

November 4, 2020



The Florida Situation Report

Securing Florida's Future

Florida's Political Insights, Analysis, and Highlights

Welcome to the Florida Situation Report. Each month, 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.

- The Florida Chamber-backed candidates had decisive victories in 97% of races, as we went 74 of 77 in the House, and 12 of 12 in the Senate. See the entire list [here](#).
- Although it was polling near 70% months ago, and although the Florida Chamber opposed Amendment 2, it barely passed with 60.8%. Read our statement [here](#).
- Florida at book closing had 14,441,869 million registered voters eligible for the Election.
- More than 11 million Floridians voted in the Election which is a 77% turnout - the highest percentage in Florida since 1992. Turnout favored Republicans statewide by about 2%.
 - 4.85 million voted by Mail (45% Democrat, 32% Republican, 23% NPA/Other)
 - 4.33 million voted Early (45% Republican, 32% Democrat, 23% NPA/Other)
 - 1.93 million voted on Election Day
- Moving into the 2022 Election Cycle, The Florida Institute for Political Leadership is partnering with local chambers of commerce and hosting virtual candidate schools on how to run a winning local political campaign. FIPL has a few remaining openings in 2020 to host a school: Dec. 1-3, 8-10, or 15-17 - [Click here to register and learn more](#).
- The Florida Chamber Foundation unveiled the Florida Gap Map - a first in the nation interactive tool identifying zip code equity gaps in poverty and school level education gaps - [access it here](#). Special thanks to members of the Legislature and Cabinet who are already using this tool to learn about equity gaps in your district.
- 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:

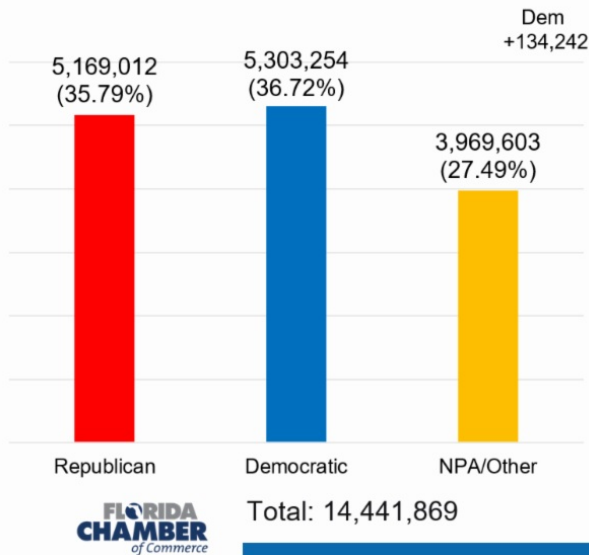
Chamber Member's Only Access

Florida: Behind The Numbers

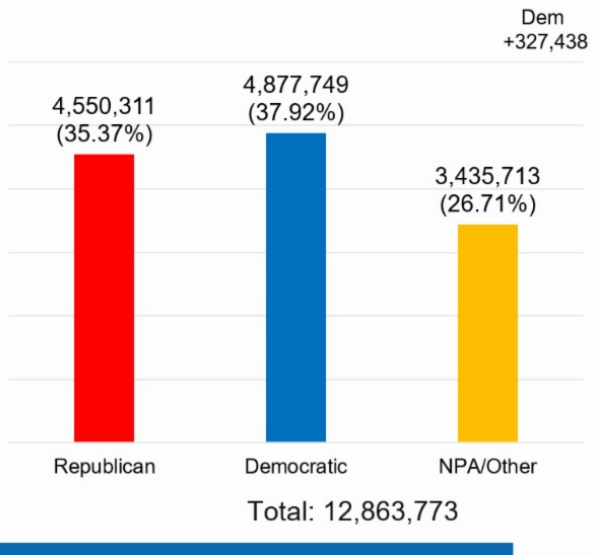
ANALYSIS BY CHAMBERHUB | The Florida Chamber's Voter File

Florida Voter Registration

Florida Registration
(2020 general election book closing)



Florida Registration
(2016 general election book closing)

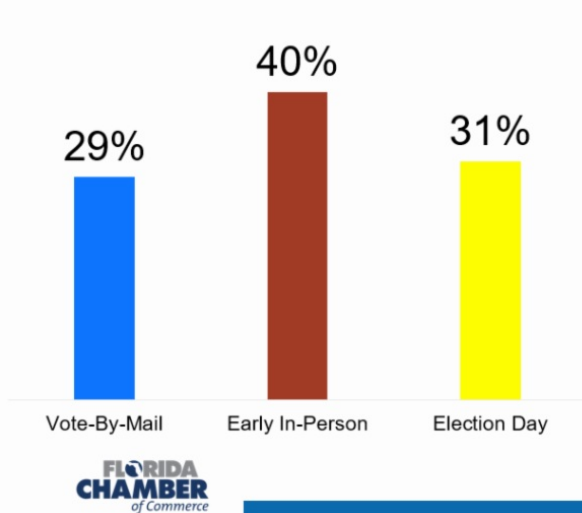


The Big Picture: Between 2016 and 2020, Florida added 1,578,096 million more voters, surpassed the 14 million mark for statewide voter registration; ending the General Election book closing with 14,441,869 registered voters. Heading into yesterday's election, the Democratic lead in total registration across Florida was 132,242 over Republicans. While significant, this is the smallest registration lead for Democrats since the statewide Florida Voter Registration System was implemented in 2006 and 193,196 less than their lead in 2016.

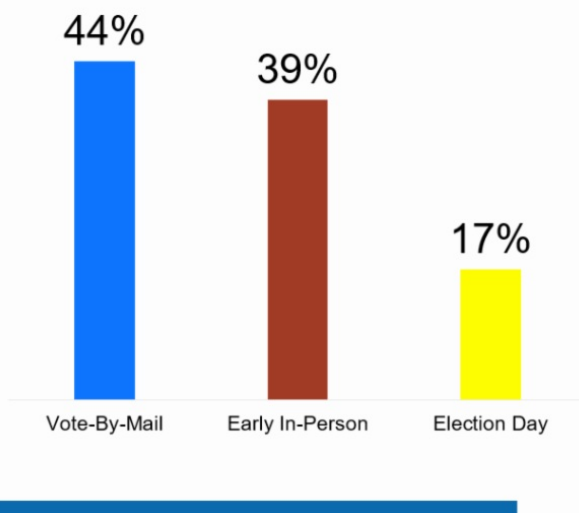
How Florida Voted

[Visit the Florida Chamber's Online Election Center to Learn More](#)

Voting Method of Floridians –
2016 General Election



Voting Method of Floridians –
2020 General Election



The Big Picture: Florida saw unprecedented mail voting, driven by concerns of COVID-19 and Republicans pushing Early and Election Day voting. 83% of the vote was cast prior to Election Day compared to only 69% of the vote being cast prior to Election Day just four years ago.

By the Numbers: Democrats outperformed Republicans by 682,000 mail ballots but Republican offset this with a 558,000 Early Vote advantage. Democrats held a 124,000 vote lead moving into Election Day. NPA/Other voters accounted for more than 2 million Mail and Early ballots.

From the Campaign Trail

Analysis of Chamber-Backed Senate Candidates ***Chamber-Backed Candidates Went 12 of 12***

The Big Picture: The battleground contest for Senate District 37 in Miami-Dade County is moving to a recount with Ileana Garcia leading Sen. Jose Javier Fernandez by 21 votes as of now. With that said, incoming Senate President Wilton Simpson and Republicans successfully defended their majority and their caucus will return with at least 23 seats.

Here is an analysis of key victories for Chamber-backed candidates:

Senate District 9: Chamber-backed Jason Brodeur narrowly outperformed President Donald Trump in Seminole County helping lead him to victory in this swing seat. In this predominately Seminole County district, Brodeur won the Seminole portion of the district by less than .2% but won Volusia County by 26% leading him to an overall win margin of just less than 3%.

Senate District 20: The Pasco and Polk portions of this seat offset Democratic turnout in Hillsborough as Chamber-backed Danny Burgess won this seat by 10%.

Senate District 39: Once thought to be a competitive race, Chamber-backed Ana Maria Rodriguez won with a comfortable 13% margin in this Miami-Dade and Monroe County open seat. Rodriguez performed better in the Miami-Dade portion of this district, indicative of the strong Cuban American support for Rodriguez and Republicans across the ballot.

Analysis of Chamber-Backed House Candidates ***Chamber-Backed Candidates Went 74 of 77***

The Big Picture: Republicans expand their majority in the House, successfully defending all 73 seats they held following the 2018 Election and gained 5 seats across the state to expand their majority to 78-42. Floridians returned pro-jobs candidates as they fought to promote free enterprise in working to secure Florida's future.

Here is an analysis of key victories for Chamber-backed candidates:

House District 15: Chamber-backed Wyman Duggan withstood the changing demographics of his district by standing up for the needs of his constituent and promoting economic opportunity during his first-term.

House District 21: For the third straight election, Chamber-backed Chuck Clemons won a narrow race to retain his seat by defeating Keyser Enneking. Clemons offset gains made by Enneking in Alachua County with overwhelming margins in Dixie and Gilchrist counties.

House District 26: In this rematch with Patrick Henry, Chamber-backed Elizabeth Fetterhoff improved on her razor-thin 2018 margin as she won by more than 5,000 votes. Due in part to her support of pro-jobs policies during her time in the legislature.

House District 29: Despite Seminole County turning blue at the top of the ticket, Chamber-backed Scott Plakon successfully defended his seat in a rematch following his narrow 2018 win. This year, his margin doubled from 2 to 4% and he will return to the legislature to represent this highly competitive district.

House District 41: As a longtime job-creator and small business owner, Polk County native Sam Killebrew won reelection by a 7% margin. The Florida Chamber proudly supported member and friend Killebrew as he begins his third term in the legislature.

House District 72: Following a loss here in the 2018 Special and General Elections, Republicans won this seat handily by a 9% margin - clearly outperforming Margaret Good's past performance. Chamber-backed Fiona McFarland received over 9,000 more votes than her Democratic opponent in this Sarasota swing seat.

House District 84: In a district that had been trending Republican, Chamber-backed Dana Trabulsy defeated first-term Rep. Dolores Hogan Johnson by 6%. Picking up this long-time Democratic district for Republicans.

House Districts 103, 105, 114, and 120 (Miami-Dade county): With the significant gains Republicans made on the night, this had a profound impact on four key races in the county. These Chamber-backed

winners (HD103 Tom Fabricio, HD105 David Borrero, HD114 Demi Busatta Cabrera, and HD120 Jim Mooney) found their pro-jobs and anti-socialism message resonated with the mood of the Hispanic-majority Miami-Dade electorate.

Spotlight

ICYMI: Chamber Discusses Voter Profiles in Lead Up to Election

As reported by *WKMG* in Orlando, Alex Coelho, Data Director, profiled the voters who have cast their ballot as the race entered its final week.

Read more [here](#).

President Trump Wins Florida

President Trump won Florida's 29 electoral votes, beating former Vice President Biden by over a 3% margin. The race now turns to PA, GA, MI, WI, and NV as they continue counting ballots.

The Money Race

Forward Majority Action Florida and other out-of-state groups spent heavily in final weeks

In addition to the millions in Bloomberg cash that was spent on behalf of Biden and Democrats in Florida, more deep-pocketed out-of-state money came to play in Florida. A leading funder on behalf of Democrats for state legislative office was Forward Majority Action Florida. In the final weeks of the campaign, these groups spent millions opposing Chamber-backed candidates.

It's funding like this that makes our efforts that much more important. The clock is now ticking to the 2022 Election so 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:

Congratulations to the @FLChamber-backed candidates for their successful win this Election. As a Chamber member, I look forward to working with you to secure Florida's future. #FlaPol

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

Thank you to our members and sponsors for helping #ReimagineFL and #RelaunchFL at the @FLChamber 2020 Virtual Future of Florida Forum.



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

[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.](#)

REGISTER NOW:

[Florida Chamber of Commerce Virtual Insurance Summit - November 5-6](#)

[Florida Chamber of Commerce Virtual Learners to Earners Workforce Solution Seminar Series - November 10](#)

[Florida Chamber of Commerce Transportation, Growth, and Infrastructure Summit - December 8-9](#)

[Florida Chamber Safety Council Annual Conference and Expo - March 29-31, 2021](#)

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

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