

January 15, 2021



The Florida Situation Report

Securing Florida's Future

Florida's Political Insights, Analysis, and Highlights

Welcome to the Florida Situation Report. The Florida Chamber political team constantly analyzes new voter registration trends, changes to House and Senate districts, and voter behavior as we work to recruit and elect pro-jobs candidates to Secure Florida's Future. Please share this report with your management team and send us a note if you have questions, perspectives, or recommendations. To be blunt, Florida is at a crossroads and we invite you to help us save it.

- Florida Chamber President and CEO Mark Wilson strongly condemned the acts on January 6th in our nation's capital and also noted "...this can be the beginning of a reunification of America, that is frankly long overdue." The entire statement can be read [here](#).
- In the wake of these despicable acts, there has been unusually high activity amongst Floridians choosing to change their political party affiliation. As reported by the *Tampa Bay Times*, over 2,000 voters in the Tampa Bay region have changed their registration from Republican to NPA. Further analysis by the Florida Chamber has shown similar trends in Orange, Broward, and Palm Beach counties.
- With legislative committee weeks beginning, the Florida Chamber announced a massive campaign in support of passing COVID-19 liability protections for all Florida businesses. Learn more [here](#).
- Just prior to Christmas, the Florida Chamber launched the Florida "Open for Business" Campaign, encouraging job creators to move to Florida. You can read more [here](#).
- Florida Free Enterprise Fund, a newly launched Florida Chamber initiative aimed at recruiting and electing pro-jobs candidates and advancing pro-Florida issues, invites your company to participate to help Secure Florida's Future. E-mail ncatroppo@flchamber.com to get involved today.
- As we moved into the 2022 Election Cycle, The Florida Institute for Political Leadership (FIPL) is partnering with local chambers of commerce and hosting virtual candidate schools on how to run a winning local political campaign. With over 4,000 local elections in the coming years, we're working with local chambers to help educate local business leaders about local opportunities to serve. [Click here to register and learn more](#).
- Learn about legislative candidates and make decisions on how your company can strategically make political contributions by joining the Florida Chamber Political Institute (FCPI) which is led by Marian Johnson. [Learn more here](#).
- Keep up-to-date on COVID-19 and Florida's economy by checking out [The Florida Scorecard](#) and visiting the Florida Chamber [Resource Center](#).

Chamber Members can access exclusive political intel here:

Chamber Member's Only Access

Florida: Behind The Numbers

ANALYSIS BY CHAMBERHUB - The Florida Chamber's Exclusive Voter File

Special Legislative Committee Week Edition: COVID Liability Protections

Did You Know: Florida has the 5th worst legal climate in America and the Florida Chamber is focused on fixing it.

The Big Picture: The Florida Chamber of Commerce has launched a massive campaign in support of passing COVID-19 liability protections for all Florida businesses. Florida's businesses have suffered greatly from the global pandemic and are working hard to reopen their doors safely while following all public health protocols and guidelines. These employers need to be able to do their part to relaunch Florida's economy without the concern of being forced to defend themselves against a wave of frivolous

lawsuits.

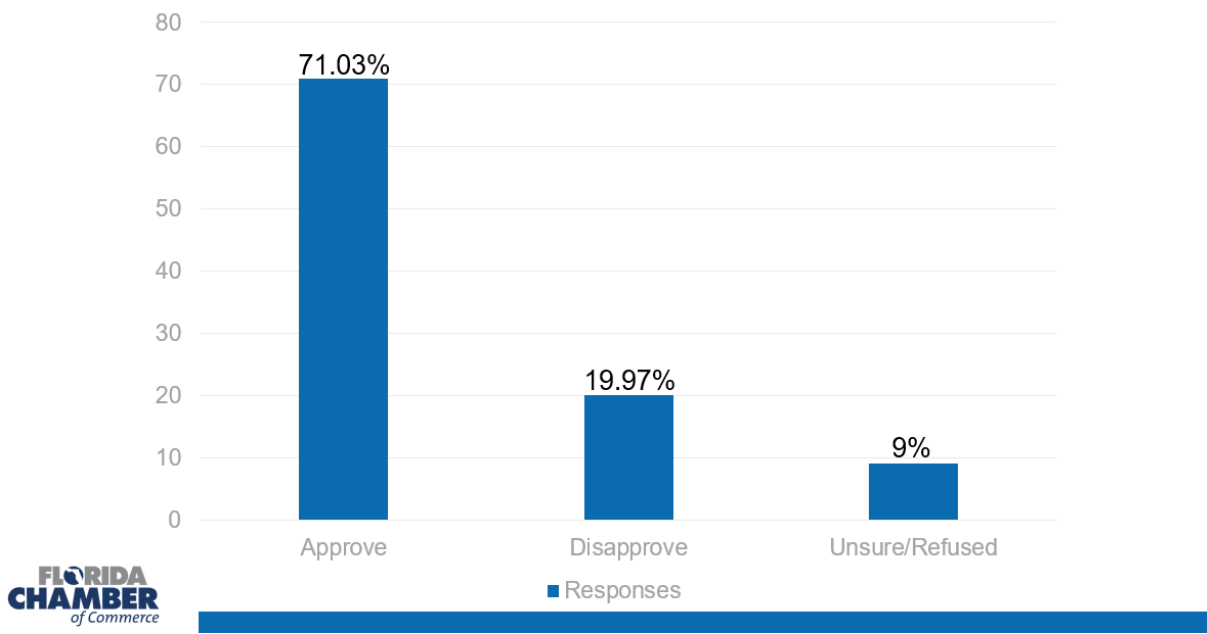
HB7 sponsored by Rep. Lawrence McClure and SB72 sponsored by Sen. Jeff Brandes, create protections for business entities, educational institutions, governmental entities, and religious institutions and its persons. At this time, this bill does now include common sense protections for the frontline heroes at Florida's healthcare facilities. The Florida Chamber will be advocating for COVID liability protections to include all frontline employers and workers in the healthcare community to ensure they can continue saving lives without fear of facing a lawsuit.

What We're Saying - Mark Wilson, President & CEO, Florida Chamber: "Florida has the fifth-worst legal climate in America and the last thing we need are a tsunami of frivolous COVID lawsuits as we seek to relaunch Florida's economy. It's important to provide Florida businesses, who are doing the right thing by their customers and employees, the assurance that they can continue doing their part to relaunch Florida's economy without fear of facing frivolous lawsuits. It is encouraging these bills are being considered at the first opportunity in the 2021 Session. We look forward to working with Sen. Brandes, Rep. McClure and legislative leadership to ensure these bills move through the process and ultimately to Governor Ron DeSantis' desk in the strongest form possible."

Contact Your Legislator to Voice Your Support

Overwhelming Florida Voters Support COVID Liability Protections

Do you approve or disapprove of legislation that would protect businesses, saying they cannot be sued by people who claim they contracted the coronavirus at that place of business if the business made efforts to follow state and federal guidelines?

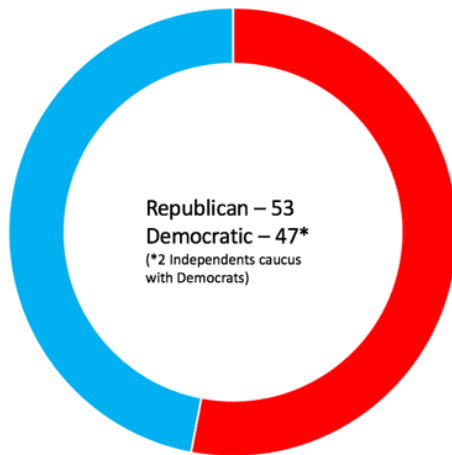


**Live Phone Survey Recently Conducted by the Florida Chamber of Commerce*

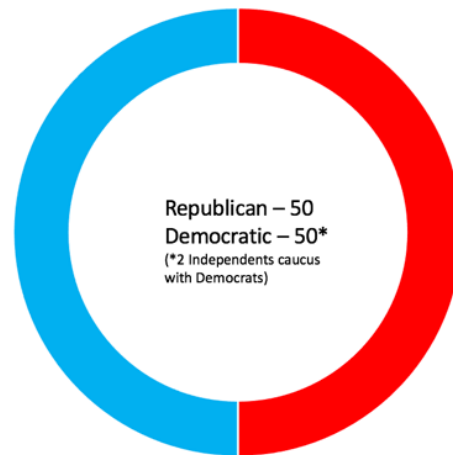
From the Campaign Trail

Special Edition: United States Senate - GA Election

US Senate Composition –
116th Congress (2019-2021)



US Senate Composition –
117th Congress (2021-2023)



The United States Senate - Democratic Majority Democrats Win GA Battles

The Big Picture: Democrats claimed narrow victories in two US Senate runoff elections in Georgia on January 5th, gaining seats previously held by Republicans in both races. These were the last of the races to be decided in the battle for control of the Senate, and with them Democrats claimed control of the majority.

Senators-elect Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock (D-GA) will bring the Senate chamber's partisan divide to an even 50-50 for the 117th Congress. With Vice President-elect Kamala Harris as the tie-breaking vote when needed, Democrats complete the triumvirate of one-party control in Washington, having already held the US House and winning the Presidential race in November.

By The Numbers: The Democratic candidates Ossoff and Warnock were able to maintain high voter turnout amongst Black voters, helping propel their runoff wins. Despite having just half the total number of registered voters than Florida, Georgia has nearly 250,000 more Black voters than Florida. When looking at the entire electorate, 30% of registered voters in Georgia are Black compared to just 13% in Florida.

Why it Matters: For Florida's two Republican Senators this will put them into the minority for the first time since 2012 in the US Senate. It has a particular impact on Senator Scott, having recently been named Chair of the Republican Senate conference's 2022 election cycle efforts, as he now works to help Republicans regain the majority rather than defend it.

With unified government at the federal level, Democrats will be better able to pass their legislative agenda which has unanimous support within the party, though the very narrow majorities they hold in both chambers of Congress will imperil efforts with even the slightest disagreement within their caucuses. The Florida Chamber will remain observant of the impact any new legislation passed in Washington will have on the business community in Florida.

[Join the Florida Chamber's Free Enterprise Fund - a non-partisan fund that works to support campaigns who promote and believe in free enterprise and job creation. A membership in the Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund is reserved for political donors at the \\$10,000 level or above.](#)

Spotlight

Ten Reasons Businesses Large and Small are Welcome to Florida

Constantly ranked one of the best states for job creation, Florida is committed to keeping

ICYMI: Florida Chamber's Carolyn Johnson Testifies on COVID Liability Protections

Carolyn Johnson testified on Wednesday in

regulatory red tape and business taxes low. That, along with a growing economy and zero personal state income tax, makes it one of the best places anywhere to do business. Read more [here](#).

support of HB7. Liability protections are a necessary component to allow businesses to fully re-open, add jobs, and engage in commerce. Watch it [here](#).

The Money Race ***Looking at 2022***

The 2020 election is still fresh on Floridian's minds and with Florida being the largest swing state in the United States, it meant hundreds of millions of dollars were raised and spent here alone. With three of the largest media markets in the United States here in Florida, we can expect the 2022 election cycle to have similar spending, when Florida will have races on the ballot for Governor, Cabinet, United States Senate, as well as 40 state senate and 120 state house races. The 2020 election is finally over, but the 2022 election has already begun.

It's funding like this that makes our efforts that much more important. With the clock now ticking to the 2022 Election, we need you to get involved now. To learn more and make a contribution with a Florida Chamber Political Committee, click the link below.

[Learn More and Contribute](#)

Social Media Toolkit

Tweet Suggestions:

The @FLChamber looks forward to working with @JeffBrandes @RepMcClure and legislative leadership to ensure #COVID19 liability protection bills #HB7 and #SB72 move through the process and ultimately to @GovRonDeSantis desk in the strongest possible form. #FlaPol

The @FLChamber is gearing up for the 2022 Election! Register your local chamber to host a #FIPL training today by [clicking here!](#) #FlaPol

A focus of the @FLChamberFDN #Blueprint2030 is the future of Florida's workforce. If you move your business to #FL you can be assured that the talent of your workforce will be secure for generations. #FLOpen4Biz @EducationFL @CareerSourceFL



What's Next: Upcoming Calls, Webinars, and Events

REGISTER NOW:

[Florida Chamber Economic Outlook and Jobs Solution Summit - January 28](#)

[Florida Chamber Safety Council Annual Conference and Expo - March 29-31](#)

[Florida Chamber Business Leaders Solution Summit on Prosperity and Economic Opportunity - May 26](#)

[Florida Chamber Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Summit - June 15](#)

[Florida Chamber 35th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School - July 20-23](#)

To learn more, run for office, or help the Florida Chamber, please contact:

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