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**FLORIDA
CHAMBER**
Political Operations

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.

- The **Florida Institute for Political Leadership (FIPL)** has created a first-of-its-kind comprehensive database of local elections across Florida to help Floridians take the next step in their political career. Find an office to run for by using the [database here](#).
- **ChamberHub** is LIVE - jump in the driver's seat of the Florida Chamber's exclusive voter file. Learn how to get access by emailing [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. Email [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 that today Florida, if it were an independent country, would be the 15th largest economy in the world. Florida overtook Indonesia and Mexico's economies during the past year. You may read more [here](#).
- Targeting workforce development to regional skills gaps in high wage potential in the Jacksonville region— consisting of Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Nassau and Baker Counties— the **Florida Chamber Foundation** has unveiled its Jacksonville Metro Skills Report, which completes and evaluates the balance between skillset supply and demand in the Jacksonville metro market. Read more [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 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 Florida's economy by checking out [The Florida Scorecard](#).

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

Republicans, Democrats Show Deep Divides in Trust of American Institutions

Confidence [polling conducted by Gallup](#) over the last month highlights some of the deep divides along partisan lines that the public has in major American institutions, as well as a decline of confidence in

general across many of these institutions. The significant partisan gap across a broad section of institutions is another indicator of the growing correlations in American society between political ideology and a person's broader worldview and life experiences seen in recent years.

Gallup surveyed Americans on the amount of confidence held in 16 of America's largest or most notable institutional groups, finding that a majority of Americans expressed either a 'great deal' or 'quite a lot' of confidence in just 3 of these 16 groups: 'small business' leading the way at 70% great deal/quite a lot of confidence, 'the military' at 68%, and 'the police' at 51%. None of the other 13 that were tested came in higher than 44% strong confidence, with 'Congress' found at the bottom of the list at just 12% followed by 'television news' at 16%.

Gallup also found substantial differences in institutional confidence among Americans identifying as Republican/leaning Republican voters and Democratic/leaning Democratic voters. Not surprisingly 'the Presidency' sees the largest partisan confidence gap at a 49-point difference, with 62% of Democrats expressing high levels of confidence in it versus just 13% of Republicans. However, others with a confidence gap of more than 25 points between the parties include 'the police' (76% for Republicans, 31% for Democrats), 'newspapers' (8% Republicans, 35% Democrats), and 'the church/organized religion' (51% Republicans, 26% Democrats). Indeed just 4 of the 16 institutions polled hold a partisan confidence gap under 10 points: 'the US Supreme Court' (39% Republicans, 35% Democrats), 'big business' (19% Republicans, 17% Democrats), 'banks' (35% Republicans, 33% Democrats), and 'the criminal justice system' (20% Republicans, 19% Democrats).

As the political landscape of next year's general election is still coming into focus, the significant differences in how members of each party have come to regard a variety of the most prominent and most interacted-with institutions in America offers insight into the differing approaches and voter bases each party may have in the 2022 campaign. For the business community the significant difference between how Americans associate lower confidence with 'big business' but strong confidence across the board in 'small business' (76% high confidence among Republicans & 64% among Democrats) shows that even as politicians of both parties occasionally target certain companies as wrong or bad for their constituents the basic tenets of free enterprise often most strongly associated with small businesses retain the confidence of Americans.

From the Campaign Trail

Duval and Pinellas State Legislative Breakdown

The Big Picture: As we approach a redistricting year, state House and Senate seats are beginning to shuffle as candidates start to file with the Division of Elections. With the August 16th U.S. Census block data release fast approaching, we're diving into Duval and Pinellas counties for this month's Situation Report.

The Breakdown: In Duval County, Sens. Aaron Bean and Audrey Gibson are term-limited therefore not running for reelection. In Sen. Bean's District 4 seat, three current Republican State House members have filed to run: Rep. Cord Byrd, Rep. Jason Fischer, and Rep. Clay Yarborough. All three of these Legislators earned an A grade on the Florida Chamber's Legislative Report Card. This is a Republican district in terms of performance and we expect the battle for this seat to be won in the August Primary Election.

With three State House members vying for the State Senate seat, candidates have begun filing for the open State House seats. In Rep. Byrd's District 11 seat, three candidates are currently running for the Republican nomination. Although no other candidates have filed, this too is a safe Republican seat. In Rep. Yarborough's District 12 seat, only one candidate has filed: former State Rep. Lake Ray. And in Rep. Fischer's District 16 seat, two Republican candidates have filed to succeed him. Much like the District 11 seat, both Districts 12 and 16 are safe Republican seats.

In Sen. Gibson's District 6 seat, two Democratic candidates have filed for the seat. The District 6 seat is a safe Democratic seat and we too anticipate it to be decided in the August Primary.

Moving south to the 727 in Pinellas County, Sen. Jeff Brandes is term-limited and not running for reelection. In his District 24 seat, two Republicans and one Democrat have filed including current State Rep. Nick DiCeglie. That seat is a competitive district with a lean Republican advantage. With Rep. DiCeglie vacating his House District 66 seat, two Republicans have filed so far to run for the safe Republican seat. Rep. DiCeglie also earned an A grade on this past session's Florida Chamber Legislative Report Card and has been endorsed by Senate President Wilton Simpson and Sen. Kathleen Passidomo.

With Speaker Chris Sprowls term-limited, two candidates have filed to replace him including Republican Adam Anderson whom Speaker Sprowls has endorsed. The other candidate for the District 65 seat is a Democrat running in this safe Republican district.

In District 67, Rep. Chris Latvala is retiring due to term limits and two Republican candidates have filed to succeed him, including former Rep. Kim Berfield whom Rep. Latvala has endorsed. In this competitive district, no Democrat or NPA candidates have filed for the seat yet.

Both Reps. Ben Diamond and Michelle Rayner are vacating their State House seats to run for Congressional District 13 - the seat currently held by Congressman Charlie Crist, a Democratic candidate for Governor. In Rep. Diamond's District 68 seat which leans Democratic, one Democrat has filed for the seat and in Rep. Rayner's District 70 seat which is safely Democratic, no other candidate has filed.

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: Nautique Boat Company's Greg Meloon Named to Florida Chamber Safety Council Advisory Board

"The Florida Chamber Safety Council Advisory Board guides the vision and strategy behind creating national standards for workplace safety, implementing first-in-the-nation programs to prevent injuries, reduce operational costs, and improve production, performance and corporate culture," said Florida Chamber Safety Council President Katie Yeutter. "Greg's leadership, and his track record of safety in manufacturing, adds another layer to the Advisory Board as we build a culture of safety in Florida." Read more [here](#).

Florida Chamber Foundation is setting the Future of Trade and Logistics in Florida

The Florida Chamber Foundation has launched **Florida Trade and Logistics 2030 (TL 2030)**. This study will analyze emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges facing Florida, and identify policies and strategies to ensure another decade of growth. If we can count on you as an investor, please contact Aaron Kinnon.

The Money Race

\$50+ Million Poured Into Gambling Expansion Constitutional Amendments

For years, the Florida Chamber of Commerce has warned that Florida's constitution has been "for sale" and over the past several weeks political committees backing pro-gambling constitutional amendments have been seeded with more than \$50 million in campaign dollars to try and cash in on that reality. Given the Florida Chamber's decades of leadership working to protect Florida's constitution from special interests, the Florida Chamber team checks for newly filed proposed constitutional amendments every single day. There are currently 34 active proposed amendments, but **16 new amendments have been filed in 2021 alone** and in the past several weeks over **\$50 million in funding supporting political committees for expanded gambling interests** has been reported.

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.

[Learn More and Contribute](#)

Social Media Toolkit

Tweet Suggestions:

#Florida is now the 15th largest economy in the world - up from 17th. While this may change as other global economies recover from the pandemic, it's encouraging to see FL moving the needle to get to a top 10 global economy by 2030. #FL2030Blueprint #FL2030

On July 9, President Joe Biden signed a broad executive order to "promote competitive markets and limit corporate dominance in the economy." @FIChamber needs Florida job creators feedback, take the 4-question survey here: <http://ow.ly/WS4350Fx14L>

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

[Florida Chamber Safety Council Southeastern Leadership Conference on Safety, Health + Sustainability - March 30-April 1](#)

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

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