

FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

**FLORIDA GOVERNOR’S RACE TOO CLOSE TO CALL,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
BIG GENDER AND RACIAL GAPS**

The Florida governor’s race is too close to call, with 50 percent of likely voters for Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, the Democrat, and 47 percent for U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, the Republican, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

There are wide gender and racial gaps, as men back DeSantis 52 – 45 percent, while women back Gillum 55 – 42 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. White voters go Republican by a narrow 52 – 45 percent, as black voters go Democratic 93 – 2 percent. Hispanic voters go 56 percent for DeSantis and 43 percent for Gillum.

Republicans back DeSantis 92 – 6 percent, as Democrats back Gillum 93 – 3 percent. Independent voters go to Gillum 55 – 42 percent.

Among Florida likely voters who name a candidate choice, 94 percent say their mind is made up.

Gillum gets a 46 – 33 percent favorability rating, while DeSantis gets a split 45 – 43 percent favorability rating.

Florida likely voters give President Donald Trump a slightly negative 47 – 51 percent job approval rating.

“Mayor Andrew Gillum came out of his upset victory in the Florida Democratic primary with a head of steam,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“That momentum shows itself as Gillum hits 50 percent in a neck-and-neck match-up with Republican U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis for the four-year lease on the governor's mansion.”

“Neither man was well-known before their primaries, but since then the race has become a center of political attention in the state.”

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“Now, 97 of voters say they will vote for one of the two men, a highly unusual situation this far from the actual voting. Just as unusual, more than 90 percent of Gillum and DeSantis voters say they will not change their minds and are dead set in supporting the candidate they now favor,” Brown added.

There is little “Trump effect” in the Florida governor’s race as 22 percent of voters say their decision in the race will be more to express support for the president and 24 percent say their vote for governor will be more to express opposition. But 51 percent say Trump is not an important factor in the governor’s race.

The economy is the most important issue in their vote for governor, 23 percent of Florida likely voters say, with 14 percent each for immigration and health care, 13 percent for gun policy, 12 percent for the environment and 10 percent for education.

Florida likely voters are divided on whether they like DeSantis’ positions on issues, as 47 percent say yes and 45 percent say no.

Voters like DeSantis as a person 40 – 33 percent.

By a narrow 46 – 42 percent, voters like Gillum’s positions on issues and like him as a person 49 – 13 percent.

From August 30 – September 3, Quinnipiac University surveyed 785 Florida likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.3 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 governor were being held today, and the candidates were Andrew Gillum the Democrat and Ron DeSantis the Republican, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Andrew Gillum the Democrat or more toward Ron DeSantis the Republican?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Gillum	50%	6%	93%	55%	45%	55%	49%	40%
DeSantis	47	92	3	42	52	42	50	55
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	3	2	4	2	3	3	1	4

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Gillum	37%	52%	45%	93%	43%
DeSantis	61	45	52	2	56
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	3	2	5	1

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....			
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1		
	Gillum	DeSantis		
Mind made up	94%	94%	93%	
Might change	6	6	5	
DK/NA	1	1	1	

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Favorable	46%	10%	84%	47%	42%	50%	44%	36%
Unfavorable	33	62	4	31	38	28	37	37
Hvn't hrd enough	19	27	11	19	18	20	18	25
REFUSED	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	32%	46%	40%	84%	51%
Unfavorable	47	29	37	4	36
Hvn't hrd enough	19	24	22	10	13
REFUSED	2	1	1	2	1

3. Is your opinion of Ron DeSantis favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Favorable	45%	87%	6%	39%	50%	40%	47%	51%
Unfavorable	43	6	81	45	38	47	46	38
Hvn't hrd enough	11	7	12	14	11	11	6	10
REFUSED	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	56%	43%	49%	5%	58%
Unfavorable	36	47	42	66	31
Hvn't hrd enough	8	8	8	26	11
REFUSED	1	1	1	3	-

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

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Approve	47%	89%	7%	42%	52%	43%	49%	55%
Disapprove	51	9	93	54	46	55	49	44
DK/NA	2	2	-	4	2	2	2	-

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	60%	47%	53%	15%	54%
Disapprove	39	52	46	85	39
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	6

11. Will your vote in this year's election for governor be more to express support for President Trump, more to express opposition to President Trump, or will President Trump not be an important factor in your vote?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	22%	49%	4%	13%	23%	22%	22%	27%
Opposition	24	3	48	25	22	26	28	20
Not important factor	51	47	44	58	53	49	48	52
DK/NA	3	1	4	3	2	4	3	2

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	29%	22%	25%	2%	36%
Opposition	19	28	24	26	23
Not important factor	51	48	49	64	40
DK/NA	2	3	2	8	1

13. Which of these is the most important issue to you in deciding how to vote for governor this year: the economy, taxes, health care, education, race relations, the environment, gun policy, or immigration?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Economy	23%	34%	10%	23%	27%	18%	24%	21%
Taxes	6	9	3	5	5	6	5	7
Health care	14	8	22	13	12	16	11	15
Education	10	5	13	10	8	11	9	4
Race relations	3	1	5	4	2	4	3	2
Environment	12	4	19	12	11	13	18	13
Gun policy	13	7	14	19	17	10	11	15
Immigration	14	25	7	11	13	16	15	17
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	1	3	-	1	1	1	1	2
DK/NA	4	4	6	3	3	5	3	4

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Economy	32%	16%	23%	14%	21%
Taxes	6	6	6	2	12
Health care	8	16	13	20	16
Education	6	7	7	26	11
Race relations	1	3	2	8	3
Environment	13	17	16	3	5
Gun policy	15	11	13	17	14
Immigration	15	17	16	5	16
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	1	2	1	1
DK/NA	3	4	4	4	1

14. In general, do you like Ron DeSantis's positions on issues, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Yes/Like positions	47%	87%	7%	42%	50%	43%	49%	51%	
No	45	6	85	48	41	49	45	38	
DK/NA	8	7	7	10	9	8	6	11	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Yes/Like positions	56%	46%	51%	15%	55%				
No	35	47	41	71	42				
DK/NA	9	7	8	14	3				

15. In general, do you like Andrew Gillum's positions on issues, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Yes/Like positions	46%	4%	86%	51%	42%	50%	43%	39%	
No	42	81	5	39	47	37	46	46	
DK/NA	12	15	8	11	11	12	10	14	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Yes/Like positions	33%	47%	41%	90%	38%				
No	54	39	46	8	51				
DK/NA	13	13	13	2	12				

16. In general, do you like Ron DeSantis as a person, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG		
							Yes	No	
Yes/Like as person	40%	73%	12%	35%	44%	37%	41%	43%	
No	33	4	67	33	29	38	35	31	
DK/NA	26	23	21	32	28	25	24	25	
	WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp				
Yes/Like as person	47%	38%	42%	19%	53%				
No	25	41	34	50	26				
DK/NA	28	21	25	31	21				

17. In general, do you like Andrew Gillum as a person, or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG Yes	No
Yes/Like as person	49%	27%	76%	47%	46%	53%	46%	44%
No	13	25	4	10	15	12	14	11
DK/NA	37	48	21	43	39	36	40	45
	WHITE.....							
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp			
Yes/Like as person	38%	51%	45%	85%	49%			
No	16	11	13	2	22			
DK/NA	46	38	42	13	30			