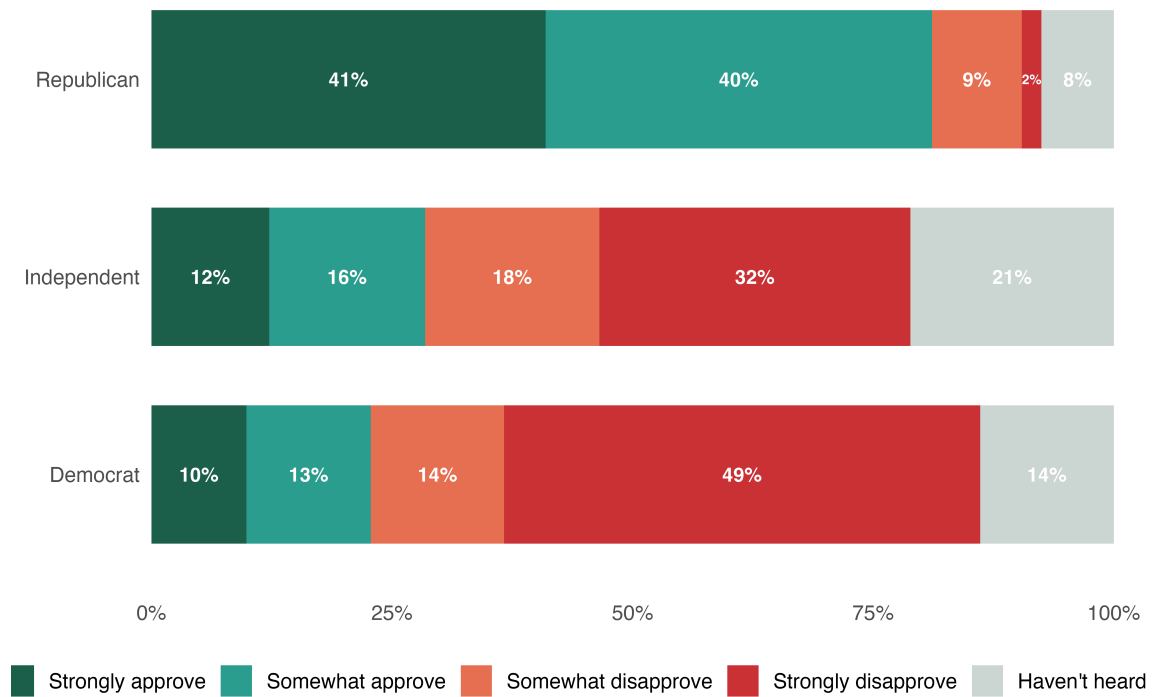
Job Approval: Senator Ashley Moody

Among likely voters



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 34: Approval Rating by Party Identification: Senator Moody
Approval Rating by Party Identification: Senator Moody

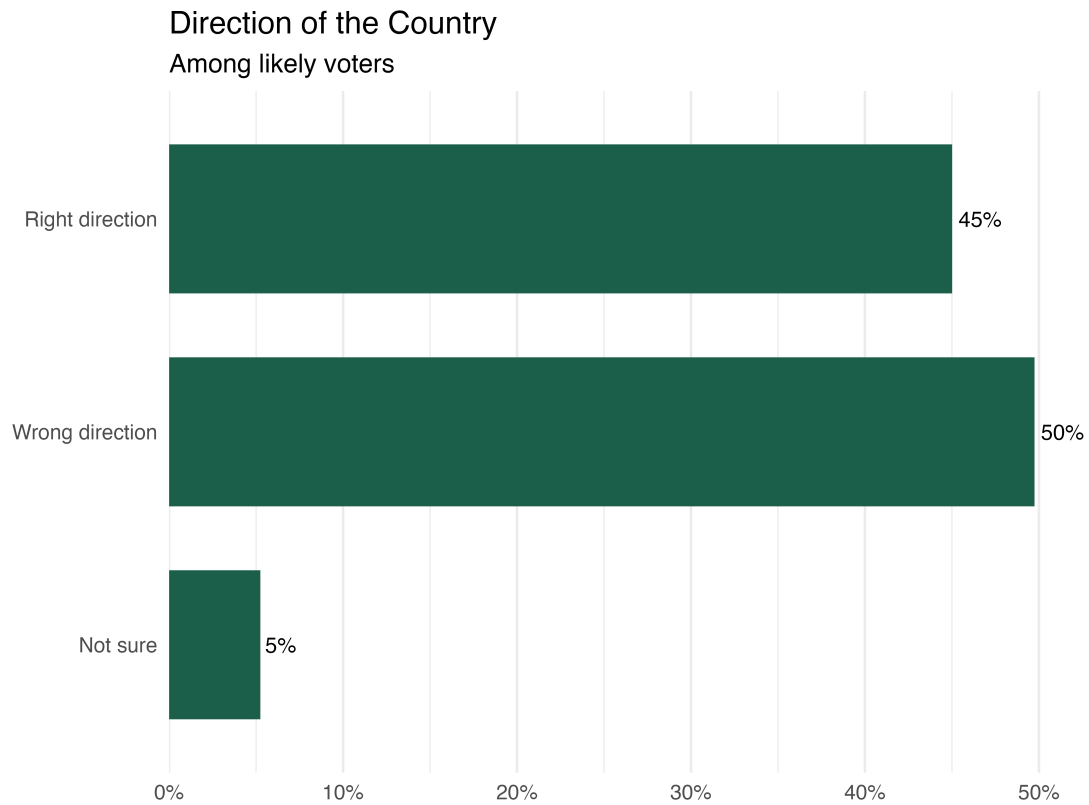


Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

6 Right / Wrong Direction

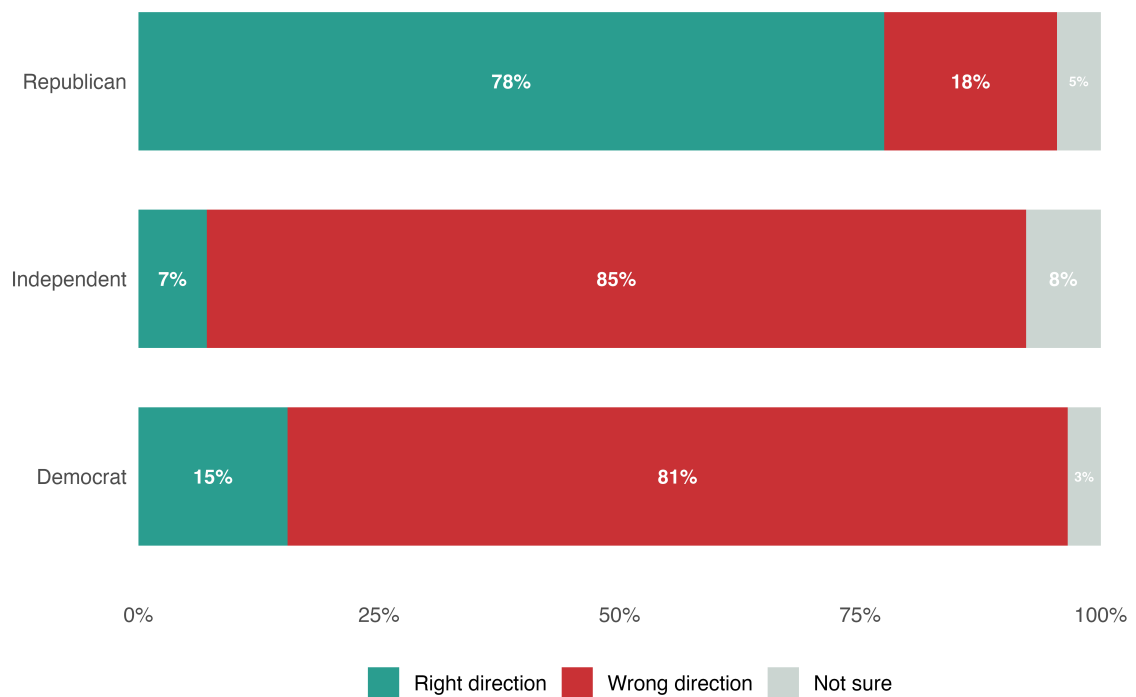
6.1 Country

Figure 35: Is the Country on the Right Track or Wrong Direction?



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

Figure 36: Is the Country on the Right Track or Wrong Direction? (by Party Identification)
Direction of the U.S. by Party Identification



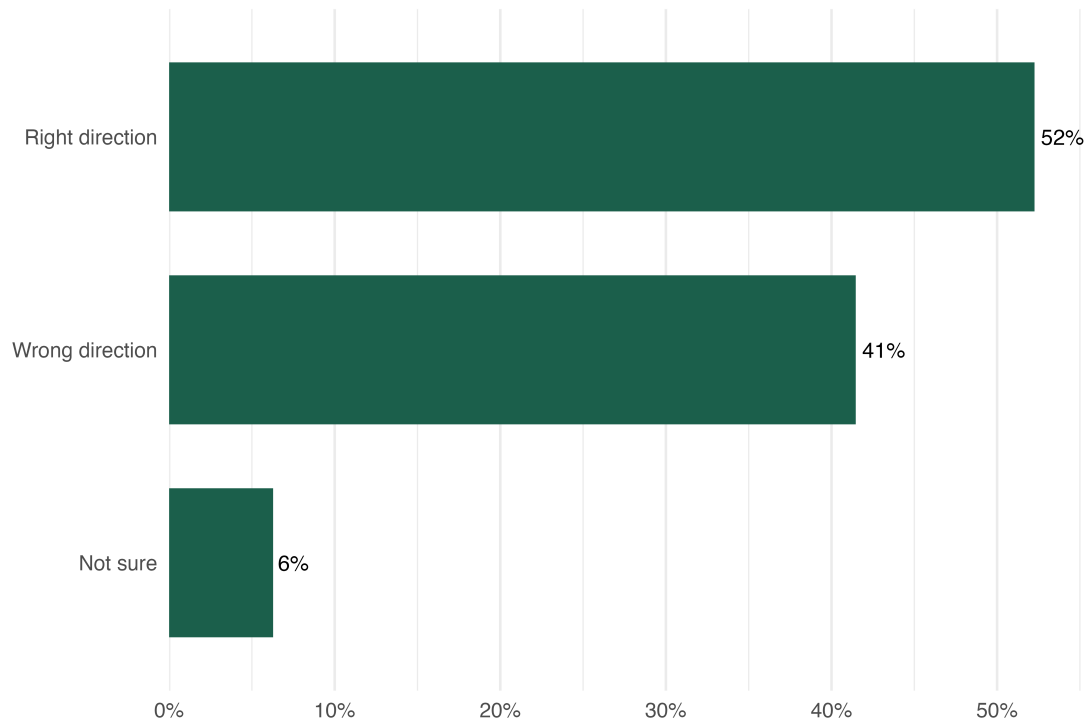
Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

6.2 Florida

Figure 37: Is the Florida on the Right Track or Wrong Direction?

Direction of the State of Florida

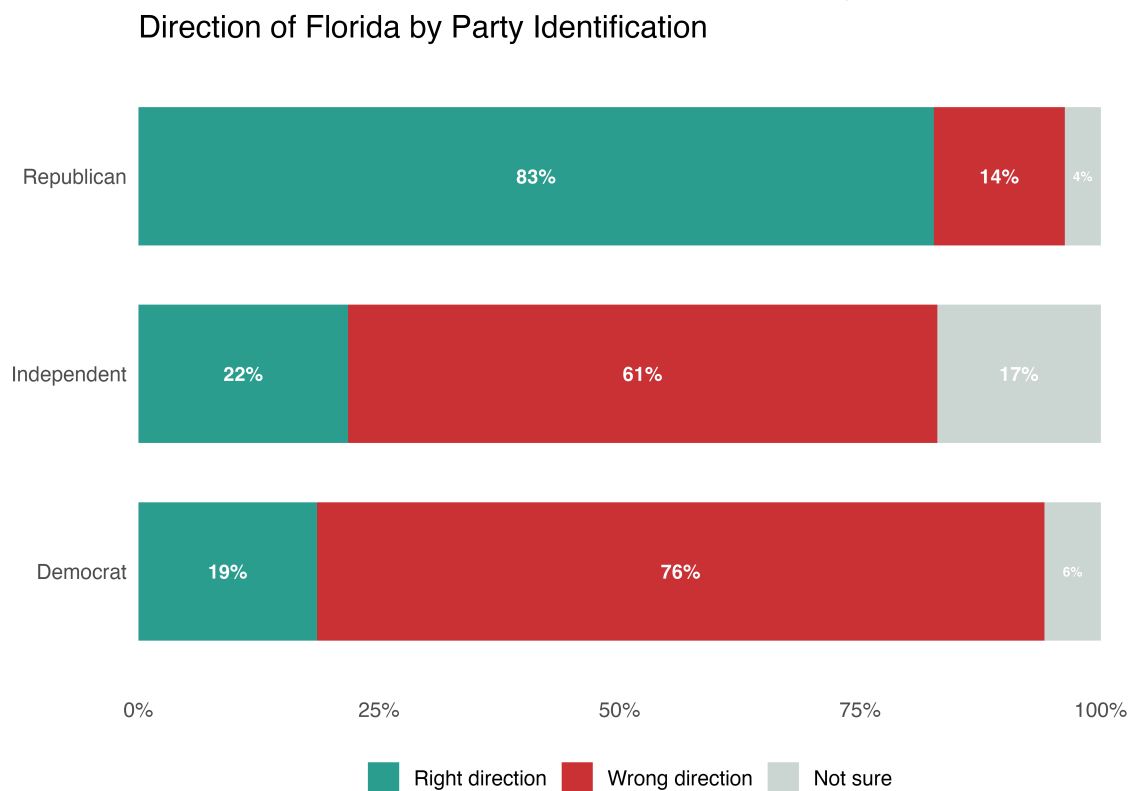
Among likely voters



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

6.3 Florida

Figure 38: Is the Florida on the Right Track or Wrong Direction? (by Party Identification)

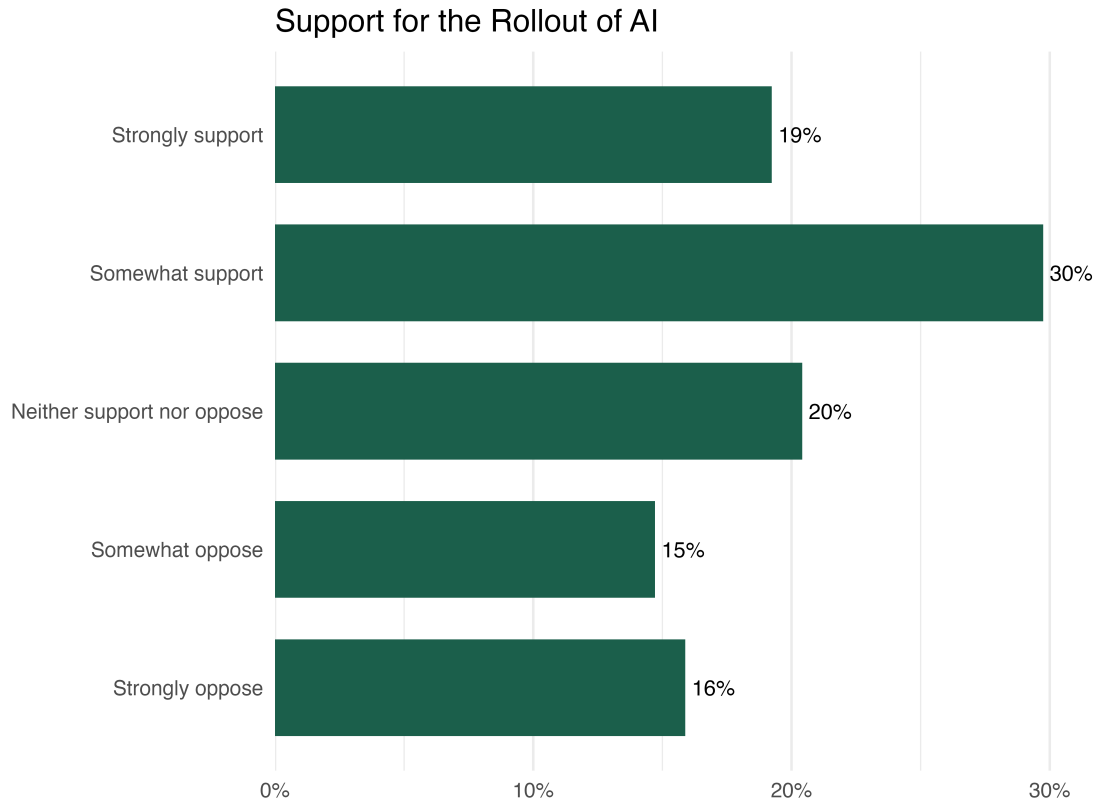


Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

7 Policy Preferences and Potential Issues on the Ballot

7.1 AI Regulation Amendment

Figure 39: AI Regulation Amendment: How Would You Vote?



7.2 Amendments on the Ballot

Figure 40: Vote Intention on the Budget Stabilization Fund Amendment (Amendment 1)

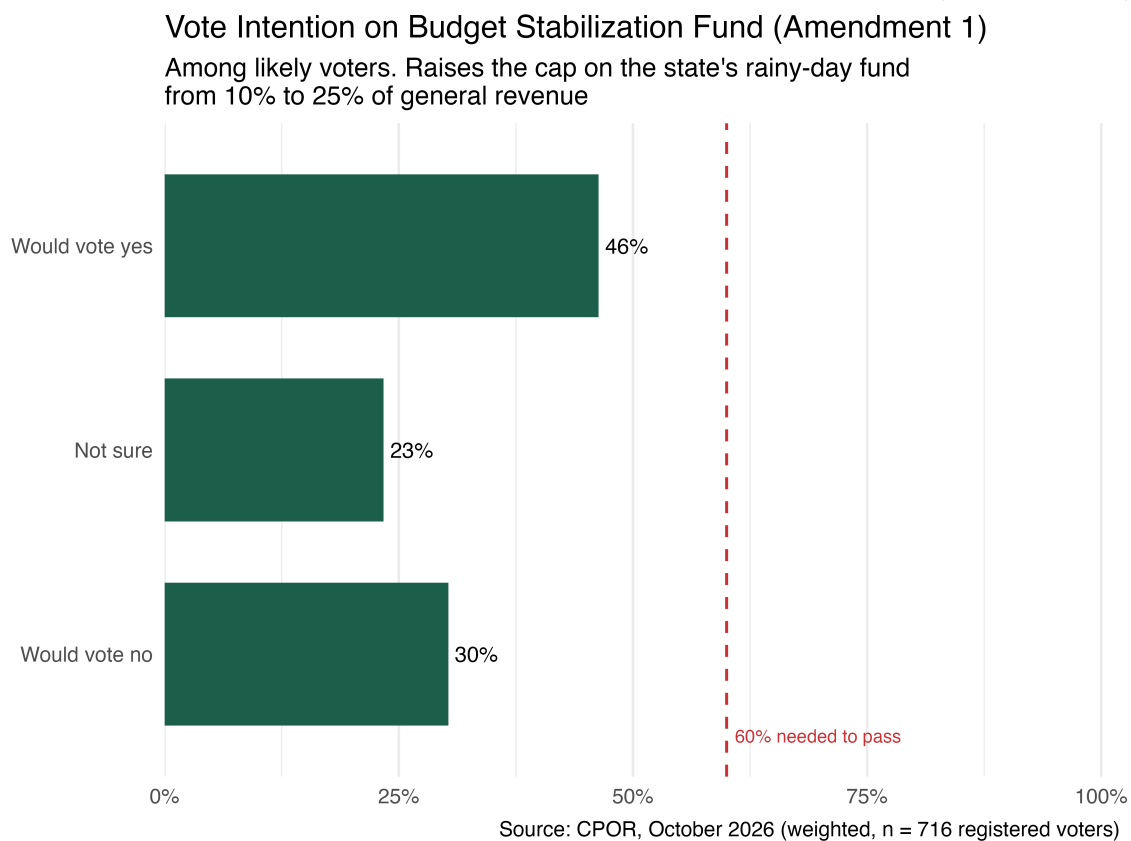


Figure 41: Vote Intention on the Agricultural Exemption Amendment (Amendment 2)

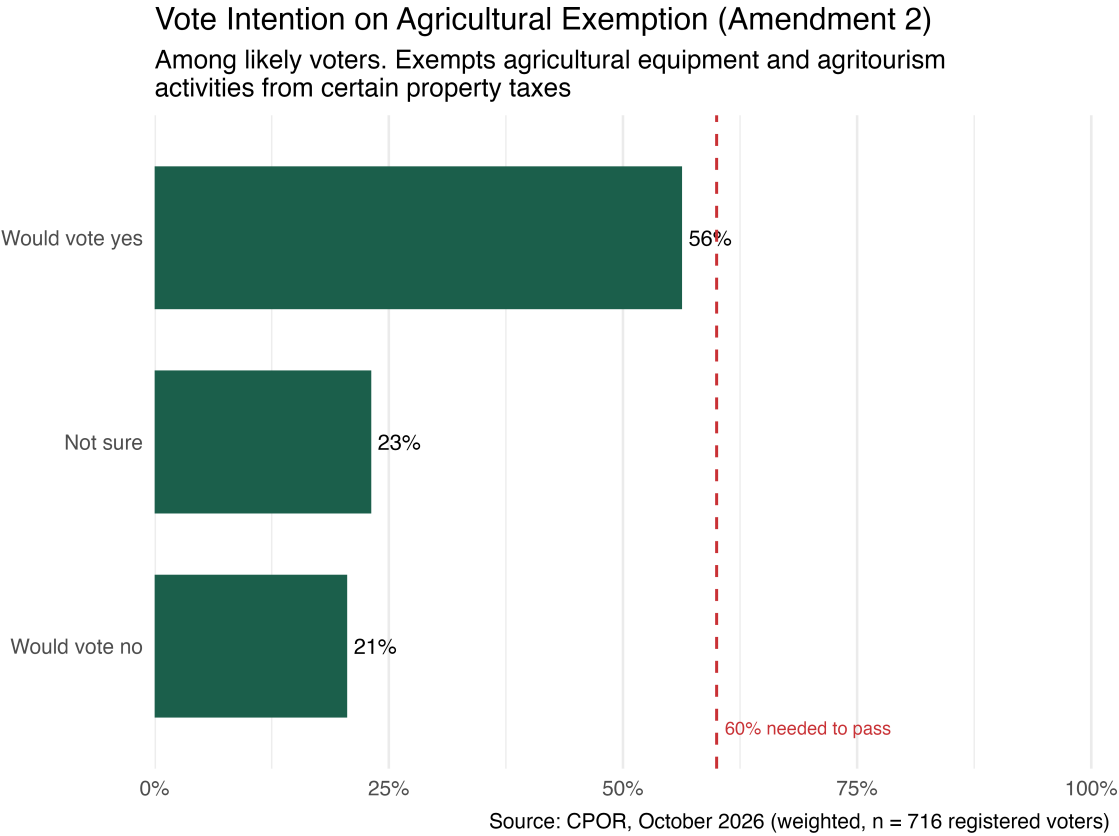
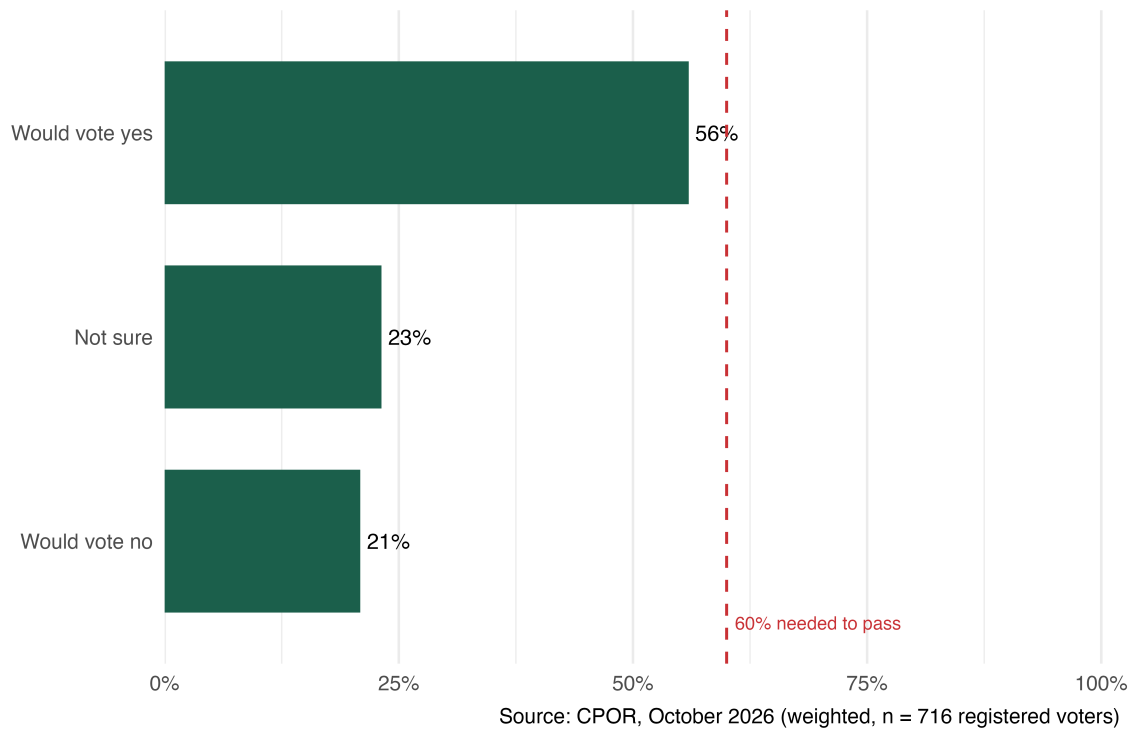
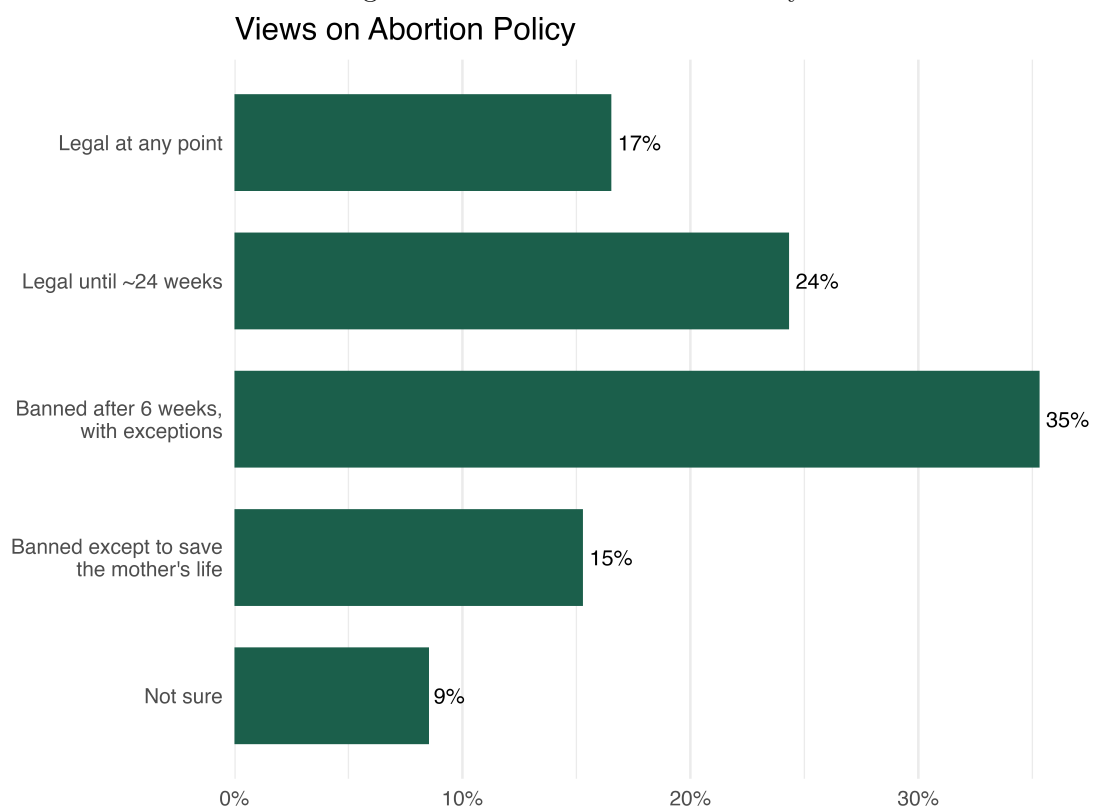


Figure 42: Vote Intention on the Homestead Exemption Amendment (Amendment 3)
Vote Intention on the Homestead Exemption Amendment (Amendment 3)
Among likely voters. Raises the exemption for non-school taxes
to \$150K in 2027 and \$250K in 2028



7.3 Abortion

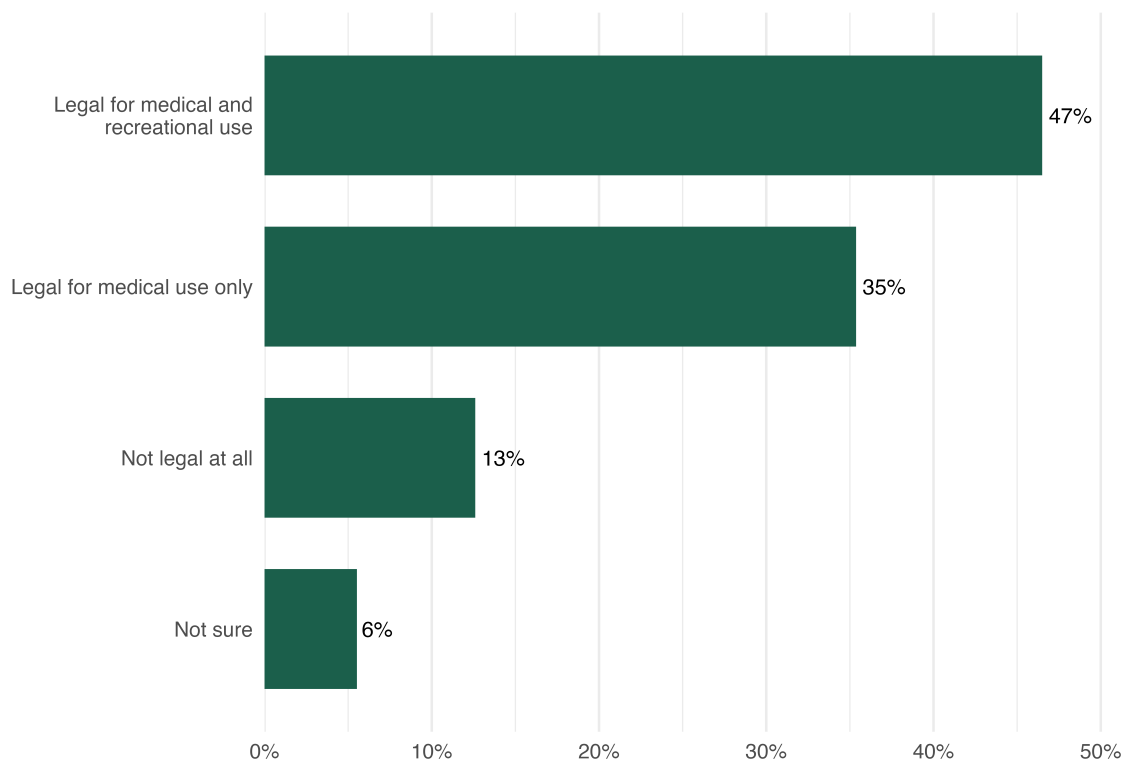
Figure 43: Views on Abortion Policy



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 810 Florida adults)

7.4 Marijuana Legalization

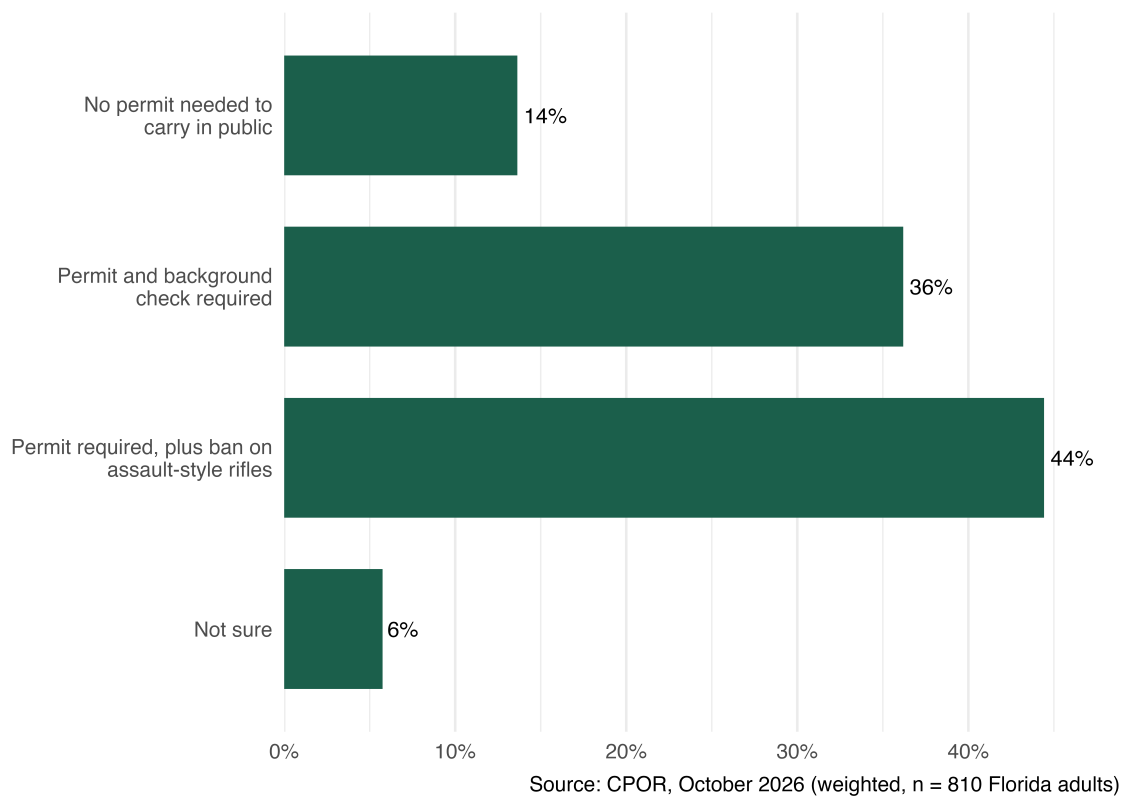
Figure 44: Views on Marijuana Legalization
Views on Marijuana Legalization



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 810 Florida adults)

7.5 Gun Regulation

Figure 45: Views on Gun Regulation
Views on Gun Regulation



7.6 Data Centers

Figure 46: Support for Data Center Construction in Florida

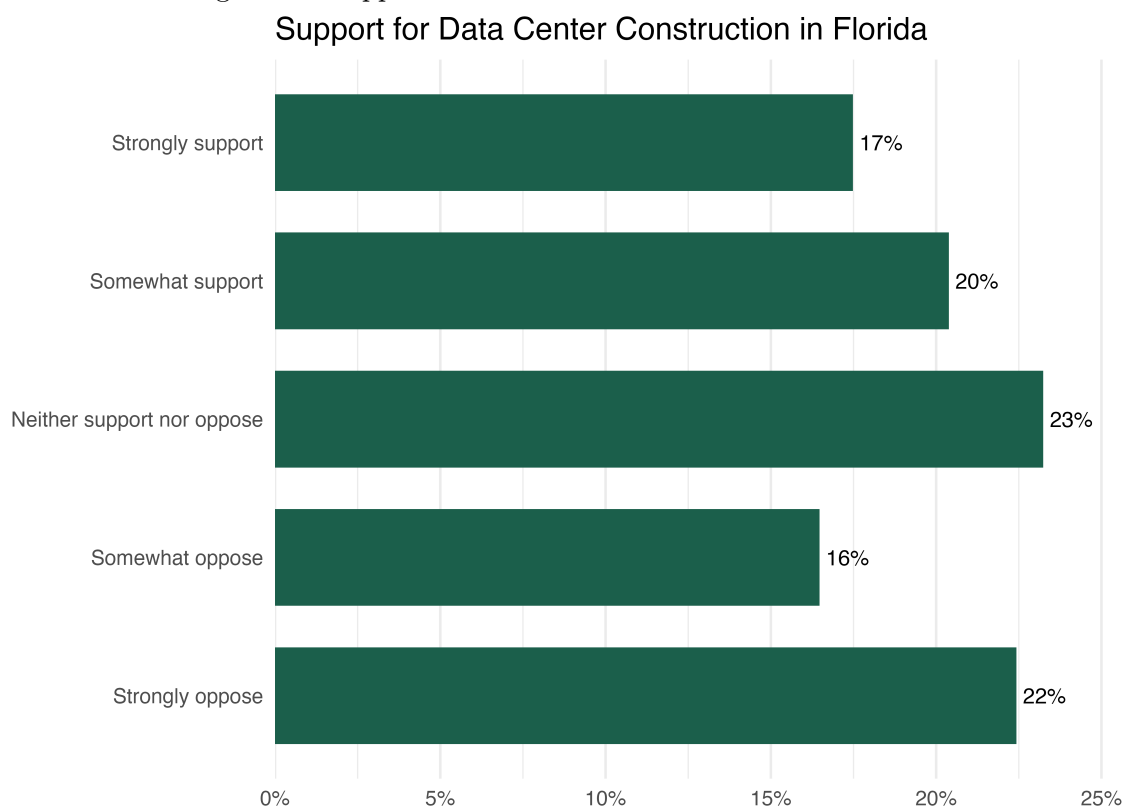
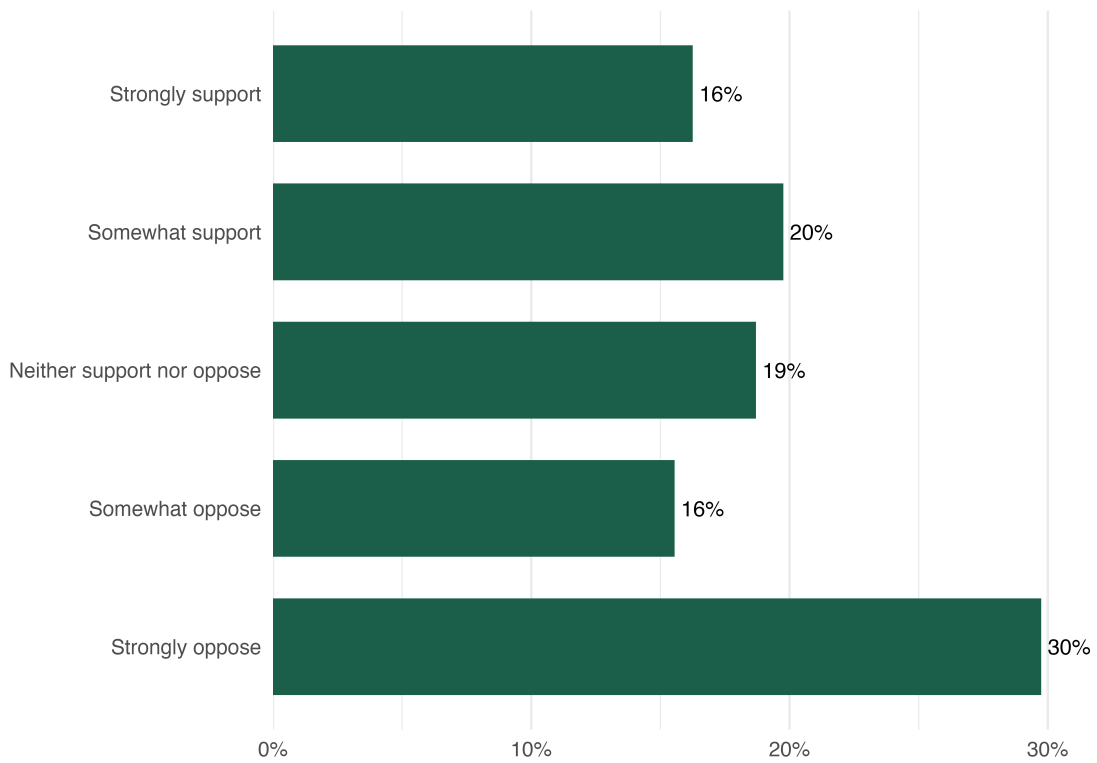
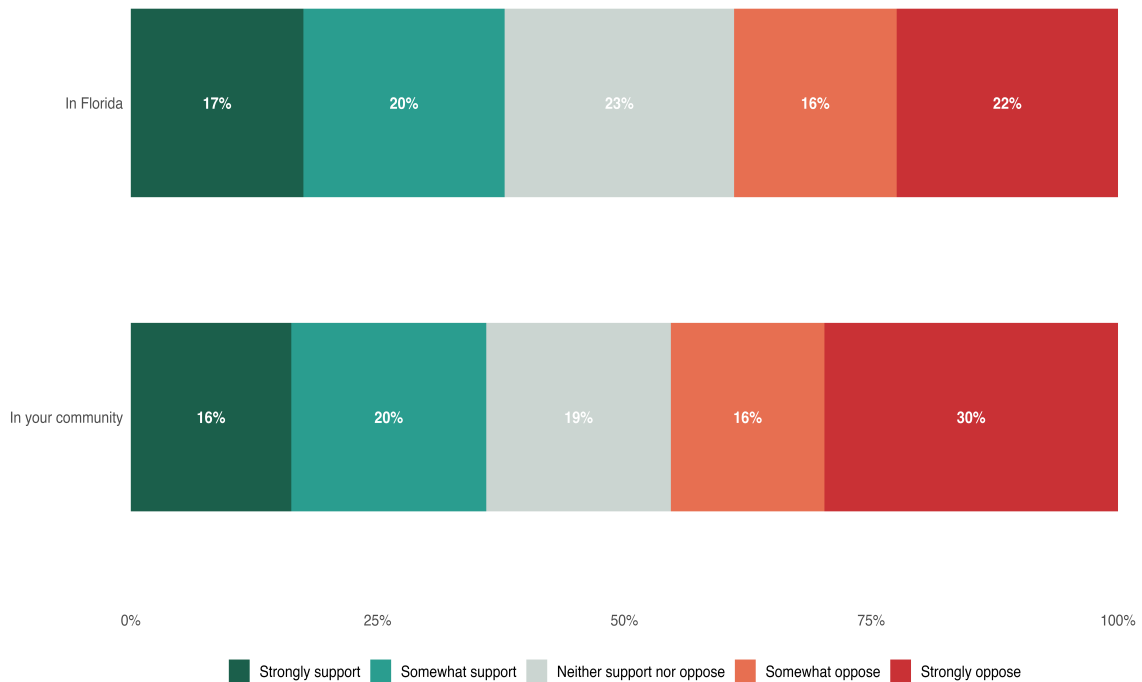


Figure 47: Support for Data Center Construction in Your Community
Support for Data Center Construction in Your Community



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 810 Florida adults)

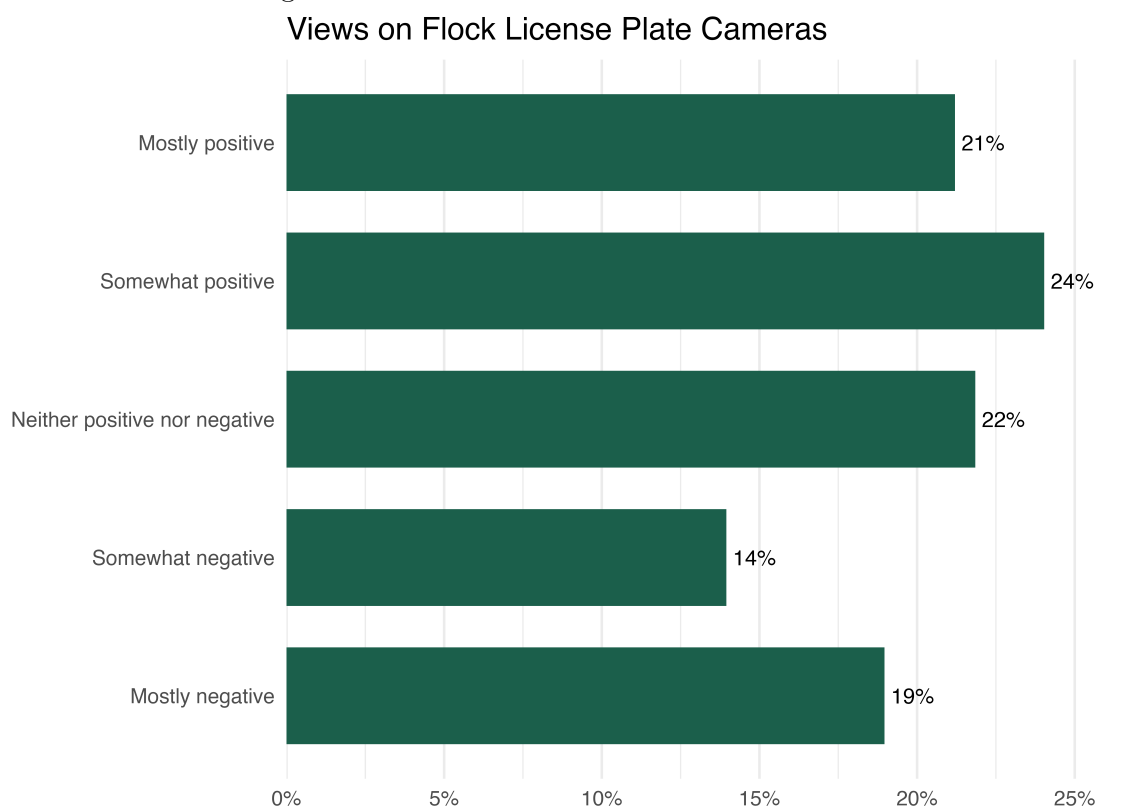
Figure 48: Support for Large Data Center Construction: State vs. Community
Support for Large Data Center Construction



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 810 Florida adults)

7.7 Flock License Plate Cameras

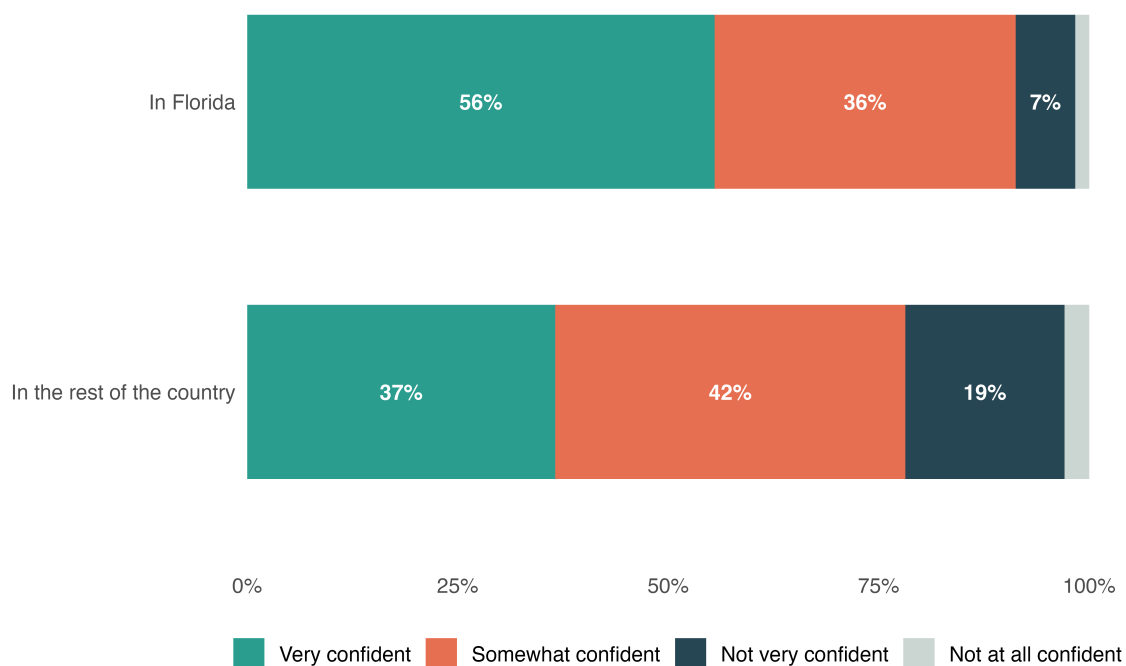
Figure 49: Views on Flock License Plate Cameras



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 810 Florida adults)

7.8 Confidence That Votes Will Be Counted Fairly

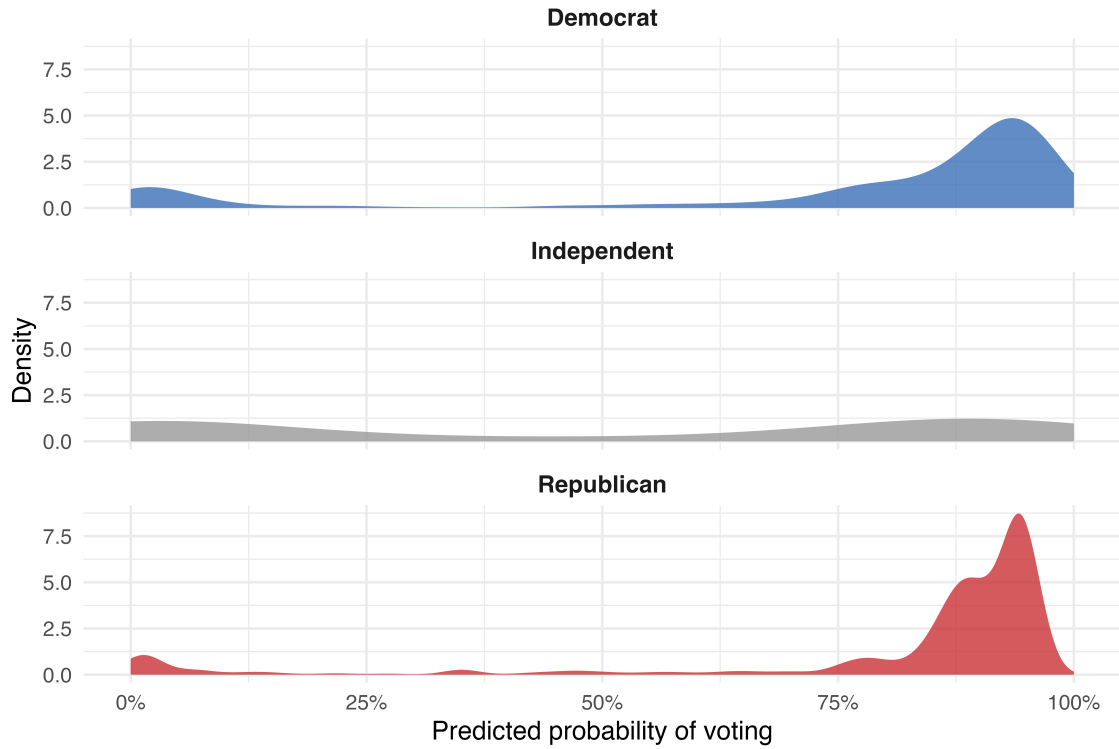
Figure 50: Confidence That Votes Will Be Counted Fairly: Florida vs. Rest of the Country
Confidence That Votes Will Be Counted Fairly



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 716 registered voters)

8 Most Likely Voters

Figure 51: Most Likely Voter: Probability of Turnout by Party Identity
Likely Voter Scores by Party ID



Source: CPOR, October 2026 (weighted, n = 826 Florida adults)

Full Tables

Table 1: Sample composition and raking targets, October 2026 wave

Variable	Category	<i>N</i>	Unweighted %	Raked %	Target %
Age	18–24	134	16.2	10.0	10.0
	25–44	213	25.8	31.0	31.0
	45–64	238	28.8	32.0	32.0
	65+	241	29.2	27.0	27.0
Gender	Female	425	51.5	51.0	51.0
	Male	401	48.5	49.0	49.0
Race	White or Caucasian	623	75.4	77.0	77.0
	Black or African American	116	14.0	15.0	15.0
	Other	87	10.5	8.0	8.0
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino	233	28.2	26.0	26.0
	Not Hispanic or Latino	593	71.8	74.0	74.0
Education	College	224	27.2	34.0	34.0
	No College	601	72.8	66.0	66.0
Region (DMA)	Daytona/Orlando	185	22.4	22.0	22.0
	Jacksonville	97	11.7	9.0	9.0
	Miami/Ft. Lauderdale	149	18.0	24.0	24.0
	Tampa	203	24.6	16.0	16.0
	Others	192	23.2	29.0	29.0
Party identification ^a	Republican	308	43.0	42.6	41.6
	Democrat	209	29.2	30.6	30.2
	NPA/Other	199	27.8	26.8	28.2
2024 recalled vote ^b	Trump	361	50.4	49.5	49.5
	Harris	245	34.2	37.9	37.9
	Other	26	3.6	0.8	0.8
	No 2024 vote / can't recall	84	11.7	11.7	11.7

Note: Demographic rows are computed on the full adult sample ($n = 826$) against the full-sample demographic rake; political rows on registered voters ($n = 716$) against the published rake. **Bold** entries match their targets by construction (raking margins, shown at the rake stage, before the likely-voter adjustment). ^a Party identification is not a raking margin; the target column shows the August 2026 party-registration shares of Florida's active rolls for reference. Identification and registration are distinct concepts, and many NPA registrants identify with a party. ^b Targets are the certified 2024 Florida presidential result (Trump 56.09, Harris 42.99, other 0.92), scaled by the share of respondents reporting a 2024 vote; the non-voting share is held at its sample value. Demographic targets: U.S. Census Bureau ACS and PEP estimates for Florida adults; Nielsen DMA shares.

Table 2: Vote intention under alternative weighting specifications (unallocated)

Specification	U.S. Senate			Governor		
	Moody	Nixon	Margin	Donalds	Jolly	Margin
Demographics $\times$ MLV	53.3	36.1	+17.2	53.1	36.1	+17.0
+ Party ID to registration margins	50.8	38.3	+12.5	50.7	38.0	+12.7
Recall-anchored (published)	50.3	39.5	+10.8	50.3	39.1	+11.2

Note: Registered voters, $n = 716$; vote shares unallocated (undecided and other-candidate shares not shown). All specifications apply the likely-voter adjustment. “Demographics $\times$ MLV” is the specification used in prior waves; in this wave its modeled electorate fails the 2024-recall validation (Table 3). “+ Party ID” additionally rakes party identification to the August 2026 registration margins (R 41.6/D 30.2/NPA 28.2); identification and registration are distinct concepts, so this arm is diagnostic. The published specification rakes recalled 2024 presidential vote to the certified result. Margins of error are approximately ± 4.2 points for individual shares; margins between candidates carry wider uncertainty.

Table 3: Recalled 2024 two-party presidential vote vs. certified result

Specification	Two-party Trump recall %	Deviation (pp)
Unweighted (registered voters)	59.6	+3.0
Demographic rake only	61.6	+5.0
Demographic rake $\times$ MLV (prior published specification)	61.3	+4.7
Recall-anchored $\times$ MLV (published this wave)	56.4	-0.2
Certified 2024 Florida result	56.6	—

Note: Registered voters, $n = 716$. Two-party Trump share of recalled 2024 presidential vote among respondents recalling a major-party vote; certified result: Trump 56.09%, Harris 42.99% of the statewide two-party vote. Positive deviations indicate an electorate that recalls a more Republican 2024 vote than occurred. The published specification matches the certified result by construction at the rake stage; the small residual deviation reflects the likely-voter adjustment. In the September wave, all specifications validated within one point of the certified result.