

October 8, 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-business 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.

- Florida broke its own record and has now crossed the 14 million registered voter mark.
- Already more than 5.5 million Floridians have submitted an active request for their VBM ballot, 2 million more than were requested in the 2016 General Election.
- The Florida Chamber recently conducted yet another statewide poll of likely voters and found:
  - Biden 49%, Trump 44%, Third Party Candidate 2%, Undecided 4%;
  - Voter's top issues are COVID-19, jobs/economy, and healthcare;
  - Electorate divided amongst party lines with 77% Republicans, 37% NPA, and only 18% of Democrats feeling that Florida is on the right track;
  - 72% disapprove of the movement to defund the police;
  - Voters plan to vote: 28% on Election Day, 33% Early Voting, 33% VBM.
- Recent polling has ballot Amendment 2 - Raising the Minimum Wage - barely passing with 60% support and the *Tampa Bay Times* and *Naples Daily News* Editorial Boards recently recommended voting against it. The Florida Chamber opposes Amendment 2. Sign-up for the next Florida Chamber "No on 2" webinar on Oct 14th [here](#).
- The 2020 Florida Chamber Election Center is LIVE - [follow early voting numbers](#), [read our Election Guide](#), and [get involved with Chamber political action efforts](#). *Hint:* With over 900,000 returned VBM ballots, Democrats have a nearly 2-to-1 lead and lead Republicans by over 225,000 returns.
- We interviewed candidates in every House and Senate race - please share our [Florida Election Guide](#) with your employees, family, and vendors today.
- 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. The next virtual school will be for Palm Beach County Oct. 27-29 - [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:

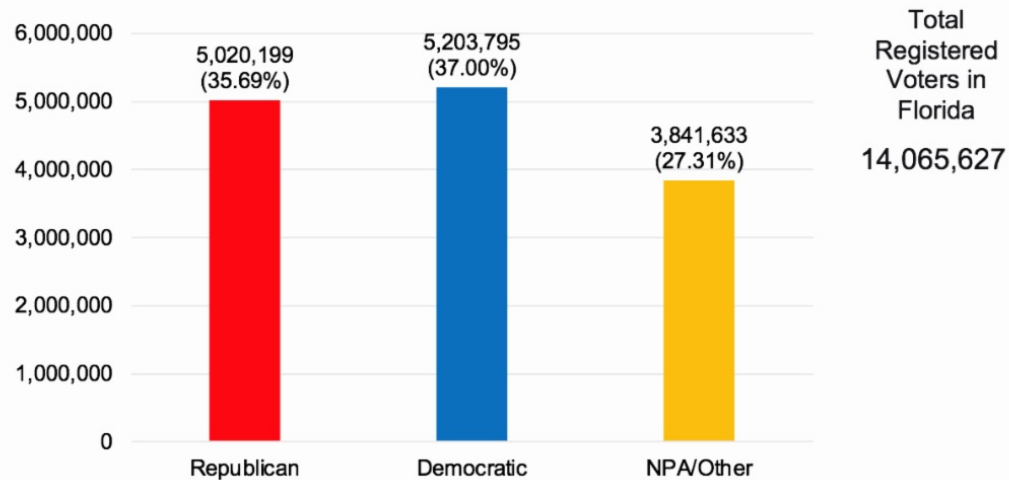
Chamber Member's Only Access

## Florida: Behind The Numbers

ANALYSIS BY CHAMBERHUB | The Florida Chamber's Voter File

### *Florida Voter Registration*

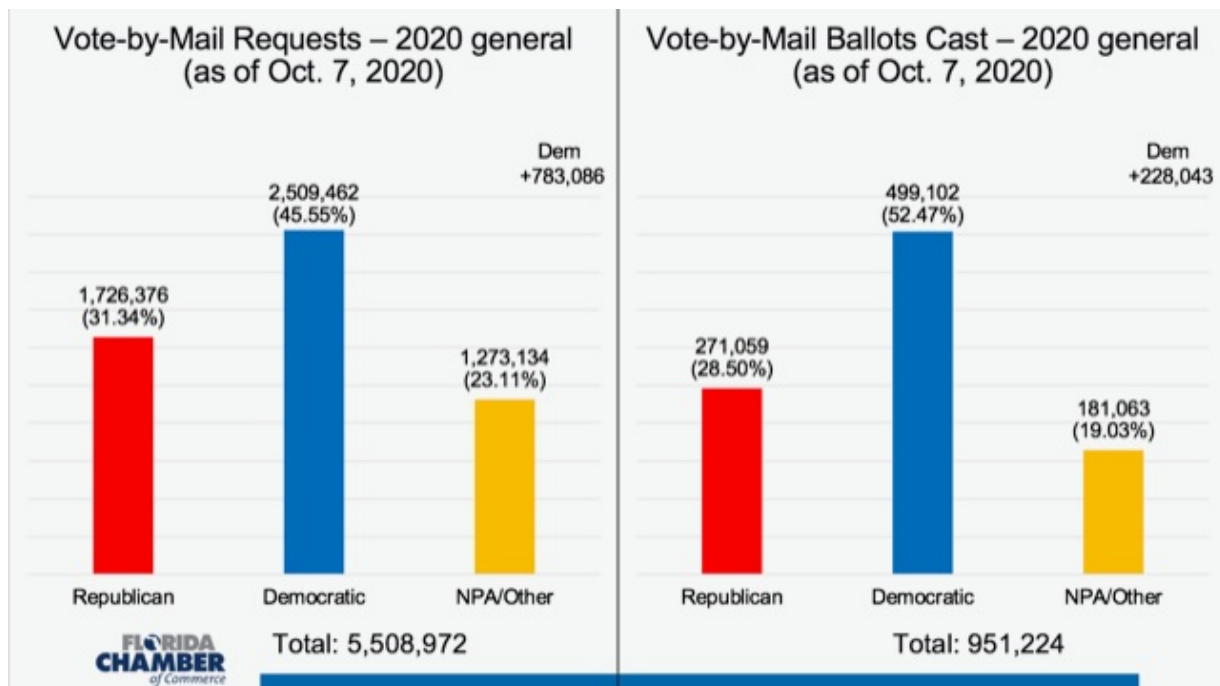
## Total Registered Voters in Florida (as of August 31, 2020)



**The Big Picture:** Florida surpassed the 14 million mark for statewide voter registration in August, ending the month at 14,065,627 registered voters. August marked the first time in Florida history that Republican registration surpassed 5 million voters statewide, a mark Democratic registration hit earlier in the year. The Democratic lead in total registration across Florida is 183,596 voters over Republicans. While significant, this is the smallest registration lead for Democrats since the statewide Florida Voter Registration System was implemented in 2006.

## Florida Vote-by-Mail Requests

[Visit the Florida Chamber's Online Election Center for Daily Updates](#)



**The Big Picture:** With ongoing COVID-19 related concerns, a record number of Floridians are requesting Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots for the 2020 General Election. Already more than 5.5 million Floridians have submitted an active request for their VBM ballot, 2 million more than were requested in the 2016 election. Efforts by the Democratic Party to encourage their supporters to vote by mail have proven successful in generating record levels of Democrats requesting a VBM ballot. The Democratic advantage over Republicans in VBM ballots requests now stands at 783,086, a record-high advantage for Democrats that their candidates hope will offset the expected strong Republican turnout on Election Day.

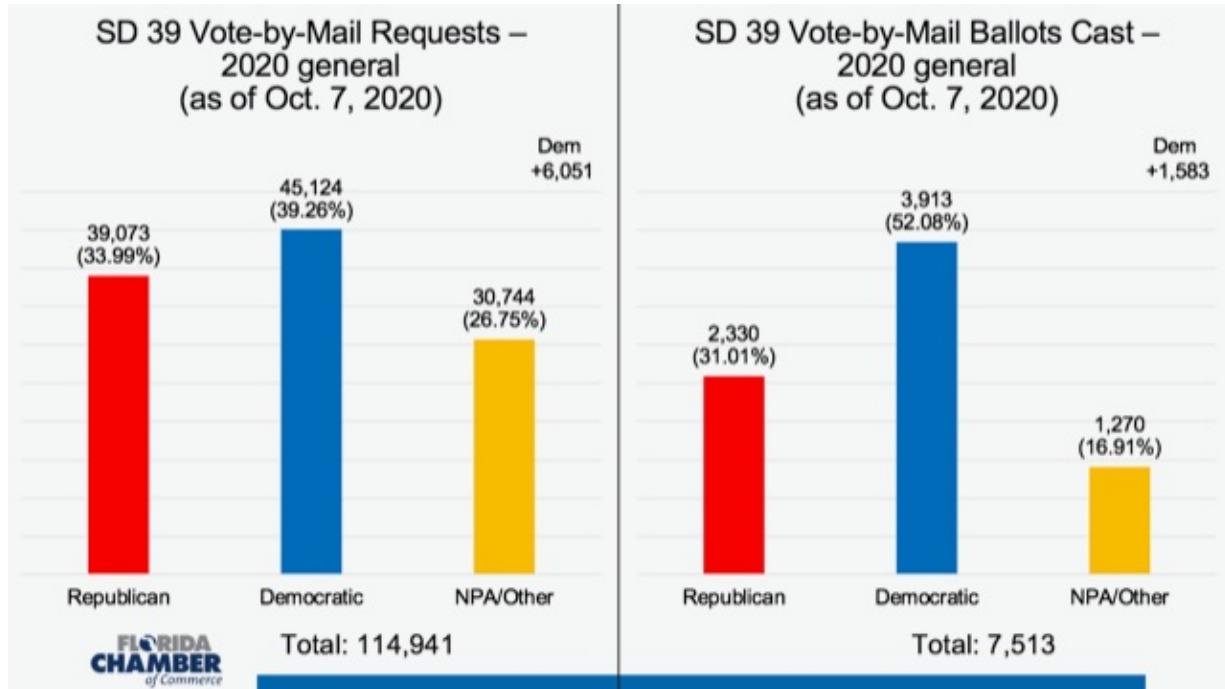
**By the Numbers:** Millions of Floridians received their VBM ballots within the last two weeks, and over 900,000 voters have already made their voices heard and returned their completed ballots. [Democrats](#)

have been outpacing Republicans in early returns, ahead nearly 2-to-1 in returned ballots with a lead of almost 230,000 votes cast. NPA voters remain a significant share of the electorate in Florida, accounting for just over 19 percent of ballots cast thus far.

## From the Campaign Trail

### *Senate District 39*

#### *Florida Chamber Endorsed Rep. Ana Maria Rodriguez*



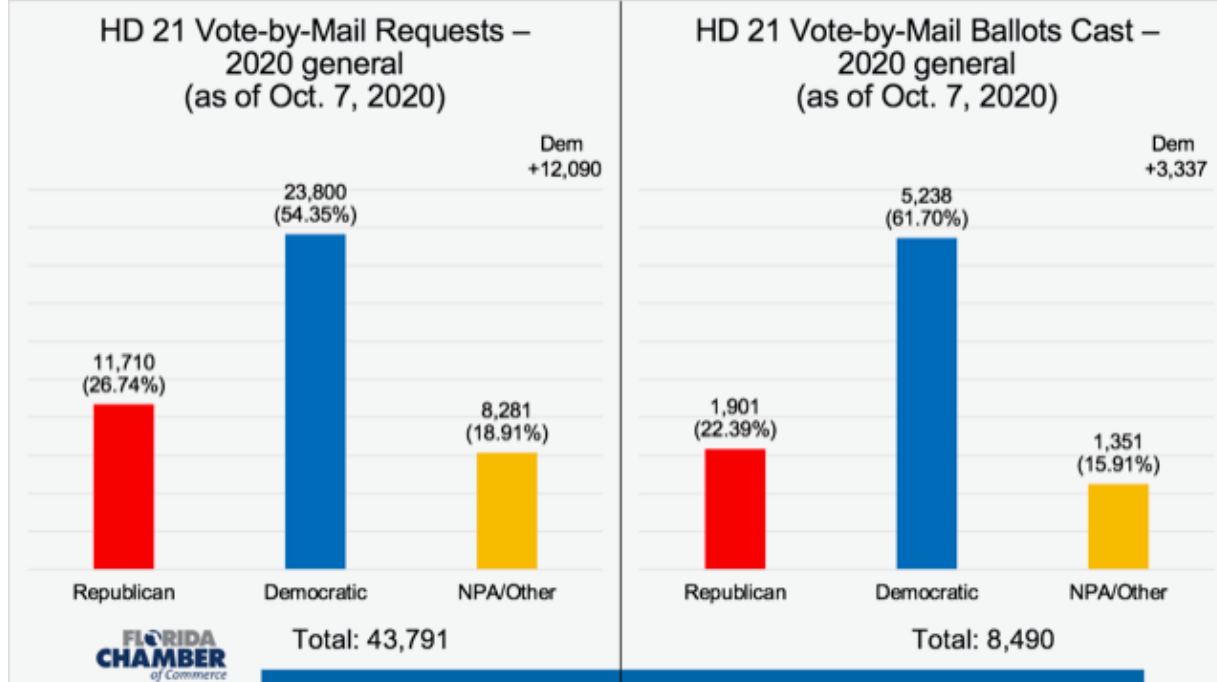
**The Big Picture:** The battleground contest for Senate District 39 in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties is among the most hotly contested legislative races in Florida this year. The race pits the Chamber-endorsed Republican Representative Ana Maria Rodriguez against Democratic Representative Javier Fernandez for this open seat.

**By the Numbers:** The district is closely divided by registration, with Democrats holding a less than 2 percentage point advantage over Republicans while NPA & Other party registrations account for over 30 percent of the district's voters. Over 110,000 voters in the district have requested a VBM ballot, nearly 40 percent of all registered voters. While Democrats hold a 5-point advantage among those requesting ballots, this is a lower lead for Democrats in VBM requests than in other comparable districts around the state. Democrats have cast 1,583 more ballots than Republicans as of October 2nd, though less than 10 percent of all requested ballots have been returned thus far.

**Why It Matters:** Ana Maria Rodriguez earned the Chamber's endorsement thanks to her strong record of supporting free enterprise in Florida as demonstrated by her lifetime "A" grade on the Florida Chamber's Legislative Report Card, a clear choice over her opponent, Javier Fernandez with a lifetime "F" grade. With both parties making this district a top priority, the Florida Chamber will continue working to ensure the Ana Maria Rodriguez is elected in November.

### *House District 21*

#### *Florida Chamber Endorsed Rep. Chuck Clemons*



**The Big Picture:** Chamber-endorsed Republican Representative Chuck Clemons is set for yet another highly competitive race in his swing House District. Clemons' opponent is Democrat Kayser Enneking, who narrowly lost the race for Senate District 8 against Sen. Keith Perry in the 2018 General Election.

**By the Numbers:** Democrats currently enjoy a registration advantage of more than five percentage points and their registration advantage combined with the large VBM request advantage Democrats have across Florida has translated to a lead of more than 2-to-1 in VBM ballot requests. Among the 8,490 who have already returned their ballot, the Democratic edge is even larger, nearly 3-to-1 over Republicans. Clemons and Republicans will be relying on strong Election Day turnout to offset this VBM deficit.

**Why It Matters:** Chuck Clemons earned his endorsement from the Florida Chamber by way of a lifetime "A" grade on the Chamber's Legislative Report Card through his four years in the Florida House. Again, the Florida Chamber will continue working to ensure voters know that Chuck Clemons will fight in the legislature to keep Florida's economy competitive.

## Spotlight

### **ICYMI: Chamber Political Team Provides State of Play**

During our September BOG virtual meeting, the Chamber political team outlined the state of play for Florida politics. The presentation highlighted voter registration, presidential polling, key counties to watch, and amendments. *Florida Politics* reported on it [here](#).

### **The Gloves Came Off**

President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden went head-to-head in their first debate of the election cycle. Recent Chamber polling shows Biden with a 5-point lead but with less than 30 days remaining we wait to see if there will be an October surprise.

## The Money Race

### ***Bloomberg invests \$100 million in Florida - How will it impact down-ballot races***

Former NYC Mayor and failed presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg has committed up to \$100 million in Florida spending for Joe Biden. To date, he has made media buys in key areas of the state and invested in a GOTV program targeting Hispanic voters - having an effect on SD 39 and Miami-Dade county. This comes in the wake of polling showing Biden at 56% amongst Miami-Dade Hispanic voters - shy of the 62% Hillary Clinton received in 2016.

Further, Bloomberg has raised over \$20 million to pay off outstanding court debts to allow former felons the ability to vote. AG Moody has asked the FBI and FDLE to investigate Bloomberg's actions.

With less than 30 days until Election Day, political contributions are incredibly important. To learn more and to get involved with the Florida Chamber Political Operations, click the link below.

[Learn More and Contribute](#)

## Social Media Toolkit



[Click the graphics above to access the Amendment 2 Social Media Toolkit](#)

**View and share digital ads for Chamber-endorsed candidates:** [Jason Brodeur \(SD-9\)](#), [Ana Maria Rodriguez \(SD-39\)](#), [Chuck Clemons \(HD-21\)](#), [Fiona McFarland \(HD-72\)](#), [Jim Mooney \(HD-120\)](#)

### ***Tweet Suggestions:***

If Amendment 2 passes in November, FL will be the only state with a \$15 minimum wage mandate in its constitution - job creators will be handcuffed with unmanageable increases. #2BadforFL #FlaPol

DYK? The @FLChamber endorses pro-business candidates across Florida! Learn more about these candidates on the web: [fichamber.com](http://fichamber.com) #FlaPol

COVID-19 has temporarily diverted our course and we will get back on track as we #ReimagineFL and #RelaunchFL at the 2020 Virtual Future of Florida Forum. Your mission awaits: <https://bit.ly/3i8pGqy>



## **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:**

[Amendment 2 Webinar Series - October 14 and 30](#)

[Florida Chamber of Commerce Future of Florida Forum Virtual Event - October 20-22](#)

[Decision 2020 - General Election Night - November 3](#)

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

October 15 - Second Presidential Debate

October 22 - Third Presidential Debate

October 24 - 31 - Early Voting period for all counties (Optional Dates: Oct. 19-23 and Nov. 1)

**November 3 - General Election**

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

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