

FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 23, 2018

**GILLUM LEADS IN TIGHT FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
DEM BOOSTED BY INDEPENDENTS, WOMEN, NON-WHITE VOTERS**

With big leads among women, black, Hispanic and independent voters, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, the Democratic candidate for Florida governor, has 52 percent of likely voters to 46 percent for former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, the Republican contender, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to a 54 – 45 percent likely voter lead for Mayor Gillum in a September 26 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Today, there are wide racial, gender and partisan gaps:

- White voters back DeSantis 54 – 44 percent. The Democrat leads 99 – 1 percent among black voters and 59 – 36 percent among Hispanic voters;
- Women back Gillum 59 – 38 percent, as men back DeSantis 54 – 44 percent;
- Gillum leads 96 – 4 percent among Democrats and 57 – 39 percent among independent voters. Republicans back DeSantis 89 – 8 percent.

Only 2 percent of Florida likely voters remain undecided and 4 percent of those who name a candidate say they might change their mind in the next 14 days.

“Looking inside the numbers of the governor's race between Mayor Andrew Gillum and former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, we see shining examples of the problems Republicans face this year, not just in Florida, but around the country,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“The GOP has faced strong opposition from women and other anti-Trump voters. These defections have hurt GOP candidates around the country and made it difficult to attract the numbers of independent voters that are often major players in successful campaigns.

“Here in Florida that has translated into an 18-point Gillum lead among independent voters.”

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“Even more problematic for the GOP and telling about Mayor Gillum's candidacy, is that a liberal Democrat is on the plus side of a 50 – 47 percent split among white women,” Brown added.

Gillum has a 50 – 38 percent favorability rating among Florida likely voters, compared to 55 – 31 percent September 26.

DeSantis gets a split 43 – 43 percent favorability rating, compared to a slightly negative 42 – 47 percent favorability rating September 26.

From October 17 – 21, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,161 Florida likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.5 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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Call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll) @QuinnipiacPoll.

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	52%	8%	96%	57%	44%	59%	46%	41%
DeSantis	46	89	4	39	54	38	50	58
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
DK/NA	2	1	-	4	2	3	3	2

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Gillum	37%	50%	44%	99%	59%
DeSantis	62	47	54	1	36
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	1
DK/NA	2	3	2	-	3

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Gillum	37%	54%	36%	45%
DeSantis	61	42	63	52
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	1
DK/NA	2	3	1	2

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Gillum	7%	9%	94%	98%	51%	62%
DeSantis	91	87	6	2	45	33
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	-	-	1
DK/NA	-	2	-	-	4	4

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Gillum	39%	55%	51%	44%	61%
DeSantis	57	43	46	54	37
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	-
DK/NA	3	1	3	2	2

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	95%	95%	95%
Might change	4	4	4
DK/NA	-	-	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	50%	11%	90%	56%	42%	58%	47%	40%
Unfavorable	38	75	3	33	47	31	42	48
Hvn't hrd enough	10	13	5	9	10	10	8	11
REFUSED	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	36%	50%	44%	93%	58%
Unfavorable	53	38	45	1	28
Hvn't hrd enough	9	10	9	6	12
REFUSED	2	2	2	-	1

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	37%	55%	35%	45%
Unfavorable	52	35	53	43
Hvn't hrd enough	8	8	10	12
REFUSED	2	2	2	1

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	10%	12%	84%	94%	50%	61%
Unfavorable	78	71	5	2	41	26
Hvn't hrd enough	11	15	9	3	7	11
REFUSED	1	2	1	1	2	2

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Favorable	39%	53%	49%	42%	60%
Unfavorable	44	36	42	47	29
Hvn't hrd enough	15	9	8	11	8
REFUSED	2	2	1	-	3

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	43%	83%	5%	37%	50%	37%	47%	53%
Unfavorable	43	9	77	46	36	48	43	36
Hvn't hrd enough	13	7	17	15	11	14	8	8
REFUSED	2	2	-	2	3	1	2	2

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Favorable	57%	44%	50%	3%	37%
Unfavorable	32	47	40	63	45
Hvn't hrd enough	8	9	8	32	18
REFUSED	3	1	2	2	-

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	57%	38%	57%	50%
Unfavorable	33	51	31	42
Hvn't hrd enough	7	9	9	8
REFUSED	2	2	3	-

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Favorable	85%	79%	5%	5%	42%	32%
Unfavorable	8	9	76	78	40	52
Hvn't hrd enough	4	10	17	17	15	14
REFUSED	2	1	1	-	3	1

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Favorable	52%	42%	42%	54%	35%
Unfavorable	31	44	46	41	46
Hvn't hrd enough	15	12	11	3	17
REFUSED	2	2	1	1	2