STETSON UNIVERSITY

Center for Public Opinion Research



MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2026

Poll: Donalds, Moody Lead in Final Pre-Election Survey as Races Tighten; Florida Amendments Remain Short of 60% Threshold

Donalds leads Jolly 51% to 45% and Moody leads Nixon 49% to 45% among likely voters — both margins roughly half of what they were in mid-October; Republicans hold a 3-point edge on the generic ballot, while no tested amendment reaches the support needed to pass.

DELAND, Fla. (Oct. 30, 2026) — Republican candidates lead Florida's races for governor and U.S. Senate, but by notably narrower margins than two weeks ago, and Republicans lead by 3 points on the generic congressional ballot, while none of the three proposed constitutional amendments has reached the 60% support required for passage, according to a final pre-election statewide survey from Stetson University's Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR).

The survey of 1,000 Florida adults — including 861 registered voters, on whom all electoral results are based — conducted Oct. 26–30, finds Republican Byron Donalds leading Democrat David Jolly 51% to 45% in the governor's race among modeled likely voters. In the U.S. Senate contest, Republican Sen. Ashley Moody leads Democrat Angie Nixon 49% to 45%. Because Florida's early voting period was underway during fielding, the estimates combine the reported votes of the 55% of likely voters who say they have already cast a ballot with the intentions of those who have not; undecided respondents who leaned toward a candidate are allocated.

About 2% remain undecided in the governor's race, with another 1% supporting a different candidate. In the Senate race, 3% remain undecided and 3% prefer another candidate. Compared with CPOR's mid-October survey, Donalds' margin has narrowed by roughly six points and Moody's by roughly eight. Each comparison individually sits near the edge of the survey's precision estimates, but the movement is consistent across both statewide races and the generic ballot.

"The headline from our final survey is a real tightening," said Gustavo Venturelli, PhD, an assistant professor of political science at Stetson and co-director of CPOR. "Republicans still lead both statewide races, but the margins are roughly half of what we measured in mid-October — and with a majority of likely voters telling us they have already cast a ballot, much of this election is no longer about persuasion. It's about who shows up between now and Tuesday."

A generic congressional ballot points to the same pattern. Asked which party's candidate they support or voted for in their U.S. House district, 49% of likely voters chose the Republican candidate and 46% the Democratic candidate, with 4% undecided. The 3-point Republican edge compares with 9 points in CPOR's mid-October survey, though it continues to stand apart from national generic-ballot polling, which has shown Democrats ahead this fall.

The survey also measured whether voters know each candidate and whether they would rule them out entirely. In the governor's race, 49% of likely voters say they know Donalds and could vote for him, 36% know him but would never vote for him, and 11% have never heard of him. For Jolly, 43% say they could vote for him, 39% reject him outright, and 14% do not know who he is.

In the Senate race, 50% know Moody and could support her, 34% would never vote for her, and 12% are unfamiliar with her. Nixon is known and acceptable to 44% of likely voters, rejected by 36%, and unknown to 16%. With few voters left undecided and most ballots already banked, these measures suggest how little room remains for either campaign to grow in the final days.

The proposed constitutional amendments remain short of passage. Amendment 1, which would raise the maximum size of Florida's budget stabilization fund, draws 46% support, 35% opposition, and 19% undecided. Amendment 2, which would exempt certain agricultural equipment and agritourism property from property taxes, receives 57% support, with 25% opposed and 19% unsure — the closest of the three to the threshold.

Amendment 3, which would raise the homestead exemption for non-school property taxes, draws 53% support, 28% opposition, and 20% undecided, compared with 56% support in mid-October. None of the three measures reaches the 60% required to pass in the current survey.

"Sixty percent is a high bar, and with most ballots already cast, none of the three amendments has shown the level of support it would need to pass," said Kelly Smith, PhD, an associate professor of political science at Stetson and co-director of CPOR. "Support for ballot measures is softening as Election Day nears — the homestead exemption has already slipped three points since mid-October — so the voters who are still unsure will likely decide how close these proposals come to passing."

The full report is available on CPOR's website.

Methodology

The CPOR late October 2026 Survey interviewed 1,000 Florida adults through Qualtrics' online non-probability panel from Oct. 26–30, 2026. Results were weighted by age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, and region. Electoral estimates are based on 861 self-reported registered voters and incorporate each respondent's modeled probability of voting; respondents who reported having already voted provided their actual vote, are assigned a turnout probability of one, and are included in the registered-voter base, as casting a ballot establishes registration. As of CPOR's mid-October survey, these estimates are calibrated to the certified 2024 presidential election result; the weighted share of likely voters reporting having already voted (55%) is consistent with ballots cast in the Florida Division of Elections' returns during the field period. Full details are in the report's methodology section. The report provides design-effect-adjusted precision estimates of ±3.1 percentage points for the full sample and ±3.6 for likely voters; these are not conventional random-sampling margins of error for the opt-in panel. Prior survey waves were re-estimated using the current weighting approach for trend comparisons.

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

Founded in 2022, the Center for Public Opinion Research is an independent, nonpartisan 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 students' education in the dynamic science of survey research and social science methodology.

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Table 1: U.S. Senate vote by demographic group (likely voters)

	Share of likely voters (%)				
	Moody	Nixon	Another	Undecided	Unw. n
All likely voters	49	45	3	3	859
Gender					
Female	42	50	3	4	440
Male	56	39	4	2	416
Age					
18–24	27	55	14	4	76
25–44	45	48	4	3	269
45–64	54	40	3	4	274
65+	53	44	1	1	239
Race					
White	55	40	3	2	653
Black	19	74	4	4	136
Other	44	43	8	5	65
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	40	50	5	4	224
Not Hispanic	52	43	3	3	633
Education					
College	47	48	4	1	318
No college	50	42	3	4	540
Party identification					
Republican	92	4	2	1	310
Democrat	4	91	2	2	306
Independent	37	43	11	9	83
2024 presidential vote					
Trump 2024	84	10	3	3	374
Harris 2024	7	89	2	2	348
Other 2024	23	46	25	6	30
Did not vote / can't recall	27	48	15	11	107
Voting status					
Already voted	47	49	4	—[a]	371
Not yet voted	51	40	3	6	488

Note: Weighted estimates (demographics + 2024-recall rake × modeled likely-voter score; already-voted respondents report their actual vote and are assigned turnout probability 1). Overall margin of error ±3.6 points; subgroup margins are larger, and estimates for groups under $n \approx 100$ (18–24, independents, other race, 2024 minor/nonvoters) are especially imprecise. Rows sum to 100 within category; totals may differ due to rounding.

[a]Respondents who have voted cannot be undecided; the handful declining to report a choice are excluded.

Table 2: Governor vote by demographic group (likely voters)

	Share of likely voters (%)				
	Donalds	Jolly	Another	Undecided	Unw. n
All likely voters	51	45	1	2	858
Gender					
Female	45	51	2	3	439
Male	58	40	1	1	416
Age					
18–24	35	58	4	2	76
25–44	48	48	2	2	269
45–64	56	40	1	3	273
65+	54	46	0	0	239
Race					
White	56	41	1	2	652
Black	29	68	1	2	136
Other	50	45	2	3	65
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	44	50	2	4	224
Not Hispanic	54	44	1	1	632
Education					
College	47	52	1	1	317
No college	54	41	2	3	540
Party identification					
Republican	93	6	1	1	310
Democrat	9	89	1	2	306
Independent	41	48	4	7	82
2024 presidential vote					
Trump 2024	89	9	1	1	373
Harris 2024	6	91	1	2	348
Other 2024	20	39	39	2	30
Did not vote / can't recall	27	60	2	11	107
Voting status					
Already voted	50	49	1	—[a]	370
Not yet voted	53	40	2	4	488

Note: Weighted estimates (demographics + 2024-recall rake × modeled likely-voter score; already-voted respondents report their actual vote and are assigned turnout probability 1). Overall margin of error ±3.6 points; subgroup margins are larger, and estimates for groups under $n \approx 100$ (18–24, independents, other race, 2024 minor-party voters and nonvoters) are especially imprecise. Rows sum to 100 within category; totals may differ due to rounding.

[a]Respondents who have voted cannot be undecided; the handful declining to report a choice are excluded.

Table 3: Generic U.S. House ballot by demographic group (likely voters)

	Share of likely voters (%)				
	Republican	Democratic	Another	Not sure	Unw. n
All likely voters	49	46	1	4	854
Gender					
Female	41	52	1	5	436
Male	57	39	1	2	415
Age					
18–24	33	62	3	2	76
25–44	45	48	2	5	269
45–64	53	41	1	5	272
65+	52	46	0	2	236
Race					
White	55	41	1	3	648
Black	20	75	2	3	136
Other	46	43	2	9	65
Hispanic origin					
Hispanic	44	49	2	6	223
Not Hispanic	51	45	1	3	629
Education					
College	47	50	0	3	315
No college	50	43	2	5	538
Party identification					
Republican	94	5	1	1	308
Democrat	5	94	0	1	306
Independent	31	45	5	19	80
2024 presidential vote					
Trump 2024	86	10	1	4	370
Harris 2024	5	92	1	3	347
Other 2024	15	44	26	15	30
Did not vote / can't recall	33	49	7	11	107
Voting status					
Already voted	48	51	1	—[a]	366
Not yet voted	50	39	2	8	488

Note: Weighted estimates (demographics + 2024-recall rake × modeled likely-voter score; already-voted respondents report their actual vote and are assigned turnout probability 1). Overall margin of error ±3.6 points; subgroup margins are larger, and estimates for groups under $n \approx 100$ (18–24, independents, other race, 2024 minor-party voters and nonvoters) are especially imprecise. Rows sum to 100 within category; totals may differ due to rounding.

[a]Respondents who have voted were asked which party's House candidate they voted for; the small number unable to say are excluded.

Table 4: Sample composition and raking targets, late October 2026 wave

Variable	Category	N	Unweighted %	Raked %	Target %
Age	18–24	105	10.5	**10.0**	10.0
	25–44	313	31.3	**31.0**	31.0
	45–64	333	33.3	**32.0**	32.0
	65+	249	24.9	**27.0**	27.0
Gender	Female	526	52.6	**51.0**	51.0
	Male	474	47.4	**49.0**	49.0
Race	White or Caucasian	754	75.4	**77.0**	77.0
	Black or African American	164	16.4	**15.0**	15.0
	Other	82	8.2	**8.0**	8.0
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino	271	27.1	**26.0**	26.0
	Not Hispanic or Latino	729	72.9	**74.0**	74.0
Education	College	338	33.9	**34.0**	34.0
	No College	660	66.1	**66.0**	66.0
Region (DMA)	Daytona/Orlando	248	24.8	**22.0**	22.0
	Jacksonville	76	7.6	**9.0**	9.0
	Miami/Ft. Lauderdale	227	22.7	**24.0**	24.0
	Tampa	160	16.0	**16.0**	16.0
	Others	289	28.9	**29.0**	29.0
Party identification[a]	Republican	310	36.0	40.0	41.5
	Democrat	306	35.5	33.2	30.2
	NPA/Other	245	28.5	26.8	28.3
2024 recalled vote[b]	Trump	374	43.4	**49.1**	49.1
	Harris	349	40.5	**37.6**	37.6
	Other	30	3.5	**0.8**	0.8
	No 2024 vote / can't recall	108	12.5	**12.5**	12.5

Note: Demographic rows are computed on the full adult sample (n = 1,000) against the full-sample demographic rake; political rows on registered voters (n = 861) against the published rake, shown at the rake stage, before the likely-voter adjustment. The registered-voter base includes the 371 respondents who reported having already voted, who were not asked the registration item (casting a ballot establishes registration). **Bold** entries match their targets by construction (raking margins). [a] Party identification is not a raking margin; the target column shows the October 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 (87.5%); 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 5: Vote shares under alternative weighting specifications

	U.S. Senate			Governor			Generic ballot		
Specification	Moody	Nixon	Margin	Donalds	Jolly	Margin	Rep.	Dem.	Margin
Demographics × MLV	45.4	48.0	−2.5	47.0	48.8	−1.8	45.0	49.2	−4.2
+ Party ID to registration margins	49.9	43.2	+6.7	51.6	44.1	+7.4	49.7	44.4	+5.3
+ 2022 recalled vote (in place of 2024)	47.2	46.5	+0.7	49.4	47.3	+2.2	47.3	47.6	−0.3
Recall-anchored (published)	**49.0**	**44.7**	**+4.4**	**51.3**	**45.4**	**+5.9**	**49.1**	**45.9**	**+3.2**

Note: Registered voters, $n = 861$. Positive margins favor the Republican candidate. Unlike the mid-October report, shares are shown as published: reported votes of respondents who had already voted (55% of weighted likely voters, assigned turnout probability 1) combined with allocated intentions of those yet to vote; undecided and other-candidate shares not shown. All specifications apply the likely-voter adjustment, and no weight exceeded the cap of 3 in any specification. "Demographics × MLV" applies no partisan anchor; its modeled electorate fails the 2024-recall validation (Table **??**). "+ Party ID" additionally rakes party identification to the October 2026 registration margins (R 41.5/D 30.2/ NPA 28.3); identification and registration are distinct concepts, so this arm is diagnostic. "+ 2022 recalled vote" rakes recalled 2022 gubernatorial vote to the certified result (DeSantis 59.37, Crist 40.00); because only ∼73% of registered respondents report a 2022 vote, against ∼88% for 2024, this anchor corrects a smaller share of the sample. The published specification rakes recalled 2024 presidential vote to the certified result. Margins of error are approximately ±3.6 points for individual shares; margins between candidates carry wider uncertainty.