

National Politics, Pope Francis, and Florida State Issues & Politics

2019



A National Poll of Americans
Saint Leo University Polling Institute
February 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Saint Leo University Polling Institute is pleased to present the results of a national poll of Americans.

The poll was designed to assess public views regarding politics, 2020 candidates, issues, Pope Francis, the Catholic Church, divisions among Americans, levels of political engagement, and the environment. Also, among Florida poll participants – job ratings for the Governor and U.S. Senators were collected.

The research study included survey responses from 1000 respondents nationally and 500 respondents within Florida approximately proportional to state population contribution. The poll was conducted February 16 – 25, 2019. A pre-test occurred on February 16, 2019.

The national poll included the following areas for investigation:

- Job approval ratings for President Trump, Vice-President Pence, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell;
- Issues of concern;
- Impressions of Pope Francis;
- Impressions of the Catholic Church;
- Ratings of Pope Francis on several initiatives;
- Levels of political engagement/activity;
- Views on divisions among Americans today;
- Participation in Lent in 2019;
- Views on Florida 2018 candidates; and,
- Demographics.

Section II of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section III includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section IV is a Summary of Findings from the online survey.

Section V is an Appendix to the report containing the survey instrument employed, the composite aggregate data and cross tabulations.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute completed 1000 online surveys nationally and 500 among Florida residents.

Survey design input was provided by the membership of the Polling Institute Committee.

Survey design is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by the Institute (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

This survey was conducted February 16-25, 2019.

Respondents qualified for the survey if they were a resident of the United States and 18 years of age or older. Responses were approximately proportional to each state's population.

All facets of the study were completed by the Polling Institute's senior staff and researchers. These aspects include survey design, pre-test, computer programming, fielding, coding, editing, verification, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 1,000 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.0% at a 95% confidence level. A sample of 500 Florida respondents has an associated margin for error of +/-4.5% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite results – all 1000 cases. Throughout, composite results are presented side by side with Florida specific results.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of “sampling error”. Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event based on known probabilities.

Each qualified online panel member within the United States had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

3 HIGHLIGHTS

ON POLITICS, ISSUES AND 2020 CANDIDATES...

President Trump's job approval moved lower to 39.8% in the current, February 2019 Saint Leo University Poll. This is down from 42.2% in October 2018 and down significantly from 47.8% in August 2018.

Other job approval ratings were recorded for Mike Pence (40.8%), Nancy Pelosi (39.7%) and Mitch McConnell (28.8%).

On issues, the top six included healthcare (15.9%), jobs and the economy (15.4%), immigration (14.0%), government spending/budget deficit (13.3%), global climate change (6.5%) and gun violence (6.3%).

Overall, concern over jobs and the economy has trended downward while concern over immigration and global climate change has moved to the highest points in three years.

Democratic respondents nationally were asked who they could support for the Democratic nomination to run for President of the United States. Multiple responses were accepted and included: Joe Biden (58.3%), Bernie Sanders (38.1%), Kamala Harris (29.5%), Cory Booker (26.3%), Beto O'Rourke (22.4%), and Elizabeth Warren (21.2%).

While many don't know the candidates well enough to offer an opinion, the favorability ratings among Democrats for the top Democratic candidates ranged from 62.8% to 32.7% -- Joe Biden (62.8%), Bernie Sanders (49.9%), Kamala Harris (39.4%), Cory Booker (37.8%), Elizabeth Warren (33.7%), and Beto O'Rourke (32.7%).

ON POPE FRANCIS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH...

Opinion of the Catholic Church in the United States was only fair. Just 37.2% reported a strongly or somewhat favorable view of the Church while a majority, 51.1%, held somewhat unfavorable or not at all favorable view of the Church.

Among Catholics, the favorable opinion (strongly and somewhat) was 62.5% with 32.2% holding an unfavorable view.

The favorable opinion of Pope Francis was higher at 55.6%. This is up from 44.7% in October 2018 and down significantly from 64.4% in August 2018.

Majorities approve of the job the pope is doing advancing the cause of the poor (59.6%) and on human rights (59.9%). Moderate approvals were recorded for his efforts on environmental efforts (46.0%), marriage and family issues (43.5%), and migration/immigration (40.9%). Poor, or the lowest, approvals were recorded for handling of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy (31.4%) and handling of sexual abuse of nuns by priests and bishops (30.1%).

ON THE DIVIDED NATION....

Nearly two-thirds of all respondents, 62.0%, note they are either more active (39.4%) or less active but still engaged (21.6%) since the 2016 election cycle.

Large majorities of Americans continue to say we are more divided as a nation than ever before (82.0%), and they see democracy slipping away in the United States (68.4%). Few are optimistic about reducing political discord (27.4%) or have the expectation that the Mueller investigation will help heal some of the divisions in the United States (32.1%).

A large number of Americans (when extrapolated on the total population) believe physical violence during demonstrations is justified at times ((15.0%) or that property damage during demonstrations, at times, is justified (13.3%).

ON LENT IN 2019...

Questions of Christians about observing Lent were posed. Among all Christians, 29.2% noted they did or will give something up for Lent in 2019. Among just Catholics, the percentage was higher at 45.0%.

Other Christians suggested they have given something up in the past (23.8%) but won't in 2019. Among Catholics, this percent was 27.9%.

Favorite abstentions during lent included: candy/sweets, chocolate, alcohol, soda and fast food. Coffee and television were the least favorite items to abstain from during Lent.

4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to national composite aggregate data – the 1000 completed surveys as well as the supplemental sample of 500 Florida respondents. Text throughout this report presents national composite results while many graphs and tables also present results among Florida respondents.

POLITICS, ISSUES AND 2020 CANDIDATES

Respondents nationally, and within Florida, were asked to provide job approval ratings for President Trump. Previous polling included Vice-President Pence, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. The cumulative favorable job approval ratings (strongly and somewhat approve) are displayed within the following tables, nationally and for Florida.

The overall rating for President Trump decreased to 39.8% from 42.2% in February 2019.

National Results

How would you rate...	National Approval November 2017	National Approval February 2018	National Approval May 2018	National Approval August 2018	National Approval October 2018	National Approval February 2019
The job Donald Trump is doing as President	41.2	40.7	46.1	47.8	42.2	39.8
The job Mike Pence is doing as Vice President	44.1	42.4	47.8	---	---	40.8
The job Congressman Paul Ryan is doing as Speaker of the House	36.3	35.2	42.0	---	---	---
The job Senator Mitch McConnell is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	27.0	31.7	35.7	---	---	28.8
The job Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is doing as Speaker of the House	---	---	---	---	---	39.7

Florida Results

How would you rate...	Florida Approval November 2017	Florida Approval February 2018	Florida Approval May 2018	Florida Approval August 2018	Florida Approval October 2018	Florida Approval February 2019
The job Donald Trump is doing as President	41.8	42.6	45.8	50.4	47.6	45.0
The job Mike Pence is doing as Vice President	46.4	46.0	47.2	---	---	46.0
The job Congressman Paul Ryan is doing as Speaker of the House	39.8	42.2	38.7	---	---	---
The job Senator Mitch McConnell is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	29.2	35.0	33.6	---	---	33.6
The job Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is doing as Speaker of the House	---	---	---	---	---	43.4

All respondents were asked to name the most important issue facing the nation today. The most important issues were reported to be jobs and the economy, healthcare, immigration and government spending. Results are presented in the following table in declining order by importance based on the composite national data from February 2019.

Issues Most Important: National Results	National September 2017	National November 2017	National February 2018	National May 2018	National August 2018	National October 2018	National February 2019
Healthcare	19.2	20.9	13.7	15.9	16.1	18.2	15.9
Jobs and the economy	19.0	17.6	18.0	18.3	17.1	14.4	15.4
Immigration	8.8	5.0	8.6	8.9	13.2	9.0	14.0
Government spending / federal budget deficit	8.4	9.4	9.3	8.3	9.3	11.2	13.3
Global climate change	4.2	3.1	3.1	2.9	4.0	4.4	6.5
Gun violence	1.4	6.7	9.8	9.4	5.6	4.4	6.3
Education	4.4	3.1	5.1	3.8	5.0	5.7	4.2
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	7.5	6.9	6.2	7.0	4.1	3.6	4.0
Declining U.S. status worldwide	4.3	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.7	4.1	3.9
Some other issues	3.1	2.8	3.4	3.2	3.9	5.2	3.6
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	0.7	3.4	8.3	5.1	3.8	3.1	3.3
Don't know / not sure	2.9	4.2	1.8	3.1	3.4	5.1	2.6
Crime	1.4	1.5	1.1	2.2	2.6	3.5	1.8
Terrorism	8.0	7.9	3.9	3.2	2.6	2.7	1.7
Foreign affairs	5.0	2.4	1.9	2.6	2.3	1.6	1.0
Energy policy	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.1	1.0
International trade imbalance	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.3	0.8
Internet / data security	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.7

The issues most important to Florida residents are presented in the following table. The table is presented in declining order, based on issue importance, for the composite data from February 2019.

Issues Most Important	Florida September 2017	Florida November 2017	Florida February 2018	Florida May 2018	Florida August 2018	Florida October 2018	Florida February 2019
Healthcare	17.8	22.0	16.2	15.8	15.4	19.5	19.8
Immigration	7.6	7.4	8.6	7.5	16.0	14.3	17.8
Jobs and the economy	19.8	17.2	15.4	13.8	14.8	14.0	11.8
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	7.0	8.8	11.8	10.1	8.6	9.3	10.0
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	10.0	7.6	6.8	6.1	5.6	4.7	6.2
Gun violence	1.0	5.6	9.4	10.5	5.8	4.3	6.0
Declining U.S. status worldwide	4.2	3.4	3.8	3.6	4.2	4.7	5.8
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	1.2	4.6	9.4	8.7	4.2	3.4	4.0
Don't know / not sure	2.8	2.4	0.8	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.2
Global climate change	4.6	2.2	2.2	2.6	3.0	5.6	3.0
Some other issues	2.6	3.0	2.8	1.8	2.8	2.4	2.8
Terrorism	9.4	8.0	3.8	4.9	4.6	3.0	2.6
Education	4.8	3.2	4.2	5.1	5.4	5.3	1.8
Foreign affairs	2.6	2.4	1.6	3.2	2.4	2.0	1.6
Crime	2.8	1.6	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6
Internet / data security / ID theft	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.0	1.8	0.9	1.0
International trade imbalance	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.9	0.8
Energy policy	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.2

All Democrat poll respondents were presented with a list of both notable and probable candidates for the Democratic nomination to run for President of the United States. Each was asked which candidate(s) they could support in a future primary. Multiple responses were accepted. Results are displayed in the following table in declining order by frequency of mention nationally.

Declared and Probable Candidates	National February 2019	Florida February 2019
Joe Biden	58.3	58.5
Bernie Sanders	38.1	29.8
Kamala Harris	29.5	31.7
Cory Booker	26.3	24.4
Beto O'Rourke	22.4	24.9
Elizabeth Warren	21.2	23.9
Kirsten Gillibrand	11.5	7.3
Amy Klobuchar	10.9	15.1
Julian Castro	9.3	11.7
None of these	6.7	8.8
Pete Buttigieg	3.5	7.8
Michael Bennet	2.2	4.4
Howard Schultz	1.9	3.4
Marianne Williamson	1.6	2.0
John Delaney	1.3	3.4
Tulsi Gabbard	1.3	2.0
Andrew Yang	1.3	2.4

Respondents were presented with the following question: *“It is early. However, based on all you know or have heard, please tell us your opinion of the declared and likely Democratic candidates for president using a scale of one to ten where one is very favorable and ten is not at all favorable. If you are unsure or don’t know enough, simply indicate “unsure”.”*

The following table holds the positive opinion (ratings of one through four on the ten-point scale) for each individual. Results are displayed for Democrats, Unaffiliated voters and Republicans. Results are presented in declining order by national Democrats.

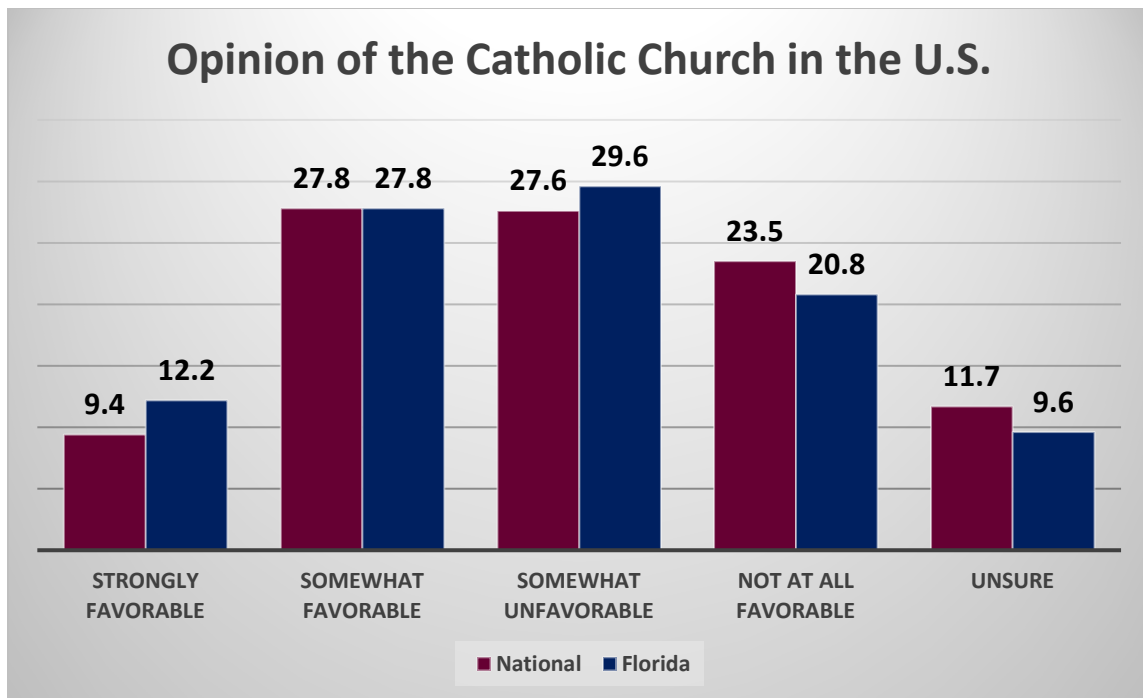
Interestingly, Beto O’Rourke is more popular among national unaffiliated respondents than Democratic respondents.

Your Opinion of...	National Dem	National Unaf	National Rep	Florida Dem	Florida Unaf	Florida Rep
Joe Biden	62.8	39.0	29.3	66.8	41.1	24.7
Bernie Sanders	49.9	34.7	17.4	45.4	28.4	16.3
Kamala Harris	39.4	23.3	13.7	41.5	21.1	13.2
Cory Booker	37.8	20.7	15.2	43.9	17.9	15.8
Elizabeth Warren	33.7	22.8	12.6	38.5	22.1	13.7
Beto O’Rourke	32.7	34.7	14.1	38.0	21.1	14.7
Amy Klobuchar	27.6	22.5	10.7	31.2	14.7	12.6
Julian Castro	23.7	15.1	11.1	26.8	16.8	13.2
Kirsten Gillibrand	23.4	18.3	11.1	23.4	15.8	11.6
Pete Buttigieg	18.9	11.1	11.1	20.5	12.6	12.6
Michael Bennet	18.6	10.6	11.4	19.5	13.7	12.1
Howard Schultz	16.7	15.1	15.9	22.4	15.8	12.1
John Delaney	16.3	10.3	8.5	14.6	14.7	10.5
Tulsi Gabbard	16.3	9.8	9.6	15.1	13.7	11.1
Marianne Williamson	16.0	8.0	8.5	18.0	15.8	10.5
Andrew Yang	12.8	8.5	9.6	16.1	10.5	10.0

POPE FRANCIS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

All respondents were asked if their opinion of the Catholic Church in the United States and Pope Francis was strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or not at all favorable.

The cumulative total favorable opinion (strongly and somewhat) was 37.2% while the unfavorable opinion (somewhat and not at all) was 51.1%.

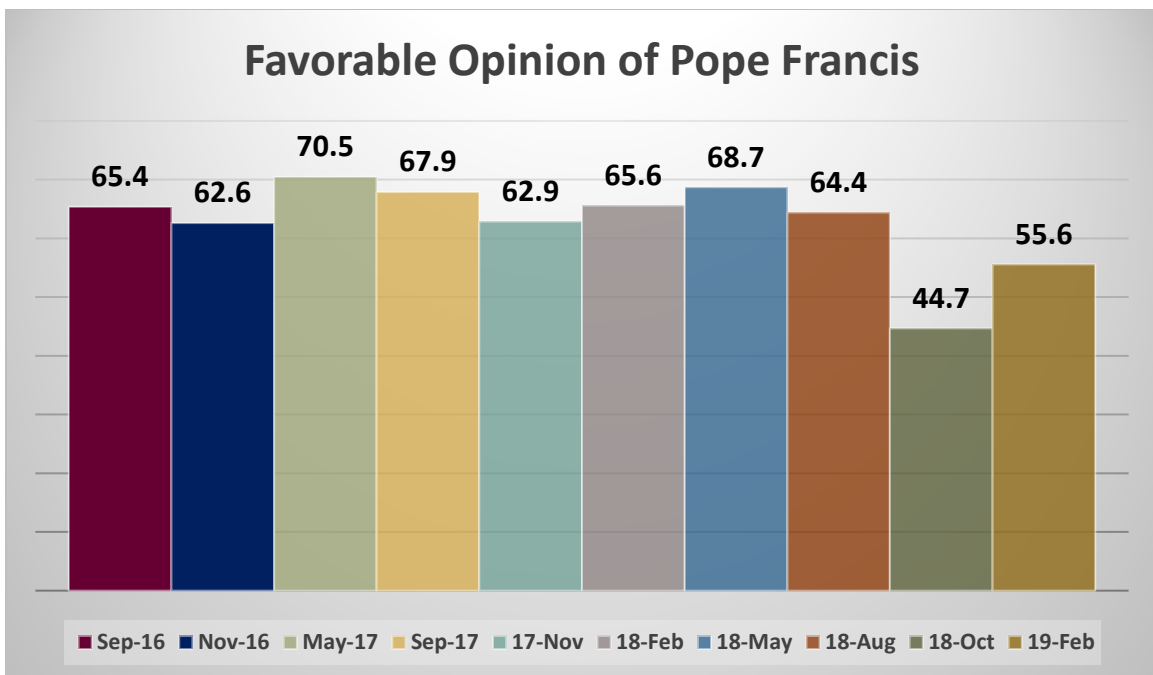


The pope's favorability rating increased to 55.6% from 44.7% in October 2018.

In Florida, Pope Francis has a 57.8% favorable rating.

Among Catholics nationally, the pope's current favorable opinion is 73.2%, compared to 69.0% in October 2018. And, down significantly from 87.4% in August 2018.

National results for those holding a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Pope Francis are presented in the following graph.



Respondents were asked to think about several of the issues the pope is addressing and to provide their opinion on how they feel he is doing. The following table holds the cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat approve nationally. Results are displayed in declining order by the approval column for February 2019. A second table displays Florida results.

National Results:

How would you rate the job Pope Francis is doing on...	Strongly & Somewhat Approve November 2017	Strongly & Somewhat Approve February 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve May 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve August 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve October 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve February 2019
Advancing the cause of the poor	65.6	66.9	64.9	65.7	52.0	59.6
Human rights	65.4	66.1	66.6	66.7	51.3	58.9
Environmental issues	53.0	55.9	55.2	58.3	45.3	46.0
Marriage and family issues	51.4	52.7	56.7	54.6	42.1	43.5
Migration / Immigration	49.8	51.3	53.0	53.8	40.6	40.9
Handling cases of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy	40.6	40.5	44.3	46.5	30.8	31.4
Handling cases of sexual abuse of nuns by priests and bishops	---	---	---	---	---	30.1

Florida Results:

How would you rate the job Pope Francis is doing on...	Strongly & Somewhat Approve November 2017	Strongly & Somewhat Approve February 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve May 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve August 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve October 2018	Strongly & Somewhat Approve February 2019
Advancing the cause of the poor	65.8	66.4	65.2	67.8	53.0	64.2
Human rights	68.5	67.8	65.8	67.6	63.5	59.8
Environmental issues	54.6	54.4	55.7	59.2	63.8	50.2
Marriage and family issues	54.2	55.2	57.1	56.2	48.4	46.6
Migration / Immigration	50.3	51.2	50.2	53.2	52.4	43.6
Handling cases of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy	43.8	40.8	41.1	46.6	34.4	35.4
Handling cases of sexual abuse of nuns by priests and bishops	---	---	---	---	---	34.6

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

The poll sought to determine how active and engaged respondents remain following the 2016 presidential election. Respondents reported if they were more active following the election, less active but still engaged, less active or almost not engaged, no longer active, or, perhaps, were never engaged in the campaign.

Results are displayed here.

Level of Engagement	National: November 2017	National: February 2018	National February 2019	Florida: November 2017	Florida: February 2018	Florida February 2019
More Active	25.8	33.9	33.8	28.2	37.2	39.4
Less active, but still engaged	24.5	25.0	24.4	26.0	27.2	21.6
Less active or almost not engaged	11.5	10.6	12.9	10.5	11.8	11.4
No longer active	5.0	4.1	2.8	6.1	3.4	3.6
Was never active/engaged in the 2016 election cycle	26.3	18.3	19.2	23.3	15.6	17.6
Unsure	6.8	8.1	6.9	5.9	4.8	6.4

ON THE DIVIDED NATION....

Respondents were asked to think about political divisions in the United States today. Several statements were presented. Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement.

The cumulative totals for those strongly or somewhat agreeing with each statement in the following table. Findings are displayed in declining order by agreement nationally.

Statements	National: Strongly & Somewhat Agree 11/2017	National: Strongly & Somewhat Agree 2/2018	National Strongly & Somewhat Agree 2/2019
We are more divided as a nation than ever before	82.1	80.1	82.0
I see democracy slipping away in the United States	65.2	68.3	68.4
I have strong trust in the mainstream news media (such as U.S. newspapers, broadcasters, and online media such as CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, Associated Press, “Washington Post”, “New York Times”) to accurately cover politics in this nation	48.4	48.3	38.8
Not all free speech patterns should be protected	35.5	42.2	34.9
I expect the outcome of the Mueller investigation on possible Russian election collusion will help heal some of the divisions in this country	---	---	32.1
I trust the statements, releases and tweets from the new White House administration	32.5	30.4	27.5
I am very optimistic about reducing political discord	49.4	33.1	27.4
At times, physical violence during demonstrations is justified	17.5	18.6	15.0
At times, property damage during demonstrations is justified	14.3	17.3	13.2
The White House administration appears to be moving us toward authoritarianism	51.9	53.3	---
I want to hear celebrities voice their political views	37.3	34.0	---

Florida Results

Statements	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Agree 11/2017	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Agree 2/2018	Florida Strongly & Somewhat Agree 2/2019
We are more divided as a nation than ever before	80.5	81.2	83.0
I see democracy slipping away in the United States	64.1	71.0	69.4
I have strong trust in the mainstream news media (such as U.S. newspapers, broadcasters, and online media such as CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, Associated Press, “Washington Post”, “New York Times”) to accurately cover politics in this nation	47.7	47.0	40.8
I expect the outcome of the Mueller investigation on possible Russian election collusion will help heal some of the divisions in this country	---	---	38.0
Not all free speech patterns should be protected	41.4	38.6	37.6
I trust the statements, releases and tweets from the new White House administration	38.5	38.0	34.6
I am very optimistic about reducing political discord	47.9	34.4	31.2
At times, physical violence during demonstrations is justified	18.7	17.6	15.6
At times, property damage during demonstrations is justified	16.0	15.6	14.0
The White House administration appears to be moving us toward authoritarianism	50.3	49.0	---
I want to hear celebrities voice their political views	37.5	35.8	---

LENT IN 2019

Respondents who reported they are Christians were asked the following regarding observing Lent: “Many Christians observe Lent, a period of around 40 days leading up to Easter, by giving up something as a form of sacrifice or penitence. Which of the following statements best describes whether you observe Lent by giving something up?” Results are displayed in the following tables.

National Results	All Christians	Catholics
I gave/will give something up for Lent this year	29.2	45.0
I have given something up for Lent in the past, but did not/will not this year	23.8	27.9
I have never given up something for Lent	37.9	17.9
Don't know / not sure	9.1	9.3

Florida Results	All Christians	Catholics
I gave/will give something up for Lent this year	29.4	45.0
I have given something up for Lent in the past, but did not/will not this year	22.8	29.8
I have never given up something for Lent	36.6	15.9
Don't know / not sure	11.2	9.3

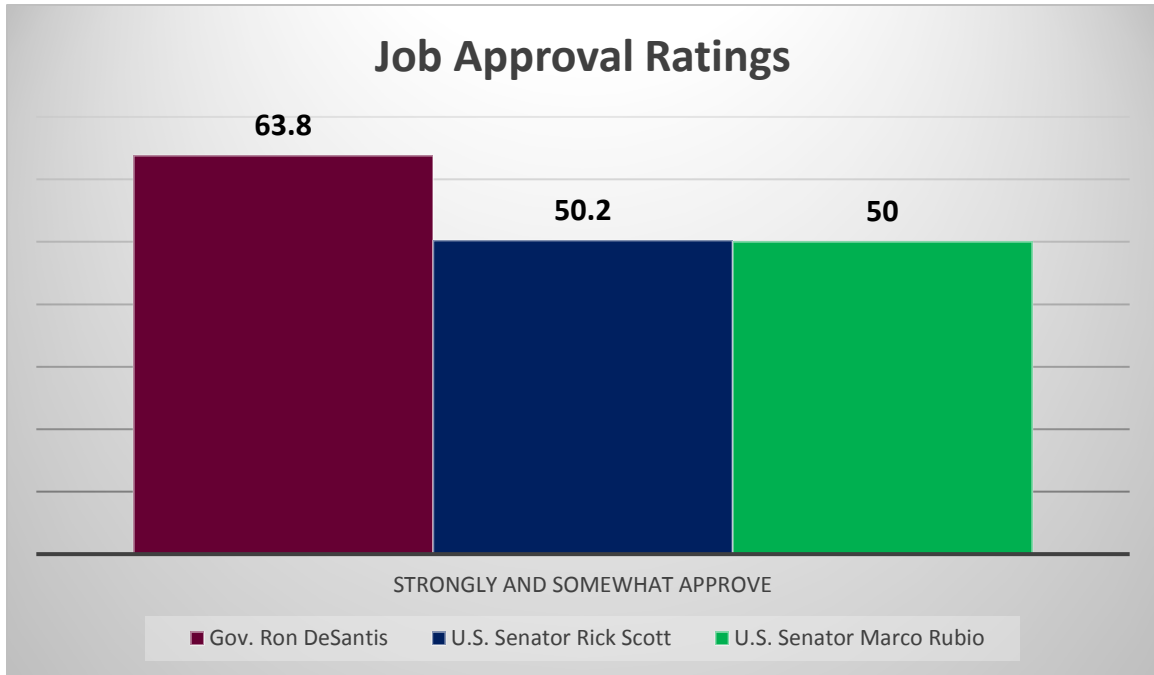
Those who did or will give something up for Lent in 2019 were asked what they gave up or will give up. The results are displayed in the following table nationally and within Florida.

National: Giving Up	All Christians	Catholics
Candy or sweets	49.9	49.5
Chocolate	30.0	27.9
Alcohol	26.2	30.4
Soda	21.5	17.6
Fast Food	17.6	14.2
Ice Cream	16.5	15.2
Swearing	16.0	16.7
Meat	16.0	16.2
Smoking	13.5	10.8
Other	9.6	10.8
Coffee	9.4	7.4
Sex	8.5	5.9
Social media such as Facebook or Twitter	8.0	4.4
Television	7.7	5.9

Florida: Giving Up	All Christians	Catholics
Candy or sweets	37.6	35.4
Chocolate	37.6	39.8
Alcohol	28.2	24.8
Soda	24.3	23.9
Swearing	22.7	23.0
Ice Cream	21.5	23.9
Fast Food	18.8	14.2
Coffee	14.9	15.0
Meat	14.4	15.0
Smoking	12.7	8.8
Social media such as Facebook or Twitter	11.6	6.2
Sex	9.9	8.8
Television	8.8	8.0
Other	4.4	4.4

FLORIDA ISSUES

All respondents were asked to rate the job several Florida elected officials were doing. Each was asked if they strongly approved, somewhat approved, somewhat disapproved or strongly disapproved of the jobs each is doing today. The following graph depicts the cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat approve.



How would you rate the job Donald Trump is doing as President? Would you say you...

	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 Strongly Approve	27.0	27.0
2 Somewhat Approve	18.0	45.0
3 Somewhat Disapprove	9.6	54.6
4 Strongly Disapprove	43.6	98.2
5 Don't know / not sure	1.8	100.0
Total	100.0	

How would you rate the job Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is doing? Would you say you...

	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 Strongly approve	27.8	27.8
2 Somewhat approve	36.0	63.8
3 Somewhat disapprove	8.6	72.4
4 Strongly disapprove	6.8	79.2
5 Unsure	20.8	100.0
Total	100.0	

How would you rate the job Florida U.S. Senator Rick Scott is doing? Would you say you...

	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 Strongly approve	24.6	24.6
2 Somewhat approve	25.6	50.2
3 Somewhat disapprove	13.8	64.0
4 Strongly disapprove	21.0	85.0
5 Unsure	15.0	100.0
Total	100.0	

How would you rate the job Florida U.S. Senator Marco Rubio is doing? Would you say you...

	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1 Strongly approve	19.8	19.8
2 Somewhat approve	30.2	50.0
3 Somewhat disapprove	19.6	69.6
4 Strongly disapprove	18.8	88.4
5 Unsure	11.6	100.0
Total	100.0	

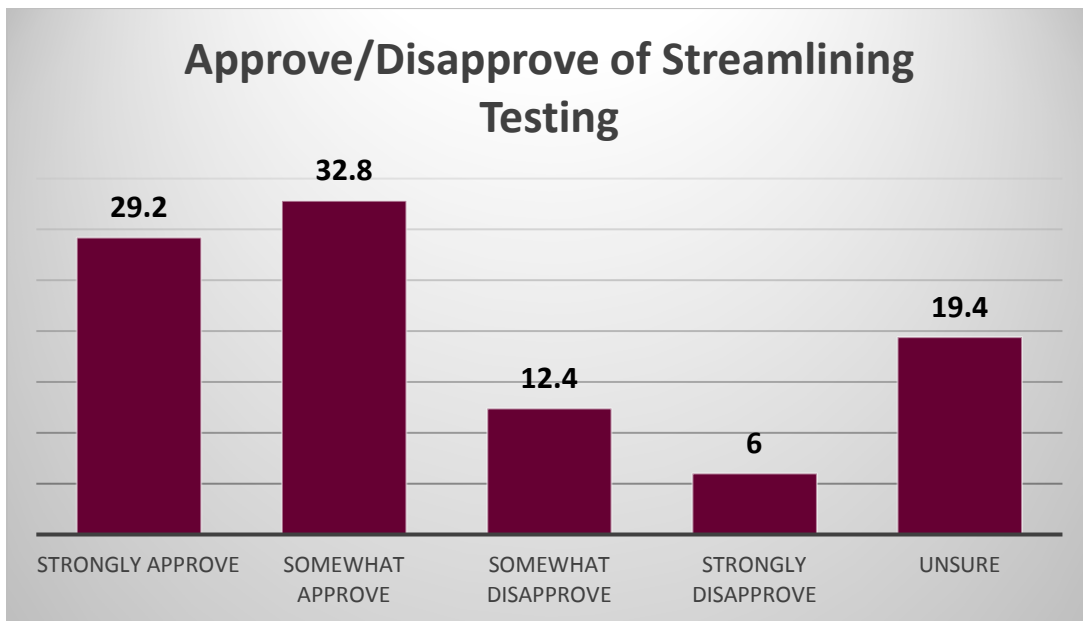
Florida respondents were asked the following:

“Governor DeSantis ordered the removal of Common Core teaching standards for language arts and math from Florida schools in favor of new Florida teaching standards that he wants developed. Which of the following statements best describe your reaction to his order?”

Multiple responses were accepted. Results are presented in the following table.

Statements	Percent
The governor is right, and we need to get rid of Common Core standards	36.0
It is over-testing of students that is the real problem and that should be fixed as opposed to Common Core standards themselves	27.2
New standards are a good idea, but it could be expensive and hard to do	16.8
Other states use Common Core, and I am afraid Florida students might be poorly prepared under new standards	11.8
Common Core standards are not the way I was taught	15.0
Unsure	22.0

Respondents were asked how strongly they approved or disapproved of Governor DeSantis directing the Florida Commissioner of Education to “streamline the testing process”. Nearly two-thirds, 62.0%, suggested they strongly or somewhat approved. Results are displayed in the following graph.



NATIONAL SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Conservative/ Moderate/Liberal	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Very conservative	13.4	12.2	13.9	19.8	11.2	14.3
Somewhat conservative	24.0	22.6	22.6	19.4	20.2	22.1
Moderate	32.5	34.9	35.9	31.0	33.4	33.6
Somewhat liberal	15.2	14.2	15.0	15.5	12.1	16.6
Very liberal	8.8	11.2	9.0	9.6	7.6	10.1
Unsure	6.1	4.9	3.6	4.7	15.4	3.3

Age	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
18-25	6.8	5.5	5.0	7.4	11.2	5.1
26-35	17.4	20.1	21.3	26.4	24.2	13.0
36-45	17.0	22.5	19.0	20.6	20.5	15.8
46-55	19.4	18.0	18.0	15.1	15.9	19.4
56-65	27.3	21.5	22.9	16.9	15.9	34.2
Over 65	12.1	12.4	13.8	13.9	12.3	12.5

How Religious?	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Very religious	23.8	19.6	18.3
Somewhat religious	35.2	32.9	37.3
Not very religious	16.7	19.5	20.4
Not at all religious	22.7	23.6	21.7
Unsure	1.6	4.5	2.3

Income	September 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Less than \$10,000	3.6	3.8	3.6	2.9	4.6	4.4	2.3
\$10,000 to less than \$40,000	21.4	21.4	19.5	18.9	21.1	24.1	18.9
\$40,000 to less than \$75,000	25.0	28.5	26.9	24.6	23.6	25.2	25.2
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	17.1	17.5	19.4	20.5	19.5	18.8	17.6
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	18.9	18.5	19.1	20.0	21.3	13.5	19.4
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	7.5	5.3	6.7	6.8	4.8	5.9	8.0
\$200,000 or more	5.3	4.0	4.2	5.6	4.1	5.3	7.3
Prefer not to disclose	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.0	2.9	1.3

Political Party Affiliation	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Republican	27.0	23.6	27.1	27.1	24.9	27.0
Democratic	30.8	30.2	31.1	31.5	24.9	31.2
Unaffiliated/ Independent / Undeclared	35.6	40.6	39.7	34.6	26.9	37.7
Some other party	1.6	1.2	0.3	2.5	8.7	2.0
Unsure	5.0	3.4	1.9	4.3	14.7	2.1

Gender	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Male	49.8	50.6	50.0	47.4	50.0	50.0
Female	50.2	49.4	50.0	52.6	50.0	50.0

Education	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Less than High School	6.2	3.8	4.1	6.6	6.4	3.5
High School / GED	8.3	8.7	8.0	9.5	11.0	8.7
Associate Degree	8.2	7.6	6.7	7.4	8.7	9.7
Some college / technical school	20.6	20.2	19.4	22.2	21.9	21.9
College / technical school graduate	36.6	36.1	39.8	32.7	31.2	34.2
Postgraduate or professional degree	19.8	23.3	21.9	21.2	20.3	21.7
Prefer not to disclose	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	---	---

Hispanic, Latin American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Mexican	September 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Yes	16.3	16.5	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.3	16.3

Ethnicity (Among Non-Hispanics)	September 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
White	64.8	64.0	66.3	70.1	65.0	64.2	68.2
Black, African-American	12.7	12.5	11.2	12.6	12.7	12.6	12.6
Asian	6.0	5.4	5.1	0.1	4.8	5.1	1.6
Aleutian, Eskimo or American Indian	0.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.4
Other	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.4
Two or more races	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Refused	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Don't know	0.6	---	---	---	---	---	---

Religion Followed	September 2017	November 2017	February 2018	May 2018	August 2018	October 2018	February 2019
Catholic	29.7	29.5	30.4	31.1	31.0	20.7	28.0
Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)	19.9	18.3	16.7	19.9	17.1	14.4	20.6
Christian (non-denominational)	18.4	19.3	19.5	20.3	19.5	20.7	18.0
Greek Orthodox	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.8	1.3	1.8
Jewish	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.9	3.4	3.5
Buddhist	0.6	1.5	0.4	0.8	0.9	2.2	0.9
Muslim	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.9
Latter Day Saints / Mormon	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8

Other	2.7	4.0	4.3	3.6	3.5	6.5	3.7
No preference	21.5	20.5	22.4	17.3	20.8	24.3	19.9
Don't know / unsure	2.5	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.6	4.2	1.9

5 APPENDIX

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey are presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable.” This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample sub-group).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.