

FOR RELEASE: NOVEMBER 5, 2018

**NELSON HAS 7-POINT LEAD IN FLORIDA SENATE RACE,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
GILLUM ALSO UP BY 7 POINTS IN GOVERNOR'S RACE**

In the Florida U.S. Senate race, Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson is holding off a challenge from Gov. Rick Scott, the Republican, and holds a 51 – 44 percent likely voter lead just one day before the election, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

This compares to a 52 – 46 percent likely voter lead for Sen. Nelson in an October 22 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

Double-digit leads among independent voters and women, plus even bigger leads among black and Hispanic voters give Sen. Nelson his cushion:

- Nelson leads 54 – 41 percent among independent voters and 91 – 4 percent among Democrats. Republicans back Scott 94 – 4 percent;
- Women back the Democrat 53– 41 percent. Men are divided with 48 percent for Nelson and 47 percent for Scott;
- White voters back Scott 55 – 41 percent. Nelson leads 87 – 6 percent among black voters and 59 – 31 percent among Hispanic voters.

While 5 percent of Florida likely voters remain undecided, only 1 percent of those who name a candidate say they might change their mind by tomorrow.

“Democrats Sen. Bill Nelson and Mayor Andrew Gillum have identical seven-point leads entering the final hours before Election Day in the races to be the next governor and U.S. senator from Florida,” said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“Sen. Nelson has a 13-point edge among independent voters. Candidates with double-digit leads among independents rarely lose.

“There is little difference in the two races. Both leaders ran up double-digit leads among women; whites went heavily for the GOP candidates while non-whites went even more so for the Democrats.”

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In the Florida governor's race, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum leads former U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis 50 – 43 percent among likely voters. This compares to a 52 – 46 percent Gillum lead in an October 23 survey by the independent Quinnipiac University Poll.

The voters breakdown in the governor's race closely matches the U.S. Senate race:

- Gillum leads 54 – 40 percent among women, as men are split 46 – 46 percent;
- White voters go to DeSantis 54 – 41 percent as Gillum leads 90 – 3 percent among black voters and 57 – 29 percent among Hispanic voters;
- Gillum leads 52 – 39 percent among independent voters and 93 – 4 percent among Democrats, as Republicans back DeSantis 93 – 4 percent.

While 6 percent of Florida likely voters remain undecided in this race, only 1 percent of voters who name a candidate say they might change their mind by tomorrow.

“Mayor Andrew Gillum and his challenger, former Congressman Ron DeSantis, are running exactly the same, 93 – 4 percent among self-identified members of each of their respective parties. But Gillum's 13-point margin among independents is the difference in the outcome,” Brown said.

From October 29 – November 4, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,142 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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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%	4%	93%	52%	46%	54%	47%	36%
DeSantis	43	93	4	39	46	40	50	58
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
DK/NA	6	3	3	8	7	6	3	5

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Gillum	33%	46%	41%	90%	57%
DeSantis	63	49	54	3	29
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	-
DK/NA	3	5	4	7	13

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Gillum	37%	54%	28%	40%
DeSantis	59	43	67	53
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	2	1
DK/NA	3	4	3	6

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Gillum	5%	3%	92%	94%	46%	59%
DeSantis	92	93	3	4	45	32
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	-	1	1
DK/NA	2	4	4	3	7	8

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Gillum	46%	51%	45%	43%	60%
DeSantis	45	43	52	51	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	1	1
DK/NA	9	5	3	4	9

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	99%	98%	99%	
Might change	1	1	1	
DK/NA	-	-	-	

2. 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? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Bill Nelson the Democrat or more toward Rick Scott the Republican?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Nelson	51%	4%	91%	54%	48%	53%	47%	37%
Scott	44	94	4	41	47	41	50	59
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
DK/NA	5	1	5	5	5	6	3	3

	WHITE.....				
	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Nelson	35%	45%	41%	87%	59%
Scott	63	50	55	6	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	-	-
DK/NA	2	4	3	7	10

	WHITE.....			
	COLLEGE DEG		NO COLLEGE	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Nelson	39%	52%	31%	40%
Scott	58	44	68	54
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	1
DK/NA	2	4	1	5

	REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT..		INDEPENDENT	
	Men	Wom	Men	Wom	Men	Wom
Nelson	8%	2%	94%	89%	46%	62%
Scott	92	96	2	5	49	32
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	1	1	3	6	5	6

	AREA.....				
	North/ Panhdl	Bay Area	Cen- tral	South West	South East
Nelson	48%	53%	45%	42%	59%
Scott	46	44	52	53	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	-	1	-	1	-
DK/NA	6	3	3	3	9

2a. (If candidate chosen q2) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q2.....			
	Tot	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q2		
	Nelson	Scott		
Mind made up	99%	99%	99%	
Might change	1	1	1	
DK/NA	-	-	-	