

**FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2018**

**GILLUM UP 9 POINTS IN FLORIDA GOVERNOR’S RACE,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
VOTERS HAVE LITTLE HOPE FOR BETTER RACE RELATIONS**

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, the Democrat, crosses the key 50 percent threshold and leads former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis 54 – 45 percent among likely voters in the Florida governor’s race, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to a too-close-to-call outcome in a September 4 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll, showing Mayor Gillum with 50 percent and DeSantis with 47 percent.

Women and independent voters are the main drivers of Gillum’s lead:

- Women back the Democrat 59 – 39 percent, as men are divided, with 51 percent for DeSantis and 48 percent for Gillum.
- Independent voters back Gillum 56 – 40 percent. Republicans back DeSantis 90 – 9 percent. Gillum leads 96 – 2 percent among Democrats.

Black and Hispanic voters also contribute to the Democrat’s lead, as black voters back Gillum 98 – 2 percent and Hispanic voters support him 59 – 41 percent. White voters back DeSantis 53 – 45 percent.

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

Gillum gets a 55 – 31 percent favorability rating, while DeSantis gets a slightly negative 42 – 47 percent favorability rating.

“Former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis appears to be outspending Mayor Andrew Gillum, his Democratic opponent, in television advertising by a sizable amount, usually a sign of a winning campaign,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Yet, all these TV ads don’t seem to be helping DeSantis’ campaign.”

**-more-**

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“Those TV ads, run in an effort to introduce DeSantis to Florida voters, are airing at the same time his favorability numbers are sinking and Mayor Gillum's are rising,” Brown added.

“When asked whether they view each of the candidates favorably or unfavorably, Gillum’s rating is 24 percentage points positive, and DeSantis’ score is 5 points negative. At this point, Gillum's biggest asset is just that voters like him better.

“DeSantis is spending a lot for TV commercials, but they don’t seem to be effective.”

For 20 percent of Florida likely voters, the economy is the most important issue in their vote for governor, as 14 percent name immigration; 14 percent list education; 14 percent cite health care, with 13 percent for the environment and 12 percent for gun policy.

Gillum is too liberal, 39 percent of Florida likely voters say, while 54 percent say he is neither too liberal nor too conservative.

DeSantis is too conservative, 39 percent of voters say, as 52 percent say he is neither too liberal nor too conservative.

### **Race Relations in Florida**

Only 25 percent of Florida voters say race relations in the state will get better if Gillum is elected, as 27 percent say race relations will get worse and 43 percent say they will stay the same.

If DeSantis is elected governor, race relations will get better, 13 percent of voters say, while 38 percent say race relations will get worse and 45 percent say they will stay the same.

From September 20 – 24, Quinnipiac University surveyed 888 Florida likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts gold standard surveys using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones. The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts nationwide surveys and polls in more than a dozen states on national and statewide elections, as well as public policy issues.

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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	54%	9%	96%	56%	48%	59%	50%	40%
DeSantis	45	90	2	40	51	39	48	59
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Gillum	40%	49%	45%	98%	59%
DeSantis	59	48	53	2	41
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	2	2	2	-	1

	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN HOW TO VOTE Q10....					
	Econ	Health care	Imgrtn	Gun Policy	Eductn	Envrnmnt
Gillum	24%	76%	19%	65%	84%	83%
DeSantis	73	21	80	35	16	14
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	3	2	1	-	-	3

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.....		
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1		
	Tot	Gillum	DeSantis
Mind made up	94%	95%	93%
Might change	6	4	7
DK/NA	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	55%	15%	94%	55%	47%	61%	51%	41%
Unfavorable	31	62	2	28	37	26	38	40
Hvn't hrd enough	13	20	4	15	15	11	10	18
REFUSED	2	3	-	2	1	2	1	2
WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp			
Favorable	38%	54%	46%	91%	63%			
Unfavorable	45	33	39	3	20			
Hvn't hrd enough	16	12	14	3	15			
REFUSED	2	2	2	3	2			

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	42%	84%	4%	37%	48%	37%	43%	56%
Unfavorable	47	10	83	49	42	52	49	34
Hvn't hrd enough	9	5	12	10	9	8	6	9
REFUSED	2	1	1	4	1	2	2	1
WHITE.....								
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp			
Favorable	54%	45%	49%	7%	39%			
Unfavorable	36	46	42	75	52			
Hvn't hrd enough	9	6	7	18	6			
REFUSED	1	2	2	-	2			

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Economy	20%	32%	7%	21%	24%	17%	22%	19%
Taxes	5	8	1	6	6	4	5	8
Health care	14	8	21	13	10	17	13	13
Immigration	14	25	8	9	12	16	12	18
Gun policy	12	7	17	12	11	14	10	12
Education	14	7	19	16	16	11	16	8
Race relations	3	3	5	1	3	4	1	2
Environment	13	5	19	14	14	13	16	14
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
DK/NA	3	3	2	5	3	3	2	5

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Economy	25%	17%	21%	12%	25%
Taxes	7	6	6	1	1
Health care	10	15	13	19	15
Immigration	14	16	15	7	17
Gun policy	9	13	11	18	13
Education	13	12	12	22	15
Race relations	2	2	2	13	3
Environment	16	15	15	5	10
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	1
DK/NA	3	4	4	4	2

12. If Andrew Gillum is elected governor, do you think race relations in Florida will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Better	25%	6%	48%	19%	20%	29%	22%	20%
Worse	27	49	8	24	31	24	31	30
The same	43	39	42	51	44	43	43	46
DK/NA	4	5	2	5	5	3	4	5

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Better	16%	25%	21%	45%	27%
Worse	35	26	30	11	33
The same	42	46	44	41	37
DK/NA	6	3	4	3	4

13. If Ron DeSantis is elected governor, do you think race relations in Florida will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Better	13%	27%	2%	6%	14%	11%	11%	16%
Worse	38	9	63	42	34	42	36	28
The same	45	60	30	48	48	43	50	51
DK/NA	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	6

  

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Better	16%	11%	13%	3%	18%
Worse	30	35	32	69	40
The same	50	51	50	25	39
DK/NA	5	4	4	3	3

14. Do you think that Andrew Gillum is too conservative, too liberal, or neither of those?

LIKELY VOTERS.....							WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Yes	No
Too conservative	1%	1%	-	-	-	1%	1%	1%
Too liberal	39	68	9	42	46	33	48	44
Neither	54	24	85	54	49	59	48	47
DK/NA	6	8	6	4	5	7	3	9

  

WHITE.....					
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Too conservative	1%	1%	1%	-	-
Too liberal	52	41	46	9	31
Neither	42	52	47	81	64
DK/NA	6	6	6	9	4

15. Do you think that Ron DeSantis is too conservative, too liberal, or neither of those?

LIKELY VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE.....	
							COLLEGE DEG	Yes
Too conservative	39%	14%	64%	40%	37%	40%	44%	30%
Too liberal	3	2	3	4	3	2	1	3
Neither	52	80	26	49	53	51	52	59
DK/NA	7	5	7	8	6	7	3	8

WHITE.....

	Men		Wom		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk			
Too conservative	34%	40%	37%	44%	43%		
Too liberal	3	2	2	6	1		
Neither	57	54	55	37	51		
DK/NA	6	5	5	13	5		