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## Trump leading Clinton by 2 pct. in Florida, survey says

Published August 24, 2016 / EFE

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MIAMI – Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is leading his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, by 2 percentage points in the key state of Florida in a survey of likely voters made public on Wednesday.

According to the survey by the Florida Atlantic University Business and Economics Polling Initiative (FAU BEPI), Trump has 43 percent support in Florida, to Clinton's 41 percent and Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson's 8 percent, while 5 percent of voters say that, so far, they are undecided in the presidential race.

However, the Real Clear Politics Web site, in an average of recent polls published in the run-up to the Nov. 8 election, gives Clinton an overall advantage of 5.4 percent over Trump in Florida.

The populous southeastern state, where 18 percent of the voters are Hispanic, is one of the decisive battlegrounds for the presidential contest, both due to its large number of electoral votes - 29 out of the 270 needed to win the White House - and because it is a swing state and thus not an assured bastion for either one of the two major parties.

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The latest FAU BEPI poll, conducted from Aug. 19-22 among 1,200 voters, reveals that the fight for the Hispanic vote is tighter in Florida than in the rest of the country, with Clinton having just a 10-point advantage over Trump - with 50 percent to the GOP candidate's 40 percent - while the former first lady's average advantage among Latino voters nationwide is a huge 48 percent.

BEPI director Monica Escaleras said that the relative closeness of the race for the Hispanic vote is probably due to Florida's Cuban population, noting in a communique that "The support that (Trump) enjoys among Florida Latinos is helping him remain competitive."

The survey also found that both Trump and Clinton are negatively viewed by more than half of Floridians, with Trump's negative rating standing at 56 percent to Clinton's 58 percent.

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