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Suffolk University/USA TODAY/WSVN-TV Poll: Trump Leads in Florida, But Harris Polling More Strongly Than Expected

BOSTON—In Florida, Republican Donald Trump leads Democrat Kamala Harris by five points, 47% to 42%, according to an exclusive Suffolk University/USA TODAY/WSVN-TV poll of likely voters there.

“In the 2020 presidential race Trump won Florida by three points, but Harris is polling more strongly than expected in a state that has nearly a million fewer active Democratic voters than it did then,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center.

In 2020, Democrats had a net registration advantage of +97,215 (5,315,954 registered Democrats versus 5,218,739 registered Republicans). Due to the state’s purging of inactive voters, Republicans now have a registration advantage of +956,443 voters (5,257,407 registered Republicans versus 4,300,964 registered Democrats), according to the Florida Department of State Elections Division.

Among Sunshine State independents, Harris now leads Trump 41%-34%, with independent Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., receiving 10%, Libertarian Chase Oliver receiving 4%, Green Party candidate Jill Stein receiving 2%, and 5% still undecided. Among independent women, Harris led Trump 48%-19% with Kennedy receiving 17%. The poll’s statistical margin of error is +/-4.4 percentage points.

“This poll seems to indicate that the overwhelming Republican Party registration advantage is partially offset by Kamala Harris winning independents, especially independent women,” Paleologos said. “Florida could become more of a battleground state than anyone would have expected, especially given that there will be an abortion rights question (Amendment 4) on the statewide ballot, which could drive up turnout among women.”

After the two major party nominees, Kennedy was winning 5% of the vote, while Stein, Oliver, and independent Cornel West combined for 2%, with 3% undecided, and 2% refusing a response.

When third-party voters were asked their second-choice preference, Harris received 33%, Trump 21%, West 18%, Kennedy 9%, Stein 3%, undecided 9%, and 6% refused. Among just Kennedy voters, Harris received 33% to Trump's 29%, with West getting 25%.

Currently, 40% approve of the job Harris is doing as vice president, while 55% approved of the job Donald Trump did as president between 2017-2021. However, Trump wasn't winning 100% of those who approved of his job performance: 4% of these voters opted for Harris and 4% for Kennedy.

Methodology

The Florida Suffolk University/*USA TODAY*/WSVN-TV survey was conducted August 7-11, through live interviews of 500 likely voters, residing in all 67 counties. Quota and demographic information—including region, race, and age—were determined from 2022 American Community Survey and 2020 exit polling data in Florida. Counties were grouped into four general regions. Surveys were administered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/-4.4 percentage points. Suffolk University poll students Conor Hughes, Emily Dempsey, and Lauren Hyder contributed to the successful execution of this statewide survey. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

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