

Politics, Pope Francis, Faith in Politics, the COVID Pandemic, and the 2021 Holidays

2021



A National Poll of Americans
Saint Leo University Polling Institute
October 2021

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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, Pope Francis and the Catholic Church, COVID-19, the 2021 holidays and demographics. Among Florida poll participants – job ratings for the Governor and U.S. Senators, rating the Governor’s performance on the COVID pandemic response and, views on an abortion law for Florida.

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 October 17 - 23, 2021. A pre-test occurred on October 17, 2021.

The national poll included the following areas for investigation:

- Job approval ratings for President Biden, Vice-President Harris, Speaker Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer;
- Issues of concern;
- 2024 Presidential Primary preferences among Democrats and Republicans;
- Impressions of Pope Francis and the Catholic Church;
- Views on using faith in political decision-making;
- Views on the COVID pandemic;
- Holiday 2021 plans;
- Among Florida poll respondents, views on state leaders and the Governor’s performance on the COVID pandemic;
- 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 online surveys among Florida residents. Florida respondents were all likely voters.

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 October 17-23, 2021.

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 1000 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 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

ON POLITICS, CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS...

President Biden’s approval ratings dropped significantly to 52.1% in October 2021 from 60.9% in February 2021.

Fewer than a majority, 47.3%, approved of the job Vice-President Harris is doing. Lower approval ratings were recorded for Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer – 39.3% (down from 46.6% in February 2021 and 38.7% (down from 44.2% in February 2021), respectively.

The issue of jobs and the economy overtook concerns over the COVID-19 Pandemic as the leading issue in October 2021.

In a question regarding “notable and possible candidates” for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2024, Kamala Harris (42.0%), Michelle Obama (34.4%), Bernie Sanders (22.9%), Stacey Abrams (22.3%), Elizabeth Warren (18.5%), and Pete Buttigieg (14.3%) led the group of named Democrats.

In a question regarding “notable and possible candidates” for the Republican presidential nomination in 2024, Donald Trump (53.1%), Mike Pence (31.7%), Ron DeSantis (25.1%), Ted Cruz (19.9%), Donald Trump Jr. (19.6%), Nikki Haley (17.0%) led the group of named Republicans.

Notable and Possible Republican Candidates	National February 2021	National October 2021	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
Donald Trump	51.9	53.1	48.6	56.4
Mike Pence	34.8	31.7	28.6	25.0
Ron DeSantis	15.2	25.1	41.1	52.9
Ted Cruz	30.4	19.9	29.7	26.7
Donald Trump Jr.	22.6	19.6	22.3	17.4
Nikki Haley	23.3	17.0	25.7	16.3

In a similar question without Donald Trump, the following led the group: Mike Pence (30.3%), Donald Trump Jr. (26.9%), Ron DeSantis (24.4%), Ted Cruz (18.8%), and Nikki Haley (15.1%). Among just Florida Republican respondents, Ron DeSantis leads all other potential candidates at 54.7%.

Notable and Possible Republican Candidates	National February 2021	National October 2021	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
Mike Pence	37.8	30.3	34.9	24.4
Donald Trump Jr.	26.3	26.9	30.9	25.6
Ron DeSantis	18.1	24.4	42.3	54.7
Ted Cruz	29.3	18.8	29.7	20.3
Nikki Haley	23.0	15.1	24.6	15.1
Mitt Romney	10.0	13.7	10.3	7.6

ON POPE FRANCIS, FAITH AND POLITICS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH...

Overall favorable opinion (strongly and somewhat) of the Catholic Church in the United States was 47.7% -- up slightly from 46.6% in February 2021. Among Catholics, the favorable opinion (strongly and somewhat) was recorded at 75.0% -- down from 81.2% in February 2021 and from 76.4% in October 2020.

The favorability rating for Pope Francis has moved to 54.0% -- down slightly from 55.6% in February 2021. Among Catholics nationally, the pope's favorable opinion rating is 73.2% -- down from 79.3% in February 2021 and 79.9% in October 2020.

A large majority, 68.5%, suggested they strongly (47.4%) or somewhat (21.1%) supported the pope's statement urging everyone to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

Just over one-third, 36.3%, suggested the pope's urging vaccinations had significant (17.2%) or some influence (19.1%) in their own decision-making.

Survey respondents are split on denying communion to leading politicians who support legal access to abortion. Two-fifths (42.4%) oppose while 38.6% are in support of denying communion to leading politicians who support legal access to abortion.

There exists moderate to strong agreement (strongly and somewhat) for three statements about faith in politics...

- Politicians are right to use faith when making policy – 44.4% agree
- It is important to me that politicians are spiritual and have deep faith – 53.1% agree
- Too many politicians use public displays of faith to gain votes and promote their image – 68.2% agree

ON THE COVID PANDEMIC....

A large majority of respondents, 77.5%, remain very or somewhat concerned about the COVID-19 virus.

A strong majority, 82.1%, indicated they have been or plan to be vaccinated against the virus. Some, 14.6%, suggested they have no plans to be vaccinated.

The leading reasons for not being vaccinated included: concerns over vaccine safety, conflicting views of various health agencies and political leaders, and having had the virus so have the antibodies.

When asked what those unvaccinated may need to see in order to get vaccinated, 54.1% suggested “Nothing, I am opposed to getting the vaccination”. Another 24.7% wanted to see more research.

The strongest agreement on several statements related to COVID-19 was found for the following:

- I am still taking precautions due to COVID-19 – 81.4% agree
- I am willing to reveal my vaccination status to friends and family – 78.2% agree
- I tend to trust science and health officials when it comes to COVID information – 71.9% agree
- Compromised immunity or health exemptions from mandates should be allowed – 68.8% agree
- I am willing to reveal my vaccination status to authorities such as government officials -- 68.4% agree

Impacts of COVID-19 on Americans appear significant. Many worked from home (32.7%), lost a friend or relative (25.1%), lost income (23.8%), depleted savings (19.8%) or had employment hours reduced (17.3%).

Respondents were reminded that some Americans may have felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic economically while others may not have. Over one-half, 52.7%, indicated they saved for rainy days prior to COVID-19 and will continue to do so. Another 23.3% suggested the virus prompted them to plan for and save for that “rainy day”. Some (13.9%), however, noted they are not in a financial position to save and do worry about the next financial crisis.

ON THE 2021 HOLIDAYS...

Most Americans surveyed, 79.5%, plan to celebrate Christmas in 2021. This is down from 88.9% in 2019.

Two-fifths (39.9%) see Christmas as mostly or all cultural while 20.9% see the holiday as mostly or all religious. Some see Christmas as evenly cultural and religious.

The preferred holiday greeting remains “Merry Christmas” (73.5%) followed by “Happy Holidays” (18.7%) and “Season’s Greetings” (4.5%).

Nearly two-thirds (64.9%) agreed (somewhat or strongly) that while they enjoy Christmas, they are usually glad when it is over.

While 12.5% view holiday greetings they receive as very or somewhat offensive, another 78.9% see the greetings received as very or somewhat welcomed.

The survey asked residents for a thumbs up or thumbs down on few holiday traditions. Thumbs up outnumbered thumbs down on real Christmas trees (65.9% to 26.2%) and mistletoe (64.8% to 22.9%). Thumbs down outnumbered thumbs up on fruitcake (39.2% to 55.8%) and roasting chestnuts (38.5% to 42.0%).

The favorite flavor / tradition was recorded for eggnog (20.3%) followed by gingerbread (19.2%), peppermint (15.8%) and pumpkin spice (12.5%).

Just over one-half, 50.7%, plan to travel for Christmas this year while 43.4% have no plans to travel.

One-third of all Americans surveyed, 32.4%, noted they will be making New Year’s resolutions this year for 2022. Favorite resolutions continue to be losing weight, saving more money, exercising more and traveling more.

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, CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

All respondents were asked to provide job performance ratings for Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Nancy Pelosi, and Chuck Schumer. Each was asked if they strongly approved, somewhat approved, somewhat disapproved or strongly disapproved of the job they were doing.

The following table holds the cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat approve in the February and October 2021 polls.

How would you rate...	National Approval February 2021	National Approval October 2021	Florida Approval February 2021	Florida Approval October 2021
The job Joe Biden is doing as President	60.9	52.1	56.0	54.4
The job Kamala Harris is doing as Vice President	55.2	47.3	51.4	49.6
The job Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi is doing as Speaker of the House	46.6	39.3	43.4	43.8
The job Chuck Schumer is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	44.2	38.7	40.8	39.8

All respondents were asked to name the most important issue facing the nation today. The most important issues were reported to be the COVID-19 Pandemic, jobs and the economy, healthcare, government spending, and immigration. Results are presented in the following table in declining order by importance based on the composite national data from October 2021. Two issues, inflation and border security are new. Jobs and the economy surpassed concerns over COVID in the current poll compared to February results.

Issues Most Important	National February 2019	National April 2019	National November 2019	National February 2020	National October 2020	National February 2021	National October 2021
Jobs and the economy	15.4	14.4	14.4	15.1	22.8	23.0	26.3
COVID-19 Pandemic	---	---	---	---	37.1	41.4	17.8
Healthcare	15.9	20.5	18.7	21.8	10.6	7.3	12.1
Government spending / federal budget deficit	13.3	8.3	8.7	9.5	4.3	6.0	7.5
Global climate change	6.5	3.6	9.3	8.6	3.9	2.4	6.3
Immigration	14.0	18.3	11.6	10.0	2.3	3.4	5.2
Education	4.2	3.9	3.6	4.8	1.6	1.6	4.0
Some other issues	3.6	2.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.3	2.8
Inflation	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.8
Border security	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.8
Crime	1.8	2.2	3.4	2.7	3.1	1.7	2.5
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	4.0	5.6	4.8	4.4	2.1	1.7	2.5
Declining U.S. status worldwide	3.9	3.7	4.3	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.2
Terrorism	1.7	3.1	2.7	2.4	1.0	1.1	1.7
Gun violence	6.3	3.7	5.5	4.4	1.2	0.9	1.6
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	3.3	3.4	3.2	2.7	0.6	0.7	1.2
Energy policy	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5
Internet / data security	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.3	0.5
Foreign affairs	1.0	2.0	2.1	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.3
International trade imbalance	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.2

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 October 2021. In Florida, concern over the COVID-19 pandemic continues to decline while concern over jobs and the economy reappears as the leading issue of concern.

Issues Most Important	Florida February 2019	Florida April 2019	Florida November 2019	Florida February 2020	Florida October 2020	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
Jobs and the economy	11.8	13.2	11.2	14.9	22.6	26.4	21.6
COVID-19 Pandemic	----	---	---	---	38.0	32.2	20.6
Healthcare	19.8	18.4	20.8	22.3	11.4	10.0	9.4
Government spending and the federal budget deficit	10.0	7.0	8.6	8.3	3.2	7.2	8.0
Immigration	17.8	16.8	14.4	9.8	2.6	6.6	7.8
Border security	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.4
Global climate change	3.0	5.4	7.2	8.6	2.2	1.2	4.2
Homeland security and anti-terror policy	6.2	5.8	4.0	4.7	2.6	2.4	2.8
Education	1.8	3.6	3.2	4.0	1.8	2.4	2.8
Inflation	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.8
Gun violence	6.0	6.6	3.2	5.1	1.2	0.2	2.4
Some other issues	2.8	3.0	4.0	4.3	3.8	2.4	2.2
Terrorism	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.1	0.8	1.0	2.2
Crime	1.6	1.4	3.0	1.9	3.6	2.0	1.4
Declining U.S. status worldwide	5.8	4.8	3.8	3.7	2.4	2.2	1.2
Gun control / Second Amendment rights	4.0	4.4	4.0	3.7	0.6	0.8	1.2
Internet / data security / ID theft	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2
Foreign affairs	1.6	1.0	3.0	1.9	0.4	0.4	1.0
Energy policy	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.8
International trade imbalance	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.0

The following are the notable and possible candidates for the Democratic nomination to run for president of the United States in 2024. Democrats were asked which of the following they could support in a future primary. Results are presented in declining order by national October data. Multiple responses were accepted.

Notable and Possible Democratic Candidates	National February 2021	National October 2021	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
Kamala Harris	61.3	42.0	56.5	47.9
Michelle Obama	41.9	34.4	37.6	41.1
Bernie Sanders	26.8	22.9	18.8	23.2
Stacey Abrams	26.1	22.3	28.2	20.0
Elizabeth Warren	21.6	18.5	14.7	17.9
Cory Booker	18.7	17.2	20.6	15.8
Pete Buttigieg	23.5	14.3	22.9	12.1
Amy Klobuchar	12.3	12.4	12.4	11.6
Michael Bennet	8.4	11.8	11.8	9.5
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	11.6	10.5	11.2	11.1
Joe Kennedy	6.8	10.2	13.3	11.1
Gavin Newsom	5.2	9.6	4.1	6.8
Andrew Cuomo	18.1	9.2	20.0	11.6
None of these	7.4	8.0	8.8	10.5
Andy Beshear	6.8	7.0	6.5	6.8
Jay Inslee	3.2	6.1	5.3	4.2
Gretchen Whitmer	8.7	5.4	4.7	6.3
Michelle Lujan Grisham	5.2	4.5	2.4	2.6
J.B Pritzker	3.2	4.5	3.5	4.7
Andrew Yang	10.3	---	11.2	---

The following are the notable and possible candidates for the Republican nomination to run for president of the United States in 2024. Republican respondents were asked which of the following they could support in a future primary. Results are presented in declining order by national October data. Multiple responses were accepted.

Notable and Possible Republican Candidates	National February 2021	National October 2021	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
Donald Trump	51.9	53.1	48.6	56.4
Mike Pence	34.8	31.7	28.6	25.0
Ron DeSantis	15.2	25.1	41.1	52.9
Ted Cruz	30.4	19.9	29.7	26.7
Donald Trump Jr.	22.6	19.6	22.3	17.4
Nikki Haley	23.3	17.0	25.7	16.3
Greg Abbott	14.8	14.1	8.6	11.6
Tucker Carlson	9.6	11.8	14.9	11.6
Mitt Romney	10.4	11.4	8.0	10.5
Tom Cotton	15.9	10.0	10.9	9.3
Ivanka Trump	14.1	10.0	16.6	12.2
Mike Pompeo	11.5	10.0	13.7	8.1
Marco Rubio	15.6	9.6	18.9	18.0
Tim Scott	8.1	9.2	6.3	6.4
Paul Ryan	10.7	8.9	7.4	5.8
None of these	7.4	8.5	10.3	5.8
Candace Owens	10.4	8.1	12.6	7.0
John Kasich	7.0	7.7	5.7	2.9
Dan Crenshaw	11.9	6.6	9.7	8.1
Mike DeWine	5.2	6.6	4.0	4.1
Condi Rice	15.2	6.3	10.9	10.5
Chris Christie	8.5	5.2	10.3	6.4
Rick Scott	11.5	4.8	22.3	16.3
Matt Gaetz	6.3	3.7	16.6	4.7
Josh Hawley	12.6	3.3	8.0	1.7
Mike Lee	4.1	3.3	4.0	2.9
Mike Lindell	4.1	3.3	5.1	1.7
Larry Hogan	3.7	2.6	2.3	3.5
Ben Sasse	3.7	0.7	1.1	1.7

The same question was posed to respondents that did not include former President Trump. Each was asked which of the following they could support in a future primary. Results are displayed in declining order by national October data. Multiple responses were accepted.

Home state favorites, for Florida respondents, are Ron DeSantis (54.7%) and Rick Scott (13.4%).

Notable and Possible Republican Candidates	National February 2021	National October 2021	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
Mike Pence	37.8	30.3	34.9	24.4
Donald Trump Jr.	26.3	26.9	30.9	25.6
Ron DeSantis	18.1	24.4	42.3	54.7
Ted Cruz	29.3	18.8	29.7	20.3
Nikki Haley	23.0	15.1	24.6	15.1
Mitt Romney	10.0	13.7	10.3	7.6
Ivanka Trump	15.9	12.2	19.4	13.4
Tucker Carlson	10.7	11.1	13.1	10.5
None of these	10.7	11.1	10.9	7.0
Greg Abbott	13.3	10.7	8.6	7.6
Marco Rubio	15.2	8.9	19.4	16.9
Mike Pompeo	12.2	8.9	12.0	8.7
Tim Scott	8.5	8.9	10.3	5.8
Candace Owens	13.0	8.5	13.1	7.0
Paul Ryan	10.4	8.1	8.0	3.5
Chris Christie	7.0	8.1	6.3	6.4
Tom Cotton	14.1	7.7	13.1	11.6
Condi Rice	13.3	7.4	10.9	9.3
Dan Crenshaw	13.0	6.3	9.7	6.4
John Kasich	7.4	6.3	5.7	2.3
Rick Scott	9.6	4.8	23.4	13.4
Mike DeWine	4.4	4.8	5.1	4.7
Josh Hawley	11.1	4.1	8.0	2.9
Matt Gaetz	6.7	3.0	12.6	3.5
Mike Lindell	4.4	3.0	4.6	2.9
Larry Hogan	2.6	2.2	2.3	2.3
Mike Lee	2.2	2.2	4.6	2.9
Ben Sasse	4.1	1.5	1.1	1.7

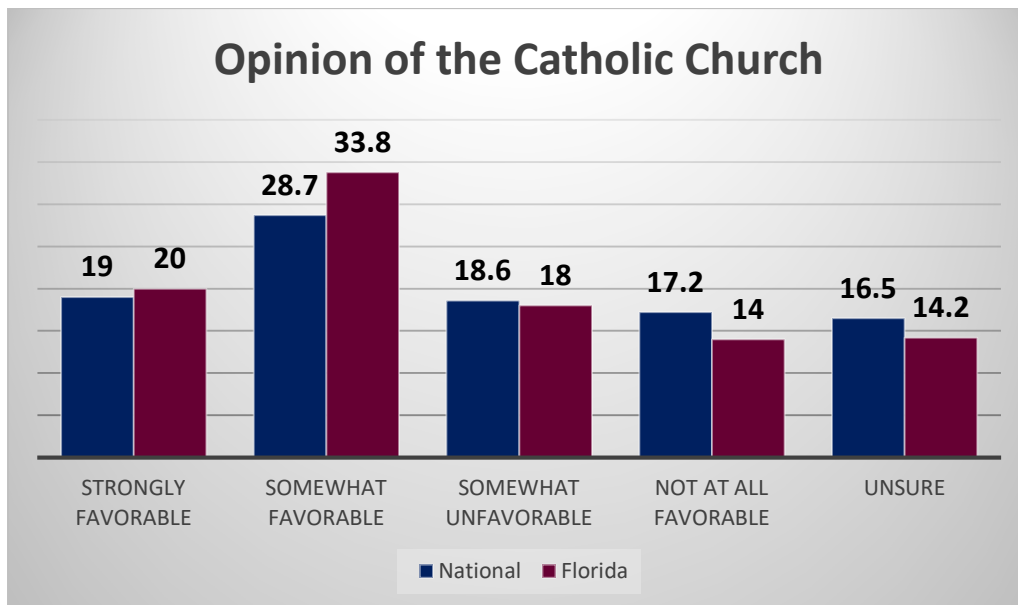
POPE FRANCIS, FAITH IN POLITICS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

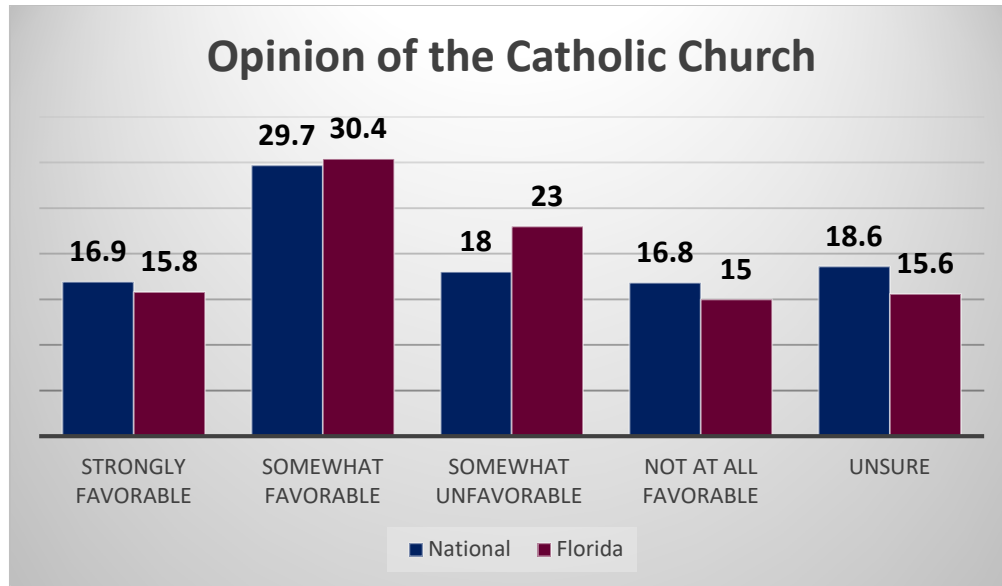
The cumulative total favorable opinion (strongly and somewhat) nationally was 47.7% -- up slightly from 46.6% in February 2021.

In Florida, the favorable opinion of the Catholic Church was 53.8% -- up from 46.2% February 2021.

October 2021 Results



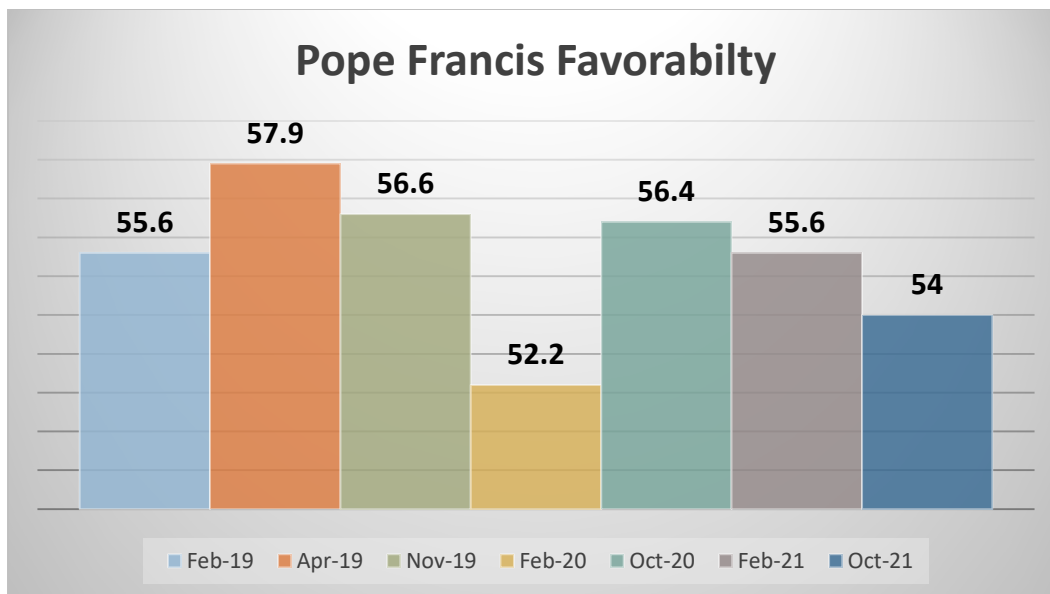
February 2021 Results



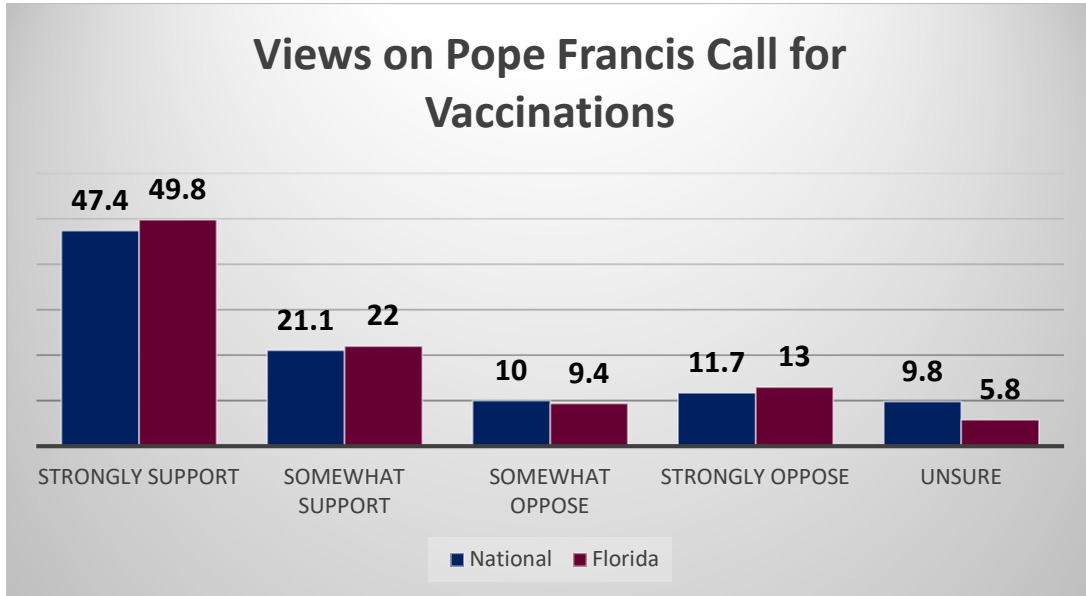
The pope’s favorability rating decreased slightly to 54.0% from 55.6% in February 2021.

In Florida, Pope Francis has a 54.5% favorability rating – down slightly from 56.0% in February 2021. Among Catholics nationally, the pope’s current favorable opinion is 73.2% -- down from 79.3% in February 2021 and 79.9% in October 2020.

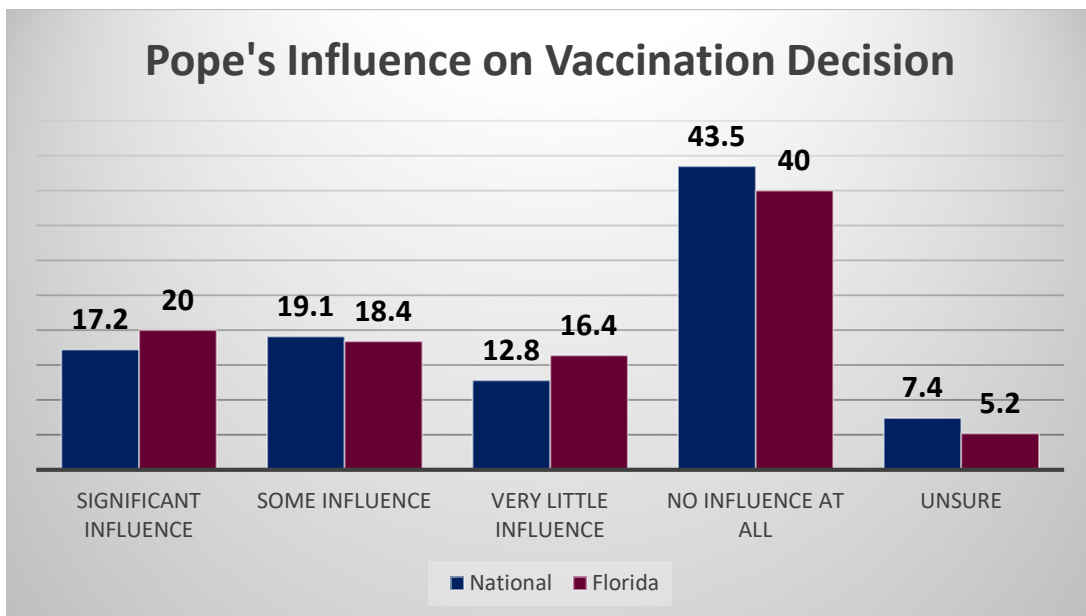
National results for those holding a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Pope Francis are presented in the following graph.



Pope Francis urged everyone to get vaccinated, if available, against the COVID-19 virus. Respondents were asked how strongly they supported or opposed his statement calling for vaccinations. Nationally, a large percent, 68.5%, supported the statement. The results are displayed in the following graph.

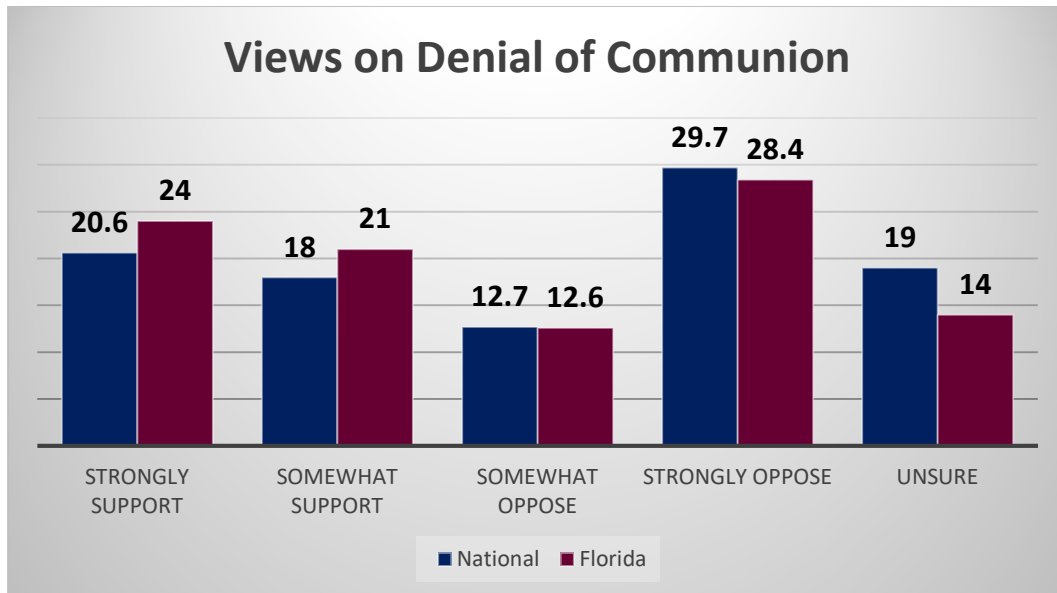


Respondents were asked how much influence the pope’s statement urging vaccinations would have had or did have on them in their own decision making. Just over one-third, 36.3%, suggested the pope’s statement would have had significant or some influence. Results are displayed in the following graph.



Respondents were presented with the following: “Some leading politicians are pro-choice while others are pro-life. The Catholic Church opposes abortion. How strongly would you say you support or oppose the practice of denying Communion to leading politicians who support legal access to abortion? Would you say...?”

Nearly two-fifths (38.6%) support the denial of Communion to leading politicians who support legal access to abortion. The following table holds the results as collected.



Faith in Politics

All respondents were presented with a few statements about faith and politics. For each, respondents were asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing are presented in the following table which holds results for both February 2021 and October 2021. Several questions were not posed to respondents in October 2021.

Statements on Faith in Politics	National February 2021	National October 2021	Florida February 2021	Florida October 2021
President Biden should use his faith to guide him in decision-making	56.4	---	55.8	---
Politicians are right to use faith when making policy	53.1	44.4	55.4	46.8
It is important to me that politicians are spiritual and have deep faith	54.8	53.1	59.6	58.2
I'm OK with politicians citing scripture while making an argument or taking a position	54.4	---	57.2	---
Too many politicians use public displays of faith to gain votes and promote their image	65.6	68.2	65.6	69.8
Despite whom, in the end, I supported or how I voted in 2020, President Biden's Catholic Faith made me more inclined to support his candidacy	30.3	---	32.4	---

THE COVID PANDEMIC

The following are several questions about COVID-19 and the coronavirus pandemic.

All respondents were asked how concerned they were about the pandemic. The following table holds the results as collected.

Concern Level Over COVID-19	National October 2020	National October 2021	Florida October 2020	Florida October 2021
Very concerned	46.1	41.0	52.8	42.2
Somewhat concerned	33.8	36.5	31.0	39.2
Total Concerned	79.9	77.5	83.8	81.4
Somewhat unconcerned	9.5	10.4	8.4	8.0
Not at all concerned	9.3	10.7	7.0	10.2
Total Unconcerned	18.8	21.1	15.4	18.2
Unsure / Don't know	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.4

All respondents were asked which of several positions on the COVID-19 vaccination best reflected where they were currently. Results are displayed in the following table.

Current Vaccination Status	National October 2021	Florida October 2021
I have received the first of two vaccination shots	18.8	17.8
I have received both vaccination shots	50.0	52.2
I have received the single-dose vaccination	6.0	4.8
I have not received one or both shots but plan to do so	7.3	7.4
Total Receiving or Planning to Receive the Shots	82.1	82.2
I will not be receiving the vaccination shots	14.6	14.0
Unsure	2.5	3.0
I prefer not to answer	0.8	0.8

Those who did not receive or plan to receive a vaccination were asked for the reasons. These results are displayed in the following table. Reasons are shown in declining order by national frequency of mention.

Reasons for Not Receiving the Vaccination	National October 2021	February October 2021
Have concerns over the safety of the vaccinations	60.3	71.4
Conflicting views of various health care agencies and political leaders	32.9	30.0
I have had COVID-19 already, so I have the antibodies	21.9	18.6
Medical reasons	16.4	11.4
Religious reasons	14.4	15.7
Other	6.2	7.1
Unsure	5.5	2.9

Those unvaccinated and unwilling to receive the vaccination were asked what they needed to see, if anything, in order to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Results are displayed here in declining order by national results.

What Will You Need to See to Receive Vaccination?	National October 2021	February October 2021
Nothing, I am opposed to getting the vaccination	54.1	52.9
More research on resulting effects of vaccinations	24.7	28.6
More on reasons why those who have already had COVID-19 need to be vaccinated	13.0	8.6
Clearer and more consistent advice from health care agencies and political leaders	12.3	5.7
Unsure	8.9	8.6
If forced to because of work	6.8	7.1
Fewer restrictions - more freedoms	5.5	10.0
Other	2.7	1.4

The following are several statements about the COVID pandemic in the United States. For each, respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The table holds the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing with each statement.

COVID Statements	National October 2021	Florida October 2021
I tend to trust science and health officials when it comes to COVID information	71.9	75.6
I am still taking precautions due to the COVID	81.4	83.8
Regardless of my current vaccination status, it distresses me that I have heard some vaccines use fetal tissue or fetal cells	46.4	48.4
Things for me are relatively back to normal or back to where they were before the pandemic	54.7	61.0
I support “passports” (proof of vaccinations) in my community to get into restaurants, concerts or sporting events	58.0	58.4
I support mandating that employers (over 100 employees) require vaccinations among their workforces	58.6	60.6
I support mandating that teachers are vaccinated	62.2	64.8
I support mandating that health care workers are vaccinated	65.7	66.8
Religious exemptions from mandates should be allowed	52.3	52.8
Compromised immunity or health exemptions from mandates should be allowed	68.8	71.0
Those who have already had COVID-19 or have the antibodies to COVID-19 should receive an exemption from mandates	47.5	50.4
Those who are unvaccinated should pay higher health insurance rates than those vaccinated	52.5	52.4
Those who are unvaccinated should be last in line for health care services	41.4	44.4
I am willing to reveal my vaccination status to authorities such as government officials	68.4	69.0
I am willing to reveal my vaccination status to friends and family	78.2	81.0
Professional sports players should be vaccinated to play	61.5	60.6
Attendees at sporting or entertainment events – indoors or outdoors – should be vaccinated	62.4	63.8
My opinion of professional sports figures and celebrities who refuse vaccinations has diminished	52.3	54.8
I will have less money to spend over the coming holidays because of the COVID-19 pandemic	46.5	50.6
Those who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 should not be subject to mask mandates	45.4	45.8

Respondents were presented with impacts some have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each was asked to indicate which they may have faced due to COVID-19 over the past year. The following table holds the results. Multiple responses were accepted. The table is displayed in declining order by frequency of mention on the national level.

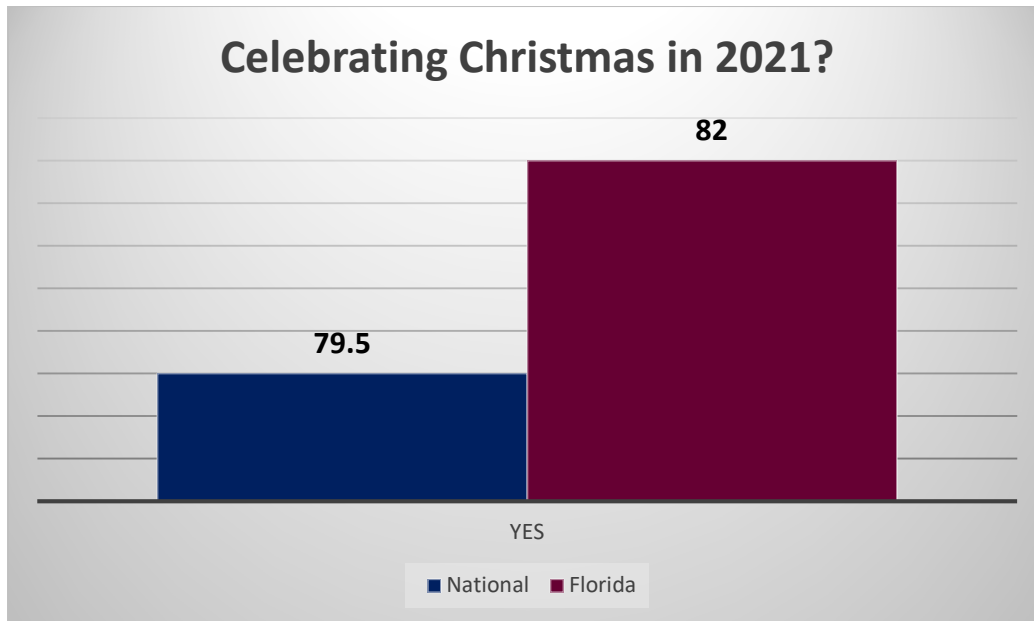
COVID-19 Impacts	National October 2021	Florida October 2021
Worked from home	32.7	33.2
Lost a friend, relative or co-worker	25.1	32.6
Lost income	23.8	25.0
Had employment hours reduced	17.3	21.0
Depleted my savings	19.8	18.8
Lost employment	12.5	17.1
Switched jobs	8.8	12.2
Had to secure extra schooling / extra help for children falling behind in school	8.4	10.0

Respondents were reminded that some Americans may have felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic economically while others may not have. Respondents were asked which of the following best reflects their view on “saving for a rainy day” going forward? Results are shown in the following table.

View on Saving for a Rainy Day?	National October 2021	Florida October 2021
Prior to COVID-19, saving for a rainy day was and will remain important to me	52.7	51.4
COVID-19 has prompted me to plan for and save for that “rainy day”	23.3	27.6
Savings is not possible for me, so I am worried about a future financial crisis	13.9	13.8
Unsure / Don’t know	10.1	7.2

CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLIDAYS

Most Americans surveyed, 79.5% (down from 88.9% in 2019), report they will be celebrating Christmas in 2021. In Florida, the percent is 82.0% -- also down from 89.2% in 2019. The following graph displays the results collected.



In 2017, 2019, and 2021, respondents who celebrate Christmas were asked if they viewed Christmas as all cultural, mostly cultural, evenly cultural and religious, mostly religious or all religious. Results are presented in the following table.

Cultural / Religious?	National 2017	Florida 2017	National 2019	Florida 2019	National 2021	Florida 2021
All cultural	10.2	11.7	12.9	13.5	15.5	19.0
Mostly cultural	32.9	31.4	26.7	23.1	24.4	22.4
Total all / mostly cultural	43.1	43.1	39.6	36.5	39.9	41.5
Evenly cultural and religious	31.3	34.3	34.6	38.3	32.5	31.5
Mostly religious	11.4	9.0	13.7	12.3	13.1	12.2
All religious	3.9	3.6	5.4	6.5	7.7	7.6
Total all / mostly religious	15.3	12.6	19.1	18.8	20.8	20.8
None of these	6.3	5.5	4.5	4.9	4.9	5.1
Unsure	4.0	4.5	2.1	1.3	2.0	2.2

Those respondents who celebrate Christmas, 73.5%, are reporting their favorite holiday greeting is “Merry Christmas”. Results are displayed in the following table for three greetings measured.

Which One Greeting is Your Favorite?	National 2017	Florida 2017	National 2019	Florida 2019	National 2021	Florida 2021
Merry Christmas	72.3	75.7	77.6	77.4	73.5	75.9
Happy Holidays	20.5	18.3	15.9	17.9	18.7	18.5
Season’s Greetings	3.6	3.8	3.0	4.0	4.5	3.7
None of these	1.1	0.5	1.2	0.4	1.1	1.2
Other	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2
Unsure	1.8	0.7	1.6	---	1.6	0.5

Poll respondents who celebrate Christmas were presented with the following statement: “I enjoy Christmas but am usually glad when it is over”. Nearly two-thirds, 64.9% up from 62.4% in 2019 and from 62.0% in 2017, somewhat or strongly agreed with the statement as displayed in the following table.

Agreement	National 2017	Florida 2017	National 2019	Florida 2019	National 2021	Florida 2021
Strongly agree	21.0	21.9	23.5	19.3	27.2	28.8
Somewhat agree	41.0	38.8	38.9	37.2	37.7	30.7
Total Strongly & Somewhat Agree	62.0	60.7	62.4	56.5	64.9	59.5
Somewhat disagree	22.9	21.0	21.0	26.2	18.9	21.0
Strongly disagree	12.8	16.2	14.8	14.8	13.5	17.6
Total Strongly & Somewhat disagree	35.7	37.2	35.8	41.0	32.4	38.6

All respondents who celebrate Christmas were asked if they found holiday greetings they received as very offensive, somewhat offensive, somewhat welcomed or very welcomed. Results are shown in the following table. A large majority, 78.9% (down slightly from 80.5% in 2019) suggested holiday greetings were either somewhat (10.7%) or very (68.2%) welcomed.

Views on Holiday Greetings Received	National 2017	Florida 2017	National 2019	Florida 2019	National 2021	Florida 2021
Very offensive	3.3	2.1	3.9	4.5	6.3	7.3
Somewhat offensive	2.5	2.1	3.9	3.6	6.2	5.1
Total: Very and somewhat offensive	5.8	4.2	7.9	8.1	12.5	12.4
Somewhat welcomed	14.9	12.4	9.2	9.6	10.7	11.0
Very welcomed	67.0	75.0	71.3	72.0	68.2	66.3
Total: Somewhat and very welcomed	81.9	87.4	80.5	81.6	78.9	77.3

The following are several statements about Christmas gatherings. All respondents who celebrate Christmas were asked if the statements applied to them. The table holds the percent of respondents reporting “yes” in 2019 and 2021.

Christmas Holiday Statements	National “Yes” 2019	Florida “Yes” 2019	National “Yes” 2021	Florida “Yes” 2021
We avoid controversial topics at Christmas gatherings I host/attend	58.2	64.3	63.0	64.4
I will or did prepare a budget for holiday gifts this year	57.4	56.7	---	---
I/we do involve our children in charitable giving or giving decisions during the holidays	44.2	42.6	---	---
The chances are that I will overspend on holiday gifts and holiday activities this year	43.4	36.3	---	---
I encourage political conversation at Christmas gatherings I host or attend	25.8	22.9	28.1	34.6
I feel less connected to family and friends due to the political polarization and divide that is occurring	22.5	22.4	29.4	35.4
We encourage political conversation at Christmas gatherings but limit time or close the conversation down if it gets heated	21.6	22.4	24.8	32.0
I am stressed and anxious in advance of and during Christmas gatherings I host/attend due to heated political debates/disagreements	20.4	20.2	25.9	25.6
Sometimes I feel baited or goaded into heated political conversations at Christmas gatherings I host or attend	19.9	22.6	26.9	29.8
I have declined Christmas gathering invitations, this year or in the past, due to the political divide and expected conflicts and disagreements that will likely occur	16.2	15.2	22.5	23.4
I will host a holiday event this year	---	---	42.3	42.7
I have or would ask potential holiday event guests about their COVID-19 vaccination status and invite only those vaccinated	---	---	34.3	39.0
I would take safety precautions for a holiday event I decide to host this year	---	---	61.9	67.6
I anticipate delays in getting holiday gifts delivered in time due to supply chain delays, shortages and slowed shipping service	---	---	61.4	62.4
I have started shopping for the holidays	---	---	48.7	51.5
I plan to shop local for all or most of my own holiday gift shopping	---	---	50.1	56.1

Survey respondents were asked to give a thumbs up or thumbs down to several Christmas traditions – fruitcake, real Christmas trees, mistletoe and roasting chestnuts. Results are displayed in the following table.

National Results

	Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Unsure
Fruitcake	39.2	55.8	4.9
Real Christmas tree (not artificial)	65.9	26.2	7.9
Mistletoe	64.8	22.9	12.6
Roasting chestnuts	38.5	42.0	19.5

Florida Results

	Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Unsure
Fruitcake	42.0	53.4	4.6
Real Christmas tree (not artificial)	69.8	23.2	7.1
Mistletoe	57.6	25.9	16.6
Roasting chestnuts	39.5	44.9	15.6

The survey included a question about favorite holiday flavor/tradition from gingerbread to eggnog. The following table holds the results as collected.

Favorite Holiday Flavors/Traditions	National 2021	Florida 2021
Gingerbread	19.2	15.9
Peppermint	15.8	19.5
Eggnog	20.3	25.6
Pumpkin Spice	12.5	10.7
None of these	15.3	13.4
All of these, or can't pick a favorite	15.3	13.9
Unsure	1.5	1.0

Plans for holiday travel was measured in the survey. Slightly over one-half of all Americans surveyed plan to travel this holiday season. Results are displayed here.

Plans for Holiday Travel	National 2021	Florida 2021
Yes, by car	39.2	36.3
Yes, by plane	7.8	11.7
Yes, by train	0.6	0.5
Yes, by a combination of these and other modes	3.1	2.2
No plans to travel	43.4	44.4
Unsure	5.8	4.9

Poll respondents, in 2019 and 2021, were asked what they expected to spend, in total, on holiday gifts for family and friends excluding charitable donations. The following table reflects gift spending as reported.

Holiday Spending on Gifts	National 2019	Florida 2019	National 2021	Florida 2021
Under \$50	7.9	8.5	5.2	6.3
\$50 to under \$100	11.8	12.6	9.6	6.6
\$100 to under \$200	14.6	15.7	13.8	14.4
\$200 to under \$300	14.4	17.7	16.9	18.0
\$300 to under \$400	9.7	9.9	12.1	12.4
\$400 to under \$500	10.6	9.9	10.9	12.0
\$500 or more	27.0	22.6	26.5	24.4
Unsure / Don't know	4.0	3.1	5.0	5.9

On holiday spending, respondents were asked, compared to last year, how they see spending this year. Results are displayed here.

Holiday Spending Levels in 2021	National	Florida
I'll spend about the same as I did in 2020	57.0	51.5
I'll spend more than I did in 2020	25.2	26.3
I'll spend less than I did in 2020	11.7	15.6
Unsure	6.2	6.6

Respondents were asked about their charitable giving. Each was asked to summarize their overall charitable giving compared to the previous year. Results are displayed in the following table.

Charitable Giving Level in 2019 and 2021	National 2019	Florida 2019	National 2021	Florida 2021
Giving more to charity this year than last year	17.9	18.4	17.1	17.4
Giving about the same to charity this year	45.6	46.8	39.2	41.8
Giving less to charity this year compared to last year	8.8	10.6	8.9	12.0
Have not / will not be giving to charity this year	17.9	14.4	22.3	17.8
Unsure / Don't know	9.8	9.8	12.5	11.0

In a multiple response question, respondents were asked to report which of 15 charitable activities they may have done or will do in 2021. Findings are presented in the following table. Just 13.1% nationally and 8.4% in Florida reported they did not participate in any of these charitable activities. Results are displayed in declining order by national frequency results.

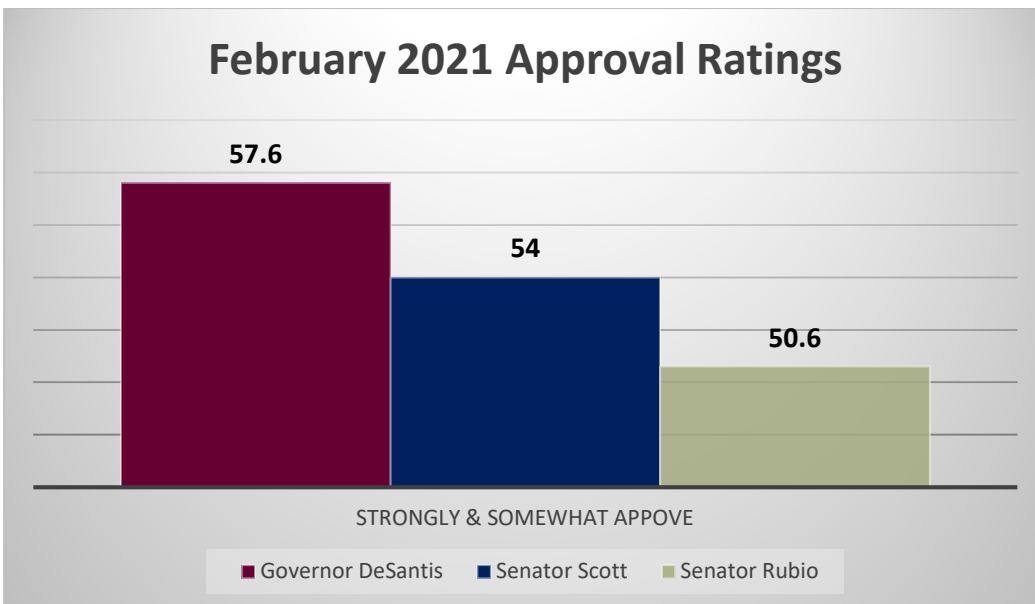
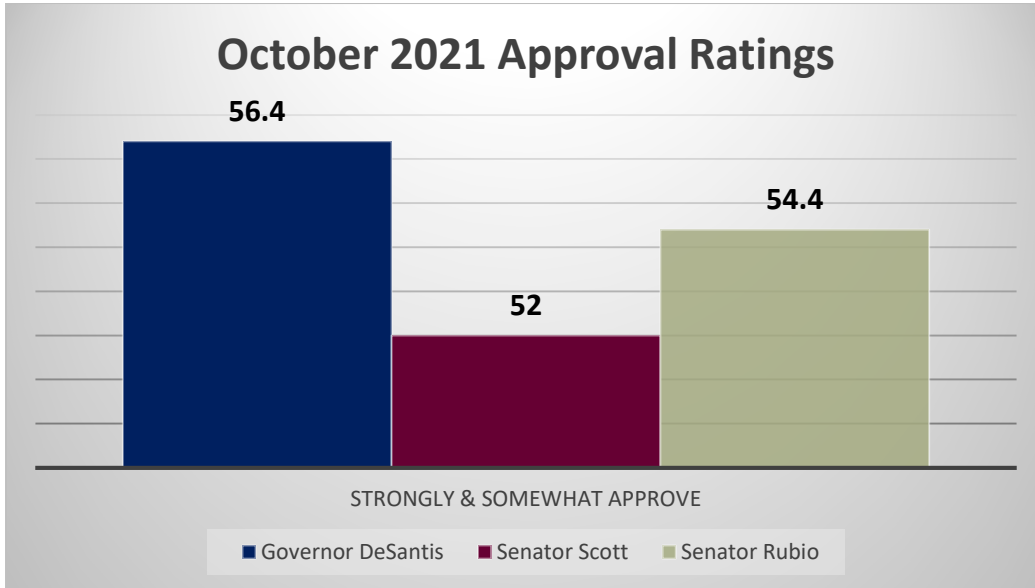
Charitable Activities	National 2021	Florida 2021
Donating used clothing	46.3	47.6
Shopped local	36.7	38.4
Recycled anything that can be recycled	36.5	35.6
Donating money to favorite causes	32.2	34.4
Donating, or donated food to help end hunger	27.3	31.4
Helping neighbors in any way you can, such as a meal, baking, or pet care	24.5	27.2
“Paid it forward” at a laundromat, restaurant, drive-through, toll booth, or other opportunity	13.7	15.0
Donating any items (not furniture and clothes) such as supplies to a classroom, or baked goods	12.1	14.4
Volunteer more time than in 2020	11.0	11.2
Supporting or donating to community efforts such as food gardens	10.0	13.2
Donated furniture to a charity or distribution center	9.6	16.2
Ran or walked to raise funds for a charity	6.9	8.6
Attended a gala, concert, sporting or other fundraising event	6.5	9.4
Volunteered to teach or mentor others drawing upon your own talents such as in music, sports, business	4.3	7.0
Renewed or secured your own CPR certification	3.3	4.8

Nearly one-third, 32.4% (compared to 29.2% in 2019) indicated they plan to make New Year’s resolutions for 2022. These respondents were asked to name the resolutions they plan to make. Losing weight and saving money, by far, lead the responses. Results are shown in the following table in declining order by the national 2021 column. Multiple responses were accepted.

New Year Resolution(s)	National 2017	National 2019	National 2021	Florida 2017	Florida 2019	Florida 2021
Save more money	56.0	53.4	59.0	54.7	52.3	51.0
Lose weight	55.7	50.0	37.7	52.5	49.4	42.1
Exercise more	27.2	34.2	33.6	23.2	34.5	29.7
Travel more	29.5	29.5	27.2	34.3	35.1	28.7
Vacation more	29.9	22.9	26.2	24.3	22.4	30.7
Spend more time with family	26.5	29.1	25.0	25.4	24.7	30.7
Find a new job	27.5	28.1	21.6	27.1	21.8	21.8
Buy a new car / new house	19.8	15.8	19.8	18.2	12.6	19.3
Stop smoking	8.7	6.8	13.9	9.4	7.5	13.9
Find a wife/husband – get married	11.7	7.5	13.3	12.2	14.9	13.9
Give more to charities	11.4	11.6	12.3	10.5	13.8	7.9
Volunteer more time	14.4	12.0	11.1	13.8	16.1	14.4
Join a gym	14.8	14.4	10.2	13.3	16.1	13.4
Drink less alcohol	8.7	9.9	9.9	7.2	6.3	15.8
Attend religious services or attend more often	13.8	12.7	9.6	11.0	12.6	14.4
Spend less time with family	4.4	3.4	5.2	2.8	2.3	3.5
Stop vaping	---	3.1	3.4	---	3.5	5.0
Take steps to renew friendships lost over political disagreements	---	---	3.4	---	---	5.4
Attempt constructive, polite engagement with those holding different political views/philosophy	---	---	1.9	---	---	4.0

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 graphs depict the cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat approve.



Respondents were asked to think about the November 2022 general election. Each was asked to name their preferred candidates in various matchups. The following tables present the results as collected.

For Florida United States Senator

Matchup	Marco Rubio	Val Demings	Unsure/Undecided
	46.8	28.6	24.6

For Governor of Florida

Matchup	Ron DeSantis	Annette Taddeo	Unsure/Undecided
	47.2	28.2	24.6

Matchup	Ron DeSantis	Charlie Christ	Unsure/Undecided
	46.6	35.0	18.4

Matchup	Ron DeSantis	Nikki Fried	Unsure/Undecided
	46.4	32.6	21.0

Florida respondents were asked about Governor DeSantis’ handling of the COVID pandemic in Florida. Each was asked to indicate if they strongly approved, somewhat approved, somewhat disapproved, or strongly disapproved. Over one-half, 53.4%, suggested they strongly or somewhat approved.

Governor DeSantis...	Composite February 2021	Composite October 2021
on handling the COVID pandemic in Florida	56.6	53.4

Florida respondents were asked the following question: “The state of Texas recently passed a law prohibiting abortions after the sixth week of a pregnancy – also known as “the heartbeat” legislation. How strongly would you support or oppose a similar law in the State of Florida? Would you say...?” The results are displayed here.

Support / Opposition to a Texas Abortion Law in Florida	October 2021
Strongly oppose	35.4
Somewhat oppose	14.6
Strongly and somewhat oppose	50.0
Somewhat support	16.6
Strongly support	25.4
Strongly and somewhat support	42.0
Unsure / Don’t know	8.0

NATIONAL SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Conservative/ Moderate/Liberal	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Very conservative	14.5	14.0	13.3	14.6	18.1	17.7
Somewhat conservative	20.7	22.0	22.3	17.8	21.2	18.4
Moderate	38.3	37.0	36.5	44.4	36.5	38.8
Somewhat liberal	13.1	12.9	14.0	12.6	13.2	11.8
Very liberal	9.1	10.7	10.2	8.4	8.7	10.1
Unsure	4.3	3.4	3.7	2.2	2.3	3.2

Age	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
18-25	7.0	6.1	11.9	---	6.0	8.2
26-35	11.3	15.2	18.6	---	14.2	21.3
36-45	14.4	22.3	20.5	31.1	18.1	21.3
46-55	20.1	16.5	17.6	---	13.5	15.7
56-65	34.7	27.8	24.8	52.2	29.9	20.5
Over 65	12.5	12.1	6.6	16.7	18.3	13.0

Note: Age categories in October 2020: 18-44, 45-64, 65+

How Religious?	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Very religious	21.8	20.0	22.2	23.1	22.1
Somewhat religious	35.2	38.2	34.4	37.5	34.3
Not very religious	22.8	17.9	18.1	15.5	17.8
Not at all religious	18.6	22.2	23.9	21.5	23.5
Unsure	1.5	1.7	1.4	2.4	2.3

Income	February 2019	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Less than \$10,000	2.3	3.3	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.7	5.1
\$10,000 to less than \$40,000	18.9	21.5	27.5	26.6	22.9	22.5	25.0
\$40,000 to less than \$75,000	25.2	25.9	24.6	24.1	23.1	25.3	26.1
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	17.6	15.5	15.1	15.7	14.6	17.1	14.4
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	19.4	18.8	16.2	17.9	19.9	18.3	17.0
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	8.0	7.3	6.4	7.9	8.5	7.6	7.2
\$200,000 or more	7.3	5.9	4.2	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.3
Prefer not to disclose	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.8	0.9	0.9

Political Party Affiliation	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Republican	27.4	27.5	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0
Democratic	31.6	31.5	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.4
Unaffiliated/ Independent / Undeclared	36.6	37.1	38.1	37.7	38.8	39.0
Some other party	0.9	1.5	1.4	2.6	1.6	0.9
Unsure	3.5	2.4	2.5	1.7	1.6	1.6

Gender	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Male	45.5	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.4
Female	54.5	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	49.6

Education	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Less than High School	9.1	6.1	5.3	7.4	6.2
High School / GED	17.2	12.6	11.6	14.9	13.8
Associate Degree	7.9	9.6	9.9	9.1	10.0
Some college / technical school	19.9	21.6	17.0	19.8	20.5
College / technical school graduate	28.7	30.7	34.6	29.1	32.0
Postgraduate or professional degree	17.0	19.1	21.4	19.4	17.2
Prefer not to disclose	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3

Hispanic, Latin American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Mexican	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Yes	16.5	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3	16.3

Religion Followed	February 2019	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
Catholic	28.0	23.3	27.4	26.4	25.9	27.1	27.2
Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)	20.6	20.3	22.2	19.6	26.3	22.0	19.0
Christian (non-denominational)	18.0	14.5	17.1	21.2	14.9	18.3	19.2
Greek Orthodox	1.8	1.7	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8
Jewish	3.5	4.7	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.8
Buddhist	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.4	1.5	0.8	1.0
Muslim	0.9	---	1.1	1.1	0.9	2.0	2.2
Latter Day Saints / Mormon	0.8	---	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.7	0.8
Other	3.7	3.5	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8
No preference	19.9	25.6	20.8	21.3	21.6	19.8	21.4
Don't know / unsure	1.9	4.7	1.3	1.7	1.0	1.7	1.8

Ethnicity (Among Non-Hispanics)	April 2019	November 2019	February 2020	October 2020	February 2021	October 2021
White	63.5	65.2	65.8	65.1	65.2	65.4
Black, African American	12.7	12.6	15.1	12.6	12.6	12.7
Asian	5.1	5.0	5.9	5.0	5.0	6.0
Aleutian, Eskimo or American Indian	0.6	0.5	---	0.2	0.1	---
Other	1.0	---	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.6	0.2	---	0.3	0.3	0.1

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.