

Saint Leo University Polling Institute Data Report: May 2018 National Politics, Views of Patriotism, and NFL Rule on the National Anthem

Part I: Introduction

All of the analyses, findings and recommendations contained within this report are the exclusive property of the Saint Leo University Polling Institute.

As required by the Code of Ethics of the National Council on Public Polls and the United States Privacy Act of 1974, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the Institute conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondent.

The poll was designed to assess public views regarding politics, issues, Pope Francis, President Trump, divisions among Americans, levels of political engagement, technology usage and cultural topics. Also, among Florida poll participants – their views on potential 2018 political candidates in the state of Florida and favorability ratings for the Governor.

The research study included survey responses from 1,000 respondents nationally and 506 respondents within Florida approximately proportional to state population contribution. The poll was conducted May 25-31, 2018. A pre-test occurred on May 25, 2018.

Selected findings from the entire survey are included in this document.

The following pages include results from the following areas:

- Job approval ratings for President Trump, Vice-President Pence, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell;
- Issues of concern;
- Job performance ratings for President Trump in specific areas;
- Levels of political engagement/activity;
- Opinions on Patriotism today; and
- Demographics.

Part II: Methodology

Using a quantitative research design, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute completed 1,000 online surveys nationally and 506 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 May 25 - 31, 2018.

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 $\pm 3.0\%$ at a 95% confidence level. A sample of 506 Florida respondents has an associated margin for error of $\pm 4.5\%$ at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite results – all 1,000 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.

Part III: Results

Broad Approval/Disapproval Levels for President and GOP Leaders

Respondents nationally, and within Florida, were asked to provide job approval ratings for President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, House Speaker Paul Ryan 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, on a percentage basis.

The overall rating for President Trump increased significantly to 46.1% from 40.7% in February 2018.

National Results

How would you rate...	National Approval September 2017	National Approval November 2017	National Approval February 2018	National Approval May 2018
The job Donald Trump is doing as President	42.8	41.2	40.7	46.1
The job Mike Pence is doing as Vice President	44.2	44.1	42.4	47.8
The job Congressman Paul Ryan is doing as Speaker of the House	33.3	36.3	35.2	42.0
The job Senator Mitch McConnell is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	28.7	27.0	31.7	35.7

Florida Results

How would you rate...	Florida Approval September 2017	Florida Approval November 2017	Florida Approval February 2018	Florida Approval May 2018
The job Donald Trump is doing as President	43.1	41.8	42.6	45.8
The job Mike Pence is doing as Vice President	50.7	46.4	46.0	47.2
The job Congressman Paul Ryan is doing as Speaker of the House	40.5	39.8	42.2	38.7
The job Senator Mitch McConnell is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	30.7	29.2	35.0	33.6

Issue Rankings

U.S. SAMPLE and NATIONAL ISSUES: All respondents were asked to name the most important issue facing the nation today. The most important issues were reported to be healthcare, jobs and the economy, immigration, government spending and terrorism/homeland security. Results are presented in the following table in declining percentage order by importance based on the composite national data from May 2018.

Issues Most Important: National Results	National November 2016	National March 2017	National September 2017	National November 2017	National February 2018	National May 2018
Jobs and the economy	29.7	26.4	19.0	17.6	18.0	18.3
Healthcare	14.6	17.4	19.2	20.9	13.7	15.9
Gun violence	3.0	2.5	1.4	6.7	9.8	9.4
Immigration	5.2	8.5	8.8	5.0	8.6	8.9
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	12.2	10.2	8.4	9.4	9.3	8.3
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	6.0	6.0	7.5	6.9	6.2	7.0
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	1.5	0.8	0.7	3.4	8.3	5.1
Declining U.S. status worldwide	3.2	3.4	4.3	3.5	4.2	4.2
Education	3.9	5.7	4.4	3.1	5.1	3.8
Terrorism	5.2	4.8	8.0	7.9	3.9	3.2
Some other issues	4.8	2.6	3.1	2.8	3.4	3.2
Don't know / not sure	2.2	3.0	2.9	4.2	1.8	3.1
Global climate change	4.5	4.0	4.2	3.1	3.1	2.9
Foreign affairs	1.1	2.0	5.0	2.4	1.9	2.6
Crime	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.1	2.2
Internet / data security	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
Energy policy	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5
International trade imbalance	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4

FLORIDA SAMPLE AND NATIONAL ISSUES: The issues most important to Florida residents are presented in the following table. The table is presented in declining percentage order, based on issue importance, for the composite data from May 2018.

Issues Most Important: Florida Results	Florida November 2016	Florida March 2017	Florida September 2017	Florida November 2017	Florida February 2018	Florida May 2018
Healthcare	12.8	19.9	17.8	22.0	16.2	15.8
Jobs and the economy	33.0	27.2	19.8	17.2	15.4	13.8
Gun violence	3.8	2.6	1.0	5.6	9.4	10.5
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	9.2	6.7	7.0	8.8	11.8	10.1
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	2.2	1.2	1.2	4.6	9.4	8.7
Immigration	6.2	9.1	7.6	7.4	8.6	7.5
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	8.4	6.9	10.0	7.6	6.8	6.1
Education	3.0	3.6	4.8	3.2	4.2	5.1
Terrorism	8.2	6.7	9.4	8.0	3.8	4.9
Declining U.S. status worldwide	3.2	3.0	4.2	3.4	3.8	3.6
Foreign affairs	1.0	2.4	2.6	2.4	1.6	3.2
Global climate change	1.4	2.6	4.6	2.2	2.2	2.6
Don't know / not sure	3.0	1.2	2.8	2.4	0.8	2.2
Some other issues	2.2	3.6	2.6	3.0	2.8	1.8
Crime	2.0	2.4	2.8	1.6	2.0	1.8
Internet / data security / ID theft	0.0	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.4	1.0
International trade imbalance	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8
Energy policy	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6

Presidential Approval Ratings by Issue or Management Topic

U. S. SAMPLE AND PRESIDENT TRUMP: The SLU poll collected the opinions of Americans on President Trump over his first 500 days in office. President Trump's national overall job approval was measured at 46.1% in May 2018 – up from 40.7% in February 2018 and 41.2% in November 2017. The following are approval ratings in specific areas. The cumulative totals for strongly & somewhat approve are presented here.

In five areas, President Trump had higher ratings than his national overall job approval rating of 46.1% -- support for the troops and military, jobs and the economy, protecting the U.S. from terrorism, handling North Korea and immigration decisions. The table is presented in declining percentage order of approval based on May 2018 national results.

How would you rate the job Donald Trump is doing on...	National: Strongly & Somewhat Approve September 2017	National: Strongly & Somewhat Approve November 2017	National: Strongly & Somewhat Approve February 2018	National Strongly & Somewhat Approve May 2018
support for the troops and the military	61.5	60.7	59.8	65.9
jobs and the economy	49.3	51.2	51.4	56.4
protecting the United States from terrorism	52.2	52.3	48.6	56.0
handling North Korea (recently added question)	---	---	34.7	50.4
immigration decisions	43.8	43.5	39.7	47.3
relations with other nations	37.8	39.3	34.7	45.0
revamping Obamacare / Affordable Care Act	38.9	39.1	38.5	44.6
the opioid crisis in the United States	39.9	42.4	35.7	44.4
handling the budget process with Congress	---	---	35.9	41.7
handling relations with Russia	35.7	37.8	31.3	40.8
handling gun violence	---	---	---	40.5
addressing racial/ethnic divisions in the nation	35.6	34.4	32.0	39.1
handling of the media	35.7	32.9	31.3	37.5
hiring or appointing personnel	---	33.6	31.5	36.5
utilizing his family members in government roles	---	---	28.3	31.6
his Twitter messages	26.1	20.8	22.1	27.8

FLORIDA SAMPLE AND PRESIDENT TRUMP – In declining percentage order of approval based on May 2018.

How would you rate the job Donald Trump is doing on...	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Approve September 2017	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Approve November 2017	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Approve February 2018	Florida: Strongly & Somewhat Approve May 2018
support for the troops and the military	69.2	62.6	60.4	64.2
jobs and the economy	57.2	54.6	55.8	57.5
protecting the United States from terrorism	60.8	56.6	52.2	56.9
handling North Korea (recently added question)	---	---	41.2	50.4
immigration decisions	46.2	48.2	45.2	46.2
the opioid crisis in the United States	46.6	45.8	43.0	46.0
revamping Obamacare / Affordable Care Act	45.8	45.2	43.8	45.5
relations with other nations	43.4	42.6	41.4	44.7
handling relations with Russia	42.2	41.2	35.0	43.1
handling the budget process with Congress	---	---	41.0	43.1
handling gun violence	---	---	---	42.1
addressing racial/ethnic divisions in the nation	40.8	38.4	36.8	41.3
hiring or appointing personnel	---	39.0	38.2	39.9
handling of the media	41.8	37.0	34.6	39.1
utilizing his family members in government roles	---	---	29.8	32.4
his Twitter messages	28.8	25.8	23.8	26.7

Political Engagement of Respondents/Preferences for Possible Future Candidates

The poll sought to determine how active respondents expect to be on behalf of their preferred political party and candidates in 2018 such as staying informed or attending events, posting on social media and volunteering and donating.

Each was asked to indicate if they expect to be very active, somewhat active, somewhat inactive or not at all active. Nearly two-thirds, 65.7%, reported they expect to be very or somewhat active in 2018.

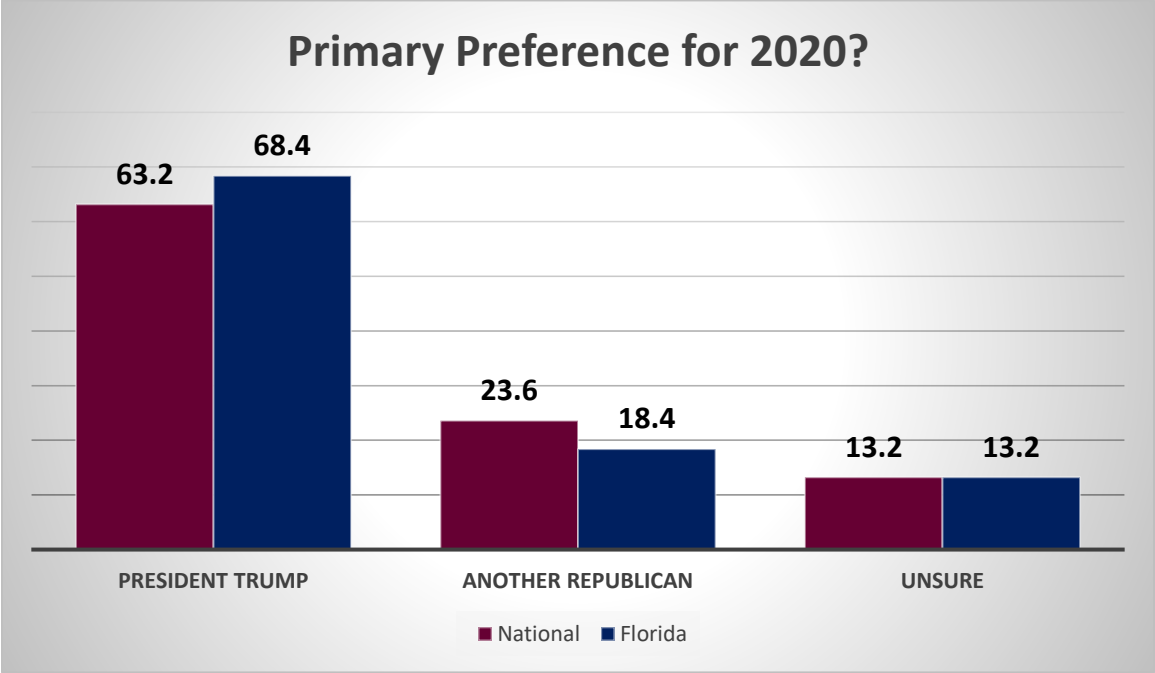
Results are displayed here in percentages.

Level of Engagement	National: May 2018	Florida: May 2018
Very active	29.3	30.2
Somewhat active	36.4	43.7
Total very and somewhat active	65.7	73.9
Somewhat inactive	14.5	9.5
Not at all active	12.4	10.7
Unsure	7.4	5.9

Democrats were asked to think ahead to 2020 and report who they would most likely support in a primary to nominate the Democratic candidate for President. A total of 15 possible candidates were presented. Results are displayed in the following table in declining percentage order by national results.

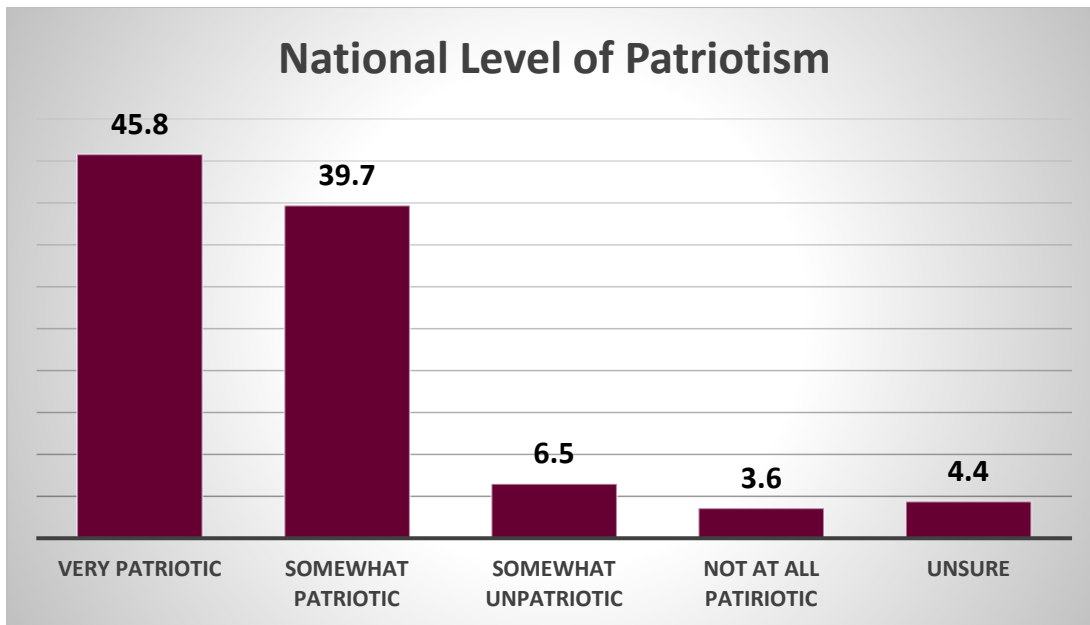
Potential Democratic Candidates	National Percent	Florida Percent
Unsure	21.0	16.9
Former Vice President Joe Biden	19.8	21.0
Oprah Winfrey	14.5	17.4
Vermont U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders	9.0	10.8
Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder	5.9	4.6
None of these	4.6	2.6
New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	4.3	1.5
California U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris	4.0	4.1
Massachusetts U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren	4.0	7.2
Montana Governor Steve Bullock	3.4	1.0
Former New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu	3.1	1.0
New Jersey U.S. Senator Cory Booker	1.9	3.1
New York U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	1.5	1.5
Connecticut U.S. Senator Chris Murphy	1.2	2.1
Ohio U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown	0.9	2.6
Other - please specify:	0.9	1.5
Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick	---	0.5
Former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe	---	0.5

Similarly, Republicans were asked about the 2020 presidential election. Each was asked if they would support President Trump or some other Republican candidate in a presidential primary contest. Results are displayed in the following graph.

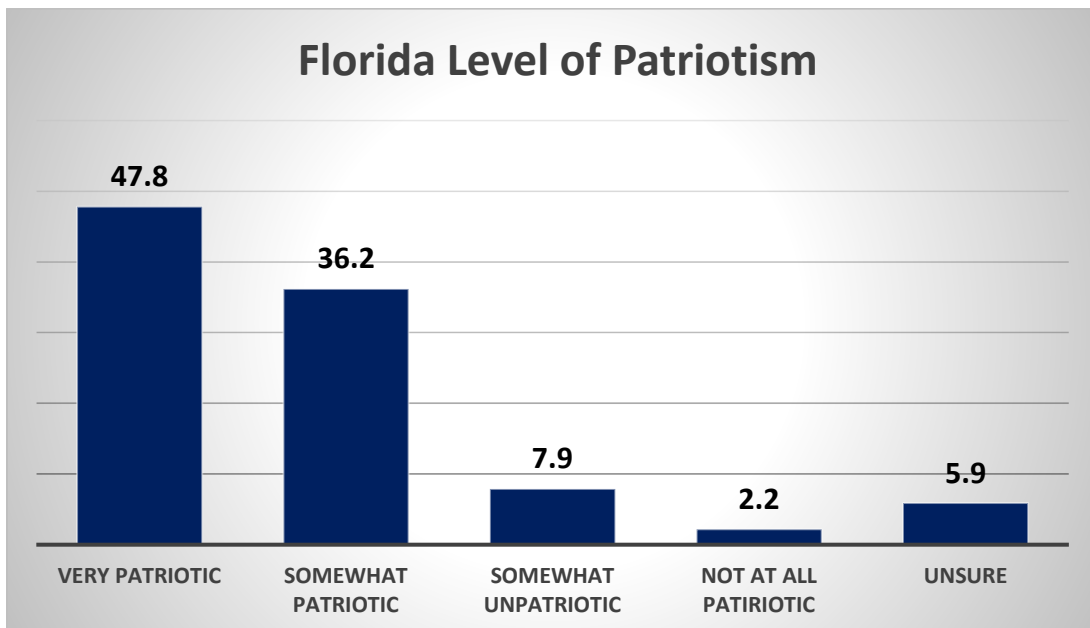


What Patriotism Means and Self-Described Levels of Patriotism

In a new poll section on patriotism, respondents were asked the following question: “**While many people have differing views on what makes someone patriotic or proud of this country, how patriotic would you say you are today? Would you say...**” A large majority, 85.5%, indicated they were very or somewhat patriotic. Results are displayed in the following graph.



In Florida, 84.0% suggested they were very or somewhat patriotic.



Respondents who reported being somewhat unpatriotic or not at all patriotic were asked to report the reasons. The following table holds the results as collected. Results are displayed in declining percentage order by national data. Multiple responses were accepted.

Reasons for Being Unpatriotic	National	Florida
President Trump	62.4	64.7
The nation is going in the wrong direction	45.5	54.9
Nation is too divided	45.5	51.0
Have little or no faith in democracy today	40.6	45.1
Just not proud of our country	40.6	33.3
Don't agree with our foreign policy	29.7	29.4
Have little or no faith in capitalism today	25.7	29.4
Nation is becoming too conservative	17.8	15.7
My political party is out of power	8.9	5.9
Nation is becoming too liberal	8.9	11.8
Unsure	8.9	9.8
I'm a nationalist and America is too involved overseas	7.9	13.7

Among those who reported being very or somewhat patriotic, the reasons are displayed in the following table. Results are shown in declining percentage order by national data. Multiple responses were accepted.

Reasons for Being Patriotic	National	Florida
The men and women serving in the military make me proud	55.6	60.2
The humanitarian / charitable nature of Americans – willing to help each other in times of need and disasters	43.2	41.9
We live in a strong democracy	41.2	36.0
Our nation remains a beacon – attractive to people worldwide	41.1	39.5
While not perfect, our institutions work well	35.7	35.3
Our entrepreneurial “can do” nature of innovation and invention	33.9	31.8
I have faith in capitalism today	28.8	26.4
President Trump	28.3	28.7
The economy is booming	25.6	24.9
The nation is moving in the right direction	25.5	26.1
We're taking a lead in foreign relations once again	23.7	22.4
My political party is in power	14.0	14.8
Unsure	3.6	3.8

Respondents were asked how their level of patriotism may have changed over the past 16 months. Each was asked if the level increased, has not changed and remained strong, has not changed and remains low or declined. Results are displayed here.

Patriotism Over 16 Past Months	National	Florida
Increased	20.8	22.5
Has not changed and remains strong	49.1	43.3
Total: increased/remains strong	69.9	65.8
Has not changed but remains low	11.3	11.5
Declined	11.4	16.6
Total: remains low/declined	22.7	28.1
Unsure	7.4	6.1

Respondents were asked to report which patriotic acts they do from time-to-time or regularly. Results are displayed in the following table in declining order by national data.

Patriotic Acts	National	Florida
Vote on a regular basis	69.5	69.4
Thank a veteran for his/her service	54.9	58.3
Own an American flag	48.3	45.1
Try to buy American-made goods	46.9	50.4
Fly or display an American flag at home outside or inside	35.8	35.2
Attend community parades on holidays as Veterans or Memorial Day	27.7	23.7
Defend the greatness of the nation in discussions and arguments	25.7	31.0
Tear up or get a lump in your throat at the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner"	25.1	26.1
Contribute funds to veteran support groups	20.1	20.9
Contribute funds to groups or causes known to be patriotic in their mission	15.2	13.8
Post, re-post or tweet patriotic or pro-American messages on social media	15.0	17.2
Serve / served in the military	14.4	15.4

Pride in being an American was measured using 10-point scale where 1 was a great amount of pride and 10 was no pride at all.

Ratings of 1-4 (strong pride) were recorded at 52.8% nationally with 33.1% offering ratings of 7-10 (little to no pride)

In Florida, 53.4% offered ratings of 1-4 (strong pride) with 32.6% offering ratings of 7-10 (little to no pride).

The poll included a concluding section question which asked which characteristics described a “patriotic American.” The results are presented here in declining percentage order by national data. Multiple responses were accepted.

Patriotic Acts	National	Florida
Votes on a regular basis	66.0	68.6
Thanks veterans for their service	57.9	61.7
Speaks out against the government when he/she believes it is wrong	45.9	45.7
Tries to buy American-made goods when possible	45.7	47.8
Serve/served in the military	42.8	44.7
Flies or displays an American flag at home outside or insides	40.0	40.5
Owns an American flag	39.3	38.3
Speaks out against a president when in disagreement	38.8	35.4
Defends the greatness of the nation in discussions and arguments	36.9	42.9
Serves/served on a jury	34.9	35.2
Attends community parades on such as Veterans or Memorial Day	32.0	26.9
Contributes funds to veteran support groups	30.9	30.2
Contributes funds to groups or causes known to be patriotic in their mission	24.3	21.9
Tears up or gets a lump in their throat at the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner”	23.2	25.1
Posts, re-posts or tweets patriotic or pro-American messages on social media	14.5	13.4
Attends anti-Trump rallies	10.4	10.9
Works to impeach a sitting president	9.9	10.5
Attends protests	9.7	14.0

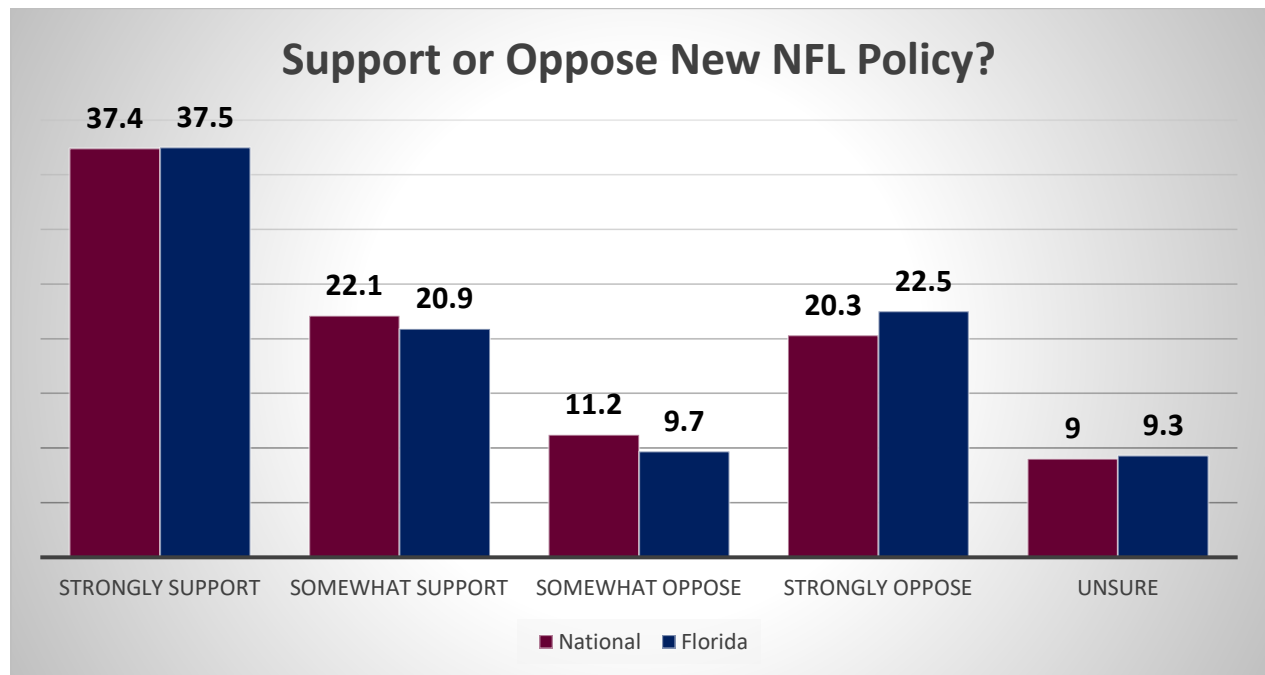
National Football League Policy on Forms of Player Protest

Respondents were presented with the following information and question regarding the new NFL policy:

“The NFL’s new policy, which received unanimous approval from its 32 owners, allows players to stay in the locker room during the national anthem if they choose, but requires any player on the field to stand at attention during the anthem. Teams are subject to fines if their players kneel or fail to show respect for the flag, and teams also have the right to fine their own players.

How strongly do you support or oppose the new, May 2018, NFL policy? Would you say...”

Support for the new policy (somewhat or strongly supporting) was recorded at 59.5% as shown in the following graph. Those opposed (somewhat or strongly) accounted for 31.5%.



- End of this report on these topics -