

June 17, 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 continuously 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.

- **ChamberHub** is LIVE - jump in the driver's seat of the Florida Chamber's exclusive voter file. Learn how to get access by e-mailing [Nick Catroppo](#).
- **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 [Nick Catroppo](#) to get involved today.
- As we move 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.](#)
- The **Florida Chamber of Commerce** announced its 2021 Distinguished Advocate Award recipients following another successful legislative session where 22 of our legislative priorities were passed. You may read more [here](#).
- The **Florida Chamber** is leading a statewide effort to research, build, champion and market Florida's brand, and we invite you, your colleagues and family to participate. You can take the survey [here](#).
- The **Florida Chamber** is kicking off our enhanced Regional Advancement Program to further unify business. The Regional Advancement Program allows Florida's voice of business to connect the Florida Chamber's 11 regions to the State Capitol in Tallahassee. Learn more about the program [here](#).
- The Florida workforce crisis took a new turn this week as **TheFloridaScorecard.org** shows there are officially MORE jobs looking for people than people looking for jobs. Read Chamber President & CEO Mark Wilson's memo [here](#).
- The **Florida Chamber Safety Council** is now offering online, on-demand safety trainings! Businesses can choose from 1,400 courses offered in 17 languages, aimed at helping companies have a better prepared and trained workforce, with fewer accidents and injuries and increased productivity. Shop on demand trainings [here](#).
- The **Florida Chamber Foundation** launched the Path to Prosperity Scholarship Program to help secure the future of today's learners who are living in Florida's most impoverished zip codes. If you're interested in becoming a donor for the scholarship program that is matching up to \$10 million in business contributions, contact [Kyle Baltuch](#).
- The **Florida Chamber Safety Council** is already gearing up for the 2022 (and 2nd Annual) *Southeastern Leadership Conference on Safety, Health + Sustainability*— Submit your best speaker nomination today and make plans to join us March 30 – April 1, 2022 at Disney's Contemporary Resort. [Nominate a speaker today!](#)
- The Florida Chamber is continuing to encourage job creators to flee high-cost, high regulation states and move to Florida through its "**Open for Business**" Campaign. You can read 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:

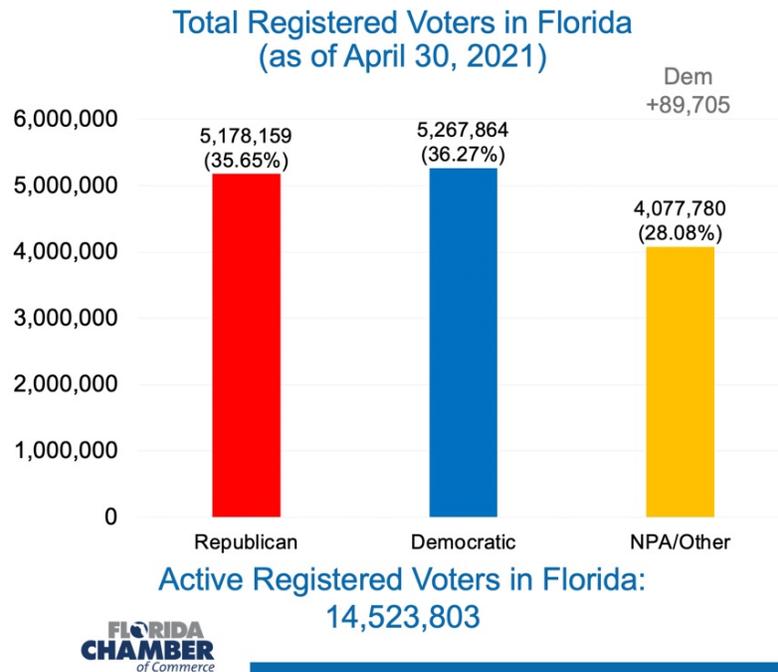
Chamber Member's Only Access

Florida: Behind the Numbers

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

Voter Registration Update: Republicans Continue Narrowing the Registration Gap, Now Within 100,000 of Democrats Statewide

The most recent update of voter registration data from the Florida Division of Elections shows that the registration gap between Democrats and Republicans across Florida has continued narrowing. April's updated voter registration shows a total of 14,523,803 registered voters across Florida, which is down just over 30,000 voters from March's totals due to inactive voter removal conducted by several counties.



Continuing the long-term trend in Florida registration statistics, Republicans continued to narrow their registration deficit to Democrats in the month of April. For the first time in modern Florida history the registration gap between the two major parties is fewer than 90,000 voters, with a Democratic lead of just 89,705 more registered voters. With well over a year still to go until the 2022 General Election, Republicans are currently on pace to surpass Democrats in registration for the first time ever prior to the next statewide election should this trend continue.

From the Campaign Trail

State Legislators on the Move

The Big Picture: With nearly 18 months still to go until the 2022 General Election, numerous members of the Florida Legislature have their eyes focused on elected office that would take them out of the chambers of the state capital. As of now, nine legislators have already declared their intentions to instead seek office at the federal or county levels next year, adding to the turnover that term limits and redistricting will already generate amongst the 160 combined members of Florida's House and Senate.

The Breakdown: The special election to fill out the remainder of the late Congressman Alcee Hastings' term representing the safely Democratic 20th Congressional district has already drawn three current members of the Florida legislature into the race. Senator Perry Thurston and Representatives Bobby DuBose and Omari Hardy are among the 12 candidates seeking the Democratic nomination in the November 2nd primary, in advance of the January 11th special election. All three leave solidly Democratic legislative seats to pursue the open Congressional seat.

Other Congressional seat opportunities being held in the 2022 election cycles have attracted interest from Florida legislatures. Democratic Senator Randolph Bracy has entered the race for the 10th Congressional district, hoping to succeed Congresswoman Val Demings as she pursues a U.S. Senate seat. Congressman Charlie Crist's decision to run for Governor has drawn a pair of Democrats from the Florida House into the race for Crist's competitive 13th Congressional district, with Representatives Ben

Diamond and Michelle Rayner-Goolsby both hoping to succeed Crist. Rayner-Goolsby leaves a safely Democratic seat after one term to jump into this race, while Diamond forgoes seeking a fourth term in his leaning Democratic Florida House seat to run in CD-13. For Republicans, second term Representative Anthony Sabatini has announced his intention to challenge sitting Democratic Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy in her competitive 7th Congressional district seat next year.

The Miami-Dade County Commission has also drawn the eye of a pair of Republican legislators. Term-limited Republican Bryan Avila hopes to transition from the 111th House district seat he's represented since 2014 to serving the people of the 6th commission district in Miami-Dade County, replacing the also term-limited Rebeca Sosa on the commission if he is successful. Representative Anthony Rodriguez is also seeking a seat on the Miami-Dade county commission in 2022, leaving the Florida House after two terms to run in the commission's 10th district and replace term-limited Commissioner Javier Souto.

What We're Doing: Over the coming months, the Florida Chamber's Data Director Alex Coelho will continue to provide data and analyses to our members through Florida's redistricting process. To access this data and analyses, please contact [Nick Catroppo](#).

[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

ICYMI: Florida Governor and Cabinet Recognize June as Florida Safety Month

The Florida Chamber of Commerce thanks CFO Jimmy Patronis for sponsoring the proclamation and Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet for declaring June as Florida Safety Month. This will help continue to make Florida the safest, healthiest, and most sustainable state in America.

The Florida Chamber Safety Council is working to make Florida the safest state in the nation. The Safety Council tapped into Florida's leading companies and their safety leaders to create an Advisory Board that is an incubator of research, leadership and education, and provides resources, tools and best practices for small to mid-sized businesses. Learn more [here](#).

ALERT: Out-of-State Special Interests Pushing Against SB 1890

AG Ashley Moody's office, on behalf of the Florida Elections Commission, is urging a federal judge to reject a preliminary injunction request filed by the ACLU, against the limit on contributions law for Constitutional Amendments.

In recent years, we've seen out-of-state billionaires and special interests buy their way on to the ballot through the Constitutional Amendment process. Florida's amendment process should be a grassroots movement led by our fellow citizens and we're working everyday to help return the process to the people. Learn how to Protect Our Constitution by contacting [Nick Catroppo](#).

The Money Race

Gubernatorial Campaigns are Raising Big Numbers

As the field starts to take shape, statewide candidates in the 2022 Election are beginning to raise large dollars. For the months of April and May, incumbent Governor Ron DeSantis raised more than \$22 million dollars for his political committee. Compare that with the two Democratic candidates in the Governor's race - Congressman Charlie Crist who raised \$1.5 million during his first month in the race and Commissioner Nikki Fried who raised nearly \$575,000 during April and May.

Florida is an expensive state to run a campaign due to costly media markets. During the 2018 Gubernatorial Election, campaigns spent hundreds of millions of dollars and we expect the 2022 election to be even more costly.

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 to a Florida Chamber Political Committee, click the link below.

Social Media Toolkit

Tweet Suggestions:

We need to move the needle in #Florida to achieve the 39 goals outlined in the Florida #2030Blueprint and grow from the 17th largest economy to the 10th largest economy in the world in the next 10 years. Join the mission today @FLChamber

The @FLChamber thanks @GovRonDeSantis for signing SB 76, which addresses some of the root causes that are rapidly increasing homeowner's insurance rates! #FlaPol

Registrations are still open for the next #CampaignSchool hosted by @FLChamber #FIPL. Register here today - fipl.org/register/



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

REGISTER NOW:

[Florida Chamber Safety Council On-Demand Safety Trainings](#)

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

[Florida Chamber Innovation, Technology, and Economic Diversification Solution Summit - August 5](#)

[Florida Chamber Future of Florida Forum and Annual Meeting - October 27-28](#)

□ 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

Marian Johnson, Executive Director, Florida Chamber Political Institute
C: 850-212-7073 | E: 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

Sign-Up for the Florida Situation Report

