

FOR RELEASE: FEBRUARY 27, 2018

**NELSON ON PLUS SIDE OF CLOSE FLORIDA SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
TRUMP, RUBIO HAVE BIG NEGATIVE SCORES, SCOTT IS POSITIVE**

The U.S. Senate campaign in Florida is a real horse race out of the gate as Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson has 46 percent to Gov. Rick Scott, the Republican challenger, with 42 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

Sen. Nelson leads 46 – 33 percent among independent voters and 87 – 7 percent among Democrats, while Gov. Scott takes Republicans 86 – 7 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

There are wide gender and racial gaps, as men back Scott 49 – 38 percent, while women back Nelson 53 – 35 percent. White voters go Republican 49 – 40 percent. Nelson leads 74 – 15 percent among black voters and 46 – 37 percent among Hispanic voters.

Scott, who has a seven-year history of negative approval ratings, gets a positive 49 – 40 percent score, by far his highest score ever.

Independent voters are divided 44 – 43 percent, as Republicans approve 80 – 11 percent and Democrats disapprove 69 – 23 percent. Men approve 56 – 36 percent, with women divided 43 – 44 percent. Approval is 55 – 37 percent among white voters and 46 – 38 percent among Hispanic voters. Black voters disapprove 60 – 28 percent.

Florida voters approve 48 – 34 percent of the way Nelson is doing his job, consistent with his scores over the last 15 years. Independent voters approve 48 – 31 percent.

“Florida’s Senate race features probably the two best-known politicians in the Sunshine State. A race between two-term Gov. Rick Scott and four-term incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson makes this unusual in that most voters probably already have made up their minds,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“The race is close, but Nelson’s double-digit-lead with independents puts him in slightly better shape eight months from Election Day. This election is likely to be decided by turnout.”

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There are huge gender and racial divisions as Florida voters give President Donald Trump a negative 42 – 54 percent approval rating. Men approve 51 – 45 percent, as women disapprove 61 – 35 percent. White voters approve 52 – 44 percent. Disapproval is 87 – 13 percent among black voters and 63 – 30 percent among Hispanic voters.

Republicans approve 81 – 15 percent. Disapproval is 90 – 6 percent among Democrats and 57 – 39 percent among independent voters.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio’s approval rating is even worse, a negative 38 – 53 percent. Republicans and white men are the only listed party, gender, education, age or racial groups to approve. Sen. Rubio’s approval rating among Republicans is a lackluster 65 – 24 percent. Disapproval is 49 – 44 percent among white voters, 63 – 28 percent among black voters and 66 – 27 percent among Hispanic voters.

Governor’s Race

In a question which does not name candidates, Florida voters say 45 – 37 percent that they would vote for a Democratic candidate for governor this year. Independent voters go Democratic 39 – 28 percent.

Candidates for governor are virtually unknown to Florida voters:

- 84 percent don’t know enough about former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham to form an opinion of her;
- 81 percent don’t know enough about former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine;
- 89 percent don’t know enough about Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum;
- 93 percent don’t know enough about business executive Chris King;
- 75 percent don’t know enough about State Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam;
- 83 percent don’t know enough about U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis;
- 86 percent don’t know enough about Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran.

“In the governor’s race, none of the candidates is well-known. Florida voters can expect massive – and probably nasty – TV advertising as the candidates for governor try to introduce themselves, and their opponents, to the electorate,” Brown added.

From February 23 – 26, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,156 Florida voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.6 percentage points, including the design effect. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts nationwide public opinion surveys, and statewide polls in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa and Colorado as a public service and for research.

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1. If the election for United States Senator were being held today, and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Rick Scott the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No
Nelson	46%	7%	87%	46%	38%	53%	45%	35%		
Scott	42	86	7	33	49	35	47	51		
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	-	3	2	1	1	1		
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	1	4	2	2	2	2		
DK/NA	9	6	4	14	9	9	5	10		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Nelson	45%	42%	49%	48%	31%	48%	40%	74%	46%	
Scott	35	42	43	42	59	41	49	15	37	
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	4	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
DK/NA	15	12	5	7	6	8	7	8	12	

2. As you may know, Governor Scott cannot run for governor again due to term limits. Now, thinking about the 2018 election for governor in Florida: If the 2018 election for governor were being held today, do you think you would vote for the Democratic candidate or for the Republican candidate?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No
Democratic candidate	45%	5%	95%	39%	37%	53%	42%	33%		
Republican candidate	37	83	1	28	44	30	44	50		
NEITHER (VOL)	3	1	1	7	4	3	3	2		
DK/NA	14	11	3	27	15	14	12	15		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Democratic candidate	47%	45%	50%	45%	27%	46%	38%	84%	48%	
Republican candidate	28	39	36	38	57	38	47	7	26	
NEITHER (VOL)	7	1	2	3	3	2	2	-	7	
DK/NA	18	14	11	14	13	14	14	10	18	

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Rick Scott is handling his job as Governor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....			
							COLLEGE DEG		Yes	No
Approve	49%	80%	23%	44%	56%	43%	51%	59%		
Disapprove	40	11	69	43	36	44	41	32		
DK/NA	10	10	8	14	9	12	8	10		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	43%	45%	51%	52%	65%	46%	55%	28%	46%	
Disapprove	39	44	42	39	30	42	37	60	38	
DK/NA	18	11	7	9	6	12	9	12	16	

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling its job?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	34%	55%	17%	31%	42%	28%	35%	42%
Disapprove	50	24	70	54	45	54	51	37
DK/NA	16	20	12	15	14	18	14	21

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Approve	34%	39%	36%	28%	48%	30%	38%	29%	28%
Disapprove	46	49	51	53	38	50	44	63	57
DK/NA	20	13	13	19	14	20	17	8	15

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Nelson is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	48%	24%	73%	48%	40%	54%	51%	41%
Disapprove	34	54	16	31	44	25	36	38
DK/NA	18	22	10	22	15	21	12	21

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Approve	47%	39%	51%	52%	38%	53%	46%	61%	45%
Disapprove	18	42	37	34	48	28	37	30	25
DK/NA	35	19	12	14	14	19	17	9	29

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Marco Rubio is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	38%	65%	15%	34%	43%	34%	43%	45%
Disapprove	53	24	79	58	50	57	50	48
DK/NA	9	10	6	8	8	10	8	8

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Approve	32%	40%	39%	36%	52%	37%	44%	28%	27%
Disapprove	55	53	53	55	41	55	49	63	66
DK/NA	12	7	7	8	7	8	8	9	7

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	42%	81%	6%	39%	51%	35%	47%	57%
Disapprove	54	15	90	57	45	61	50	39
DK/NA	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Approve	31%	43%	44%	44%	64%	42%	52%	13%	30%
Disapprove	65	51	54	53	33	54	44	87	63
DK/NA	4	6	2	4	3	4	3	-	7

8. If a candidate for United States Senator supports President Trump, does that make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or doesn't it have an impact either way?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
More likely	23%	48%	4%	16%	27%	19%	27%	29%
Less likely	42	8	76	43	33	50	43	32
No impact	34	42	20	41	38	31	29	38
DK/NA	1	2	1	-	1	1	1	1

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
More likely	14%	18%	24%	28%	33%	23%	28%	8%	14%
Less likely	49	39	42	44	29	45	38	56	49
No impact	37	42	33	26	37	31	33	35	36
DK/NA	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

9. If a candidate for governor supports President Trump, does that make you more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or doesn't it have an impact either way?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
More likely	22%	48%	4%	14%	25%	20%	25%	29%
Less likely	42	7	77	42	34	50	43	31
No impact	34	43	18	42	40	29	31	38
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	2

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
More likely	13%	16%	25%	27%	30%	25%	27%	6%	15%
Less likely	47	38	42	45	28	44	37	62	46
No impact	39	44	31	25	40	30	35	29	37
DK/NA	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	2

10. Is your opinion of Gwen Graham favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Favorable	10%	5%	20%	7%	8%	12%	14%	6%		
Unfavorable	5	7	3	5	8	3	4	4		
Hvn't hrd enough	84	86	76	88	83	84	81	89		
REFUSED	1	2	1	-	2	-	1	-		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	6%	9%	12%	14%	8%	12%	10%	15%	9%	
Unfavorable	9	5	4	4	6	2	4	2	10	
Hvn't hrd enough	84	85	83	81	85	86	85	83	79	
REFUSED	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	

11. Is your opinion of Philip Levine favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Favorable	12%	7%	20%	9%	9%	14%	15%	11%		
Unfavorable	7	10	2	9	9	5	6	6		
Hvn't hrd enough	81	83	78	81	82	80	79	82		
REFUSED	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	3%	8%	18%	14%	10%	15%	13%	14%	8%	
Unfavorable	9	9	5	6	7	5	6	4	10	
Hvn't hrd enough	88	83	76	79	82	79	80	81	82	
REFUSED	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	

12. Is your opinion of Andrew Gillum favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Favorable	7%	2%	12%	6%	6%	7%	8%	5%		
Unfavorable	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	2		
Hvn't hrd enough	89	94	84	90	89	90	89	93		
REFUSED	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	12%	6%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	11%	4%	
Unfavorable	5	3	4	3	3	2	2	5	5	
Hvn't hrd enough	83	91	89	91	91	90	91	83	90	
REFUSED	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	

16. Is your opinion of Richard Corcoran favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Favorable	4%	6%	2%	5%	5%	3%	4%	4%		
Unfavorable	9	7	11	10	10	8	14	6		
Hvn't hrd enough	86	85	87	85	84	89	82	90		
REFUSED	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	1		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Favorable	3%	4%	3%	5%	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	
Unfavorable	8	7	10	10	10	9	10	5	8	
Hvn't hrd enough	88	89	86	84	84	87	86	91	88	
REFUSED	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	

18. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Florida today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG			
							Yes	No		
Very satisfied	11%	21%	3%	8%	13%	9%	14%	12%		
Smwht satisfied	44	62	28	41	49	38	40	54		
Smwht dissatisfied	26	12	36	30	22	29	26	19		
Very dissatisfied	18	4	32	18	14	22	19	14		
DK/NA	1	-	1	2	1	1	1	1		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Very satisfied	5%	10%	11%	15%	16%	11%	13%	7%	7%	
Smwht satisfied	42	48	42	41	53	42	47	39	36	
Smwht dissatisfied	28	26	27	24	18	26	22	31	33	
Very dissatisfied	22	16	20	18	11	20	16	23	22	
DK/NA	3	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	2	