



MASON-DIXON  
POLLING & STRATEGY

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## MASON-DIXON® FLORIDA POLL



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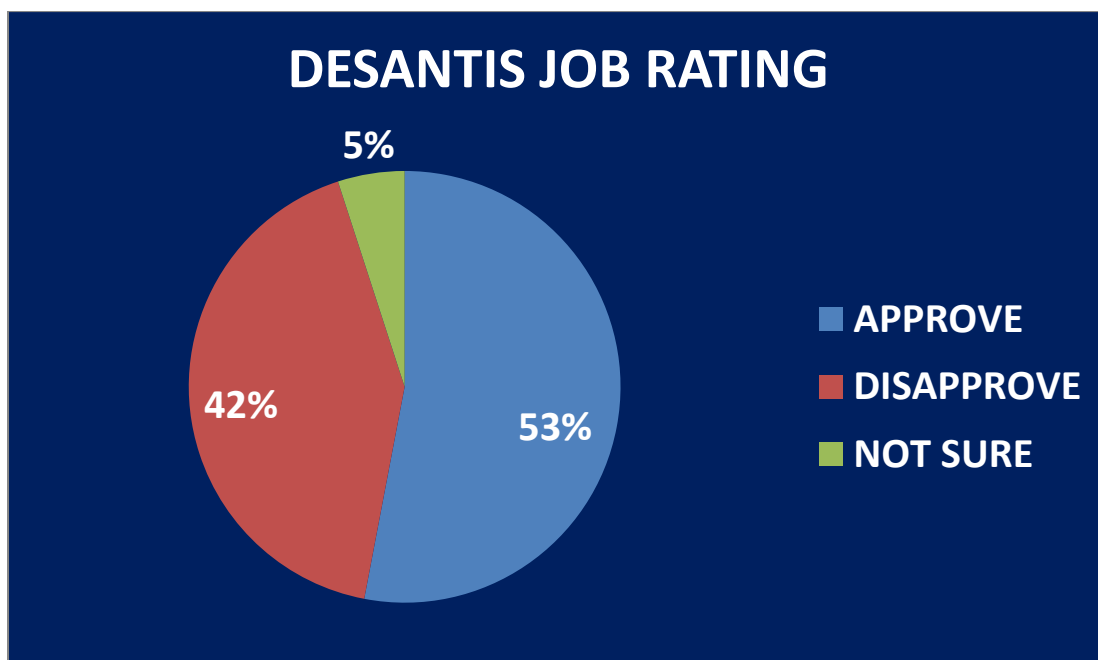
**FEBRUARY 2021**

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*Tracking public opinion in Florida since 1984*

## MAJORITY APPROVE OF DESANTIS PERFORMANCE GOVERNOR LEADS EARLY RE-ELECTION MATCH-UPS

A majority of Florida voters currently approve of the job performance of Republican Governor Ron DeSantis. Statewide, 53% approve of how DeSantis is handling his job, 42% disapprove and 5% are undecided.

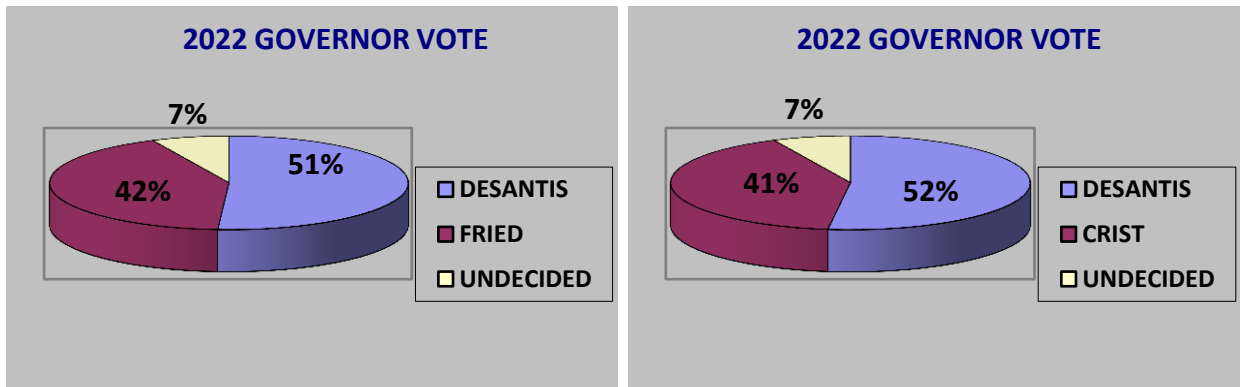


DeSantis has improved his job rating over the past seven months, with his approval number increasing by 8-points (from 45% to 53%) and his disapproval figure dropping by 7-points (from 49% to 42%).

<u>DESANTIS JOB RATING</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
March 2019	62%	24%	14%
July 2020	45%	49%	6%
February 2021	53%	42%	5%

When matched up against his two best known potential Democratic challengers in next year's gubernatorial race, DeSantis currently holds comfortable leads.

DeSantis leads Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, the only Democrat who now holds statewide office in Florida, by 51%-42% and has a slightly larger 52%-41% advantage over former governor and current U.S. Representative Charlie Crist.



Voters are split along predictable party lines, but DeSantis builds his margins with strong showings among independent voters, leading Fried by 58%-29% and Crist by 60%-28% among those who are not party affiliated.

## STATEWIDE NAME RECOGNITION

Do you recognize the name \_\_\_\_\_?

(IF YES) Do you have a favorable, unfavorable or neutral opinion of \_\_\_\_\_?

	<u>RECOGNIZE FAVORABLE</u>	<u>RECOGNIZE UNFAVORABLE</u>	<u>RECOGNIZE NEUTRAL</u>	<u>DON'T RECOGNIZE</u>
<b>Ron DeSantis</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Charlie Crist</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Nikki Fried</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>37%</b>

**QUESTION: Do you approve or disapprove of Ron DeSantis’s job performance as governor?**

	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<b>STATE</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>5%</b>

<u>REGION</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
North Florida	63%	33%	4%
Central Florida	59%	38%	3%
Tampa Bay	58%	38%	4%
Southwest Florida	64%	31%	5%
Southeast Florida	34%	58%	8%

<u>GENDER ID</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Male	57%	40%	3%
Female	50%	44%	6%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
<50	49%	45%	6%
50+	56%	39%	5%

<u>RACE/ETHNICITY</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
White	62%	35%	3%
Black	15%	71%	14%
Hispanic	47%	46%	7%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>NOT SURE</u>
Democrat	15%	79%	6%
Republican	89%	9%	2%
Independent	59%	36%	5%

**QUESTION: If the 2022 election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote if the candidates were Nikki Fried, the Democrat, and Ron DeSantis, the Republican?**

	<u>FRIED</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<b>STATE</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>7%</b>

<u>REGION</u>	<u>FRIED</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
North Florida	32%	65%	3%
Central Florida	39%	55%	6%
Tampa Bay	42%	53%	5%
Southwest Florida	36%	59%	5%
Southeast Florida	54%	33%	13%

<u>GENDER ID</u>	<u>FRIED</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Male	38%	55%	7%
Female	46%	47%	7%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>FRIED</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	43%	46%	11%
50+	41%	55%	4%

<u>RACE/ETHNICITY</u>	<u>FRIED</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	33%	61%	6%
Black	81%	10%	9%
Hispanic	47%	42%	11%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>FRIED</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	85%	9%	6%
Republican	6%	90%	4%
Independent	29%	58%	13%

**QUESTION: If the 2022 election for governor were held today, for whom would you vote if the candidates were Charlie Crist, the Democrat, and Ron DeSantis, the Republican?**

	<u>CRIST</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<b>STATE</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>7%</b>

<u>REGION</u>	<u>CRIST</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
North Florida	31%	63%	6%
Central Florida	35%	59%	6%
Tampa Bay	41%	53%	6%
Southwest Florida	31%	61%	8%
Southeast Florida	58%	33%	9%

<u>GENDER ID</u>	<u>CRIST</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Male	36%	58%	6%
Female	45%	47%	8%

<u>AGE</u>	<u>CRIST</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
<50	44%	47%	9%
50+	38%	57%	5%

<u>RACE/ETHNICITY</u>	<u>CRIST</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
White	31%	63%	6%
Black	86%	8%	6%
Hispanic	47%	43%	10%

<u>PARTY REGISTRATION</u>	<u>CRIST</u>	<u>DESANTIS</u>	<u>UNDECIDED</u>
Democrat	87%	7%	6%
Republican	2%	92%	6%
Independent	28%	60%	12%

## HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

**This poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida from February 24 through February 28, 2021. A total of 625 registered Florida voters were interviewed live by telephone statewide.**

**Those interviewed were randomly selected from a phone-matched Florida voter registration list that included both land-line and cell phone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter registration by county.**

**The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than  $\pm 4$  percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if all voters were surveyed. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a gender or age grouping.**



## DEMOGRAPHICS

### **PARTY REGISTRATION:**

<b>Democrat</b>	<b>253 (40%)</b>
<b>Republican</b>	<b>250 (40%)</b>
<b>Independent or Other</b>	<b>122 (20%)</b>

### **AGE:**

<b>18-34</b>	<b>109 (17%)</b>
<b>35-49</b>	<b>166 (27%)</b>
<b>50-64</b>	<b>169 (27%)</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>179 (29%)</b>
<b>Refused</b>	<b>2</b>

### **RACE/ETHNICITY:**

<b>White/Caucasian</b>	<b>424 (68%)</b>
<b>Black/African American</b>	<b>80 (13%)</b>
<b>Hispanic or Cuban</b>	<b>107 (17%)</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>9 (1%)</b>
<b>Refused</b>	<b>5 (1%)</b>

### **GENDER ID:**

<b>Male</b>	<b>299 (48%)</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>322 (51%)</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4 (1%)</b>

### **REGION:**

<b>North Florida</b>	<b>135 (22%)</b>
<b>Central Florida</b>	<b>120 (19%)</b>
<b>Tampa Bay</b>	<b>115 (18%)</b>
<b>Southwest Florida</b>	<b>75 (12%)</b>
<b>Southeast Florida</b>	<b>180 (29%)</b>

## FLORIDA POLL REGIONS

**NORTH FLORIDA:** Voters interviewed in Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Liberty, Walton, Washington, Holmes, Jackson, Gadsden, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler, Union, Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA:** Voters interviewed in Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Citrus, Sumter, Volusia, and Indian River counties.

**TAMPA BAY:** Voters interviewed in Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties.

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA:** Voters interviewed in DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties.

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA:** Voters interviewed in Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.