

February 12, 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.

- Congratulations to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on their Super Bowl Championship and to **Florida Chamber Board Member Will Weatherford** for Co-Chairing a successful Super Bowl!
- The Florida Chamber recently conducted yet another statewide poll of likely voters and found:
  - Gov. Ron DeSantis has a 54% [approval rating](#);
  - [Voter's top issues](#) are COVID-19, jobs/economy, and education;
  - 74% support [COVID liability protections](#) for businesses, and support increases to 78% when including healthcare providers;
  - When asked if they [will take the vaccine](#) when it becomes available to you, 71% said yes with 82% over the age of 60 saying yes;
  - Electorate divided amongst party lines with 72% Republicans, 43% NPA, and only 27% of Democrats feeling that [Florida is on the right track](#).
- Over 100 local Chambers of Commerce have joined the Florida Chamber's **COVID liability protections coalition**. If you haven't joined, you may do so [here](#).
- The Florida Chamber recently revealed its **2021 Jobs and Competitiveness Agenda** highlighting where we stand on key business priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Read it [here](#).
- Following the despicable acts of January 6th, there has been unusually high activity amongst Floridians choosing to change their political party affiliation. The Florida Chamber political team took a deep-dive below into this trend in the swing county of Seminole.
- The Florida Chamber and Veterans Florida announced the launch of **Florida SkillBridge coalition**, a coalition of industry partners aimed at providing assistance for transitioning servicemembers and employers into Florida's growing workforce.
- The Florida Chamber is continuing to encourage job creators to move to Florida through its "**Open for Business**" Campaign. 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](mailto: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

## Census Data for Redistricting Delayed

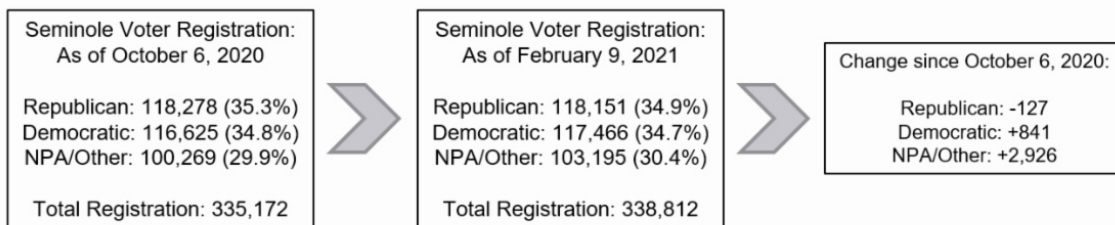
**The Big Picture:** The US Census Bureau announced that appropriation data from the 2020 census used for the purposes of redistricting will not be released until [April 30th](#), a four month delay from the official legal deadline, and specific Census block data will be delayed until [September 30th](#). These delays are attributed to the need to correct scattered anomalies and statistical errors found within the collected data following the completion of the counting period by the Bureau.

Census data for Florida will be used for both Congressional and state legislative redistricting that will take place in advance of the 2022 elections. Projections of the 2020 census results anticipate Florida's representation in the US House of Representatives increasing from 27 to 29 seats, making Florida the third largest state in terms of Congressional representation for the upcoming decade.

The Florida Constitution dictates that this data from the Census Bureau be used to create Congressional and legislative districts that are 'as nearly equal in population as is practicable', compact, and not drawn with the intent of favoring a specific party or candidate nor to deny equal opportunity for minority groups to participate in the electoral process. These requirements, enacted via amendment in the 2010 election cycle, were the source of legal challenges to the districts adopted by the legislature in 2012 and resulted in amended districts being implemented in advance of the 2016 elections.

## From the Campaign Trail

### Seminole County: Battleground of Florida



## ***Voter Registration Shifts Seminole County***

**The Big Picture:** As reported by the *Tampa Bay Times* last month, 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 a similar trend in Seminole County.

**By The Numbers:** Since October 6, 2020 (Bookclosing), NPA/Other registrations have more than tripled Democratic registrations. During the same time, Republicans lost 127 voters.

**Why it Matters:** Seminole County is home to a battleground Senate seat and three battleground House seats. As mentioned above, the U.S. Census Bureau has yet to release the data for redistricting but with the trends in recent years, we expect to see big changes in Central 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

**Florida Chamber Safety Council  
Launches Effort to Promote  
Mental Wellness**

Florida Chamber Safety Council is hosting a live

**ICYMI: Florida Chamber Releases  
2021 Jobs and Competitiveness  
Agenda**

The impact of COVID-19 on Florida, the

statewide webinar February 18th from 9am-11am with nationally recognized mental health expert Dr. Aaron Wiener to discuss mental wellness in the workplace. Register [here](#).

economy and the business community will serve as the lens with which the Florida Chamber will examine and address its legislative priorities. The Chamber's agenda focuses on everything from education to transportation, environmental affairs, affordable housing, telecommunications and beyond. Read it [here](#).

## **The Money Race** ***Florida Free Enterprise Fund***

The Florida Free Enterprise Fund is nonpartisan and works to support candidates and issue-based campaigns who promote and support a principled free enterprise and job creation agenda. It stands firmly on its purpose of Securing Florida's Future and its mission to be the leading voice of business and the driving force of Florida's future. A membership in the Florida Chamber Free Enterprise Fund is reserved for political donors at the \$10,000 level or above annually.

The stakes are high in the 2022 Election. With it being a redistricting year, the Governor, Cabinet, and all 160 legislative seats will be on the ballot. With the clock ticking, we invite 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

Where We Stand - the @FIChamber's jobs and competitiveness agenda is here! See the issues that the Florida Chamber is taking on to keep #Florida moving forward in 2021 and beyond:  
<http://ow.ly/ip3C50DpxNr>



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

### **REGISTER NOW:**

[Florida Chamber Safety Council - Dr. Weiner Mental Health Webinar - February 18](#)

[Florida Chamber Safety Council's Southeastern Conference - May 10-12](#)

[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:**

**Nick Catroppo**, Vice President of Political Operations  
O: 850-521-1298 | C: 352-587-4122 | E: [ncatroppo@flchamber.com](mailto:ncatroppo@flchamber.com)

**Marian Johnson**, Executive Director, Florida Chamber Political Institute  
C: 850-212-7073 | E: [marianjohnson@flchamber.com](mailto:marianjohnson@flchamber.com)

**Andrew Wiggins**, Senior Director of Political Affairs and Coalition Advocacy  
O: 850-521-1240 | C: 850-251-3244 | E: [awiggins@flchamber.com](mailto:awiggins@flchamber.com)

