

Florida Southern College  
Center for Polling and Policy Research

## **2018 Florida General Election Poll**

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## Executive Summary

be close. Using live callers, the Florida Southern College Center for Polling and Policy Research conducted a telephone survey of registered, likely, voters across the state. This survey took place during the evenings of Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> through Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and elicited responses from 476 likely voters with an overall margin of error of ±4.49.

Our results show a narrow lead for Democrat, Andrew Gillum over Republican, Ron DeSantis; Gillum received 47.13 percent support a small degree of separation between the candidates, this race is still up for grabs.

Incumbent Senator Bill Nelson is locked in a tie with Governor Rick Scott for seats in the U.S. Senate. Scott currently holds a 1.5-point lead over Nelson. While polls released over the past several weeks have shown Nelson to have a slight lead in this race, ours is showing Scott making headway and gaining a marginal advantage.

Like the race for Governor and Senate, less than one point separates Republicans from Democrats on the generic House ballot. Additionally, when asked which party they wish to see controlling the U.S. House of Representatives after elections, there is an effective tie between those parties, there is an effective tie between those parties.

## Acknowledgements

This survey would have never been possible without the dedication and professionalism of our call room employees: Connor Angell, Jollice Boyd, Esteban Cepero, Cheyenne Charles, Noelle Gascon, Alexis Goolsby, Lauren Lassiter, Morgan McDermott, Kevin Medina, Lexi Potter, Natalia Schulz, Catherine Stogner, and Kaitlynn Swanbeck. Special thanks are also due to the student assistant, Shelby Welch, who helped manage this project, solved logistical problems and aided throughout the research process. All of the preceding individuals are current FSC students whose assistance made it possible to bring this study to fruition. Finally, this survey was supported substantially by the work of our field director, **Bill Rufty**, who managed the call room and offered his expertise from years of polling and reporting on Florida politics throughout the design and implementation stages.

Special thanks are also due to the administration of Florida Southern College, specifically our President, Dr. Anne Kerr, our Provost, Dr. Kyle Fedler, and the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Brad Hollingshead. This survey would not have been possible without the dedication and support of FSC students, faculty, and administration. The Florida Southern College Center for Polling

Center make it possible for students to gain valuable firsthand experience fielding surveys and analyzing results.





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The Cook Political Report currently lists two Florida House races as toss-ups and two more in the leaning category. These data do not allow us to draw conclusions about specific races, but like those for governor and Senate our data reveal a close electoral environment.

President Trump

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## Top-Line Results

*All cells are percent values and are weighted by education, age, and race of the respondent. Screening questions are omitted from the following summary.*



Question 10: What is your age?

	Percent
18 to 29	13.04
30 to 44	20.85
45 to 64	34.53
Over 64	30.74
	0.08
Refused	1.03

(N = 476)

Question 11: What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

	Percent
Less than High School	5.65
High School	25.61
Some College	21.52
	11.65
Degree	21.82
Professional Degree	13.35
	0.16
Refused	0.23

(N = 476)

Question 12: To ensure we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

	Percent
Yes	11.99
No	87.40
	0.14
Refused	0.47

(N = 476)

Question 13: Again, for statistical purposes, what is the race you most identify with white, black, Asian, Native American, or something else?

	Percent
White	80.71
Black	11.84
Asian	2.36
Native American	0.41
Other	3.67
	0.16
Refused	0.86

(N = 476)