

Researchers at the University of South Florida conducted a statewide survey of 600 Floridians to measure public opinion on a variety of current policy issues. The result presented in this report address infrastructure, education, COVID-19, and presidential/gubernatorial job approval. The survey included a representative sample of Floridians, fielded between July 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Topline results are reported below with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error +/- 4.

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A majority of Floridians approve of the job President Biden is doing in several key areas, despite partisan differences. Six months into his term as president, Joe Biden enjoys majority approval for his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic (61%), jobs and the economy (53%), race relations (51%), and climate change (51%). Republicans are more likely to disapprove of the P

Most Floridians also approve of the job being done by Governor DeSantis in spite of notable partisan differences. Two-and-a-half years into his term as governor, Ron DeSantis enjoys majority approval for his handling of jobs and economy (60%) and the COVID-19 pandemic (52%). DeSantis enjoys plurality support across

## Summary of Responses

	Total Approval	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Total Disapproval	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Unsure
Jobs and the Economy	52.9	25.7	27.2	41.1	10.3	30.8	6.0
Foreign Policy	46.5	56.0					



*The U.S. Congress is currently debating a \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that would include funding for roads, bridges, and public transportation and airports, as well as additional investments to improve the nation's water and power systems.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	209	34.8
Somewhat Support	222	37.0
Somewhat Oppose	64	10.7
Strongly Oppose	52	8.7
Unsure	53	8.8

*N=600 (Strongly/Somewhat Support: Democrats = 89.7%; Independents = 70.7%; Republicans = 54.5%)*

*The U.S. Congress is also considering additional infrastructure investment in a \$3.5 trillion budget proposal later this year.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	161	26.8
Somewhat Support	156	26.0
Somewhat Oppose	85	14.2
Strongly Oppose	114	19.0
Unsure	84	14.0

*N=600 (Strongly/Somewhat Support: Democrats = 76.4%; Independents = 43.6%; Republicans = 36.4%)*

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Likely	320	69.6
Somewhat Likely	106	23.0
Not Very Likely	19	4.1
Not at All Likely	15	3.3

*Question was only asked to those who are or plan to be vaccinated. (N=460)*

For which of the following reasons would you not be willing to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot?

	Frequency	Percentage
I had side effects from the original COVID-19 vaccine	24	18.5
@	38	29.2
I	13	10.0
@	16	12.3
Regular booster shots would be an inconvenience	13	10.0
Other	13	10.0

*Question was only asked to those who did not report booster shots if recommended by public health guidance. (N=130)*



*The federal government has placed a pause on the repayment of federal student loans during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is set to expire at the end of September.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, it should be extended until the end of 2021	167	27.8
Yes, it should be extended into 2022	235	39.2
No, repayments should resume in October of this year as scheduled	198	33.0

*N=600 (Yes, it should be extended combined: Democrats = 85.6%; Independents = 65.0%; Republicans = 50.5%)*

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	36	39.1
No	56	60.9

*Question was only asked to those with outstanding student loan debts (N=92)*

*In recent years, several local governments in the state of Florida have suffered cyberattacks known as such as public utilities and emergency communication platforms. Some experts believe that paying these ransoms is necessary in order to ensure the continuity of public services, while others believe that paying them encourages future cyberattacks.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, it should be up to the local jurisdictions if they want to pay off ransomware attackers	127	21.2
No, the state of Florida should outlaw ransomware payments by local governments to deter future attacks	339	56.5
Unsure	134	22.3

(N=600)



## **Survey Information**

600 adult Floridians were surveyed via an online web-panel using Prodege MR, an industry leading market research provider. The survey was fielded from July 15<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>, and the results are reported with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of +/- 4. Respondents were selected via a stratified, quota sampling approach to ensure a representative sample. Quotas for gender, age, race/ethnicity and party affiliation were determined based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau Research (EDR). Quotas were stratified by region of the state to ensure geographical representativeness.

**Table A1**  
**Sample Comparison**

	<b>USF Survey Sample</b>	<b>Florida Demographics*</b>
<i>Gender</i>		
Female	51.8%	51.1%
Male	47.3%	48.9%
Other	0.8%	-
<i>Age</i>		
18-24	8.5%	10.8%
25-44	30.7%	31.2%
45-64	34.2%	32.4%
65+	26.7%	25.6%
<i>Race</i>		
Black/African American	17.5%	16.9%
White/Caucasian	72.3%	77.3%

