

# FLORIDA POLITICS



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## Online poll shows Floridians support sanctuary cities



MITCH PERRY

February 6, 2017, 2:10 pm

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An online poll of 600 Florida residents conducted by Florida Atlantic University shows that by a 52-36 percent margin, Floridians do *not* want the Trump administration to cut off funding to sanctuary cities.

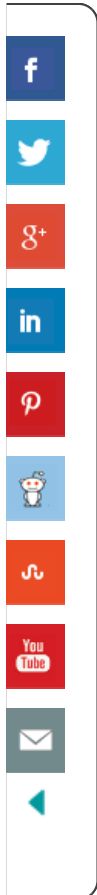
And a plurality – 46-38 percent – don't want the U.S. Justice Dept. to take any legal action against sanctuary cities.

However, the same poll also shows that only a slight majority (fifty-five percent) have ever heard of the term 'sanctuary city,' before being polled to opine on it. Sanctuary cities are generally defined as localities that help shield undocumented residents from deportation by refusing to fully cooperate with detention requests from federal immigration authorities.

After **President Donald Trump** signed an executive order threatening to pull federal funding from sanctuary cities, Miami-Dade County Mayor **Carlos Gimenez** announced that his county would abandon the practice of being a sanctuary city. That decision by itself could affect the fate of more than one million undocumented immigrants. By a 62 to 39 percent majority, those surveyed said that Miami-Dade County shouldn't end the practice of being a sanctuary county.

Interestingly, the poll also asked if Tampa should become a sanctuary city (the question posed said that it is considering becoming one). By a margin of a 61%-39%, those surveyed said Tampa should designate itself as such.

Mayor **Bob Buckhorn** has said that officially [Tampa is not a sanctuary city and would not become one](#), but that he won't be directing Tampa Police Officers to act as immigration agents anytime soon. Those responsibilities are actually handled by Hillsborough County. Last



week, the Hillsborough County Diversity Council [voted 8-1](#) to recommend that county commissioners look into becoming a sanctuary county, However, County Commission Chair [Stacy White says that won't be happening.](#)

St. Petersburg Mayor [Rick Kriseman](#) has essentially said the same thing, though he confused some people over the weekend by [issuing a statement](#) saying that, "I have no hesitation in declaring St. Petersburg a sanctuary from harmful federal immigration laws."

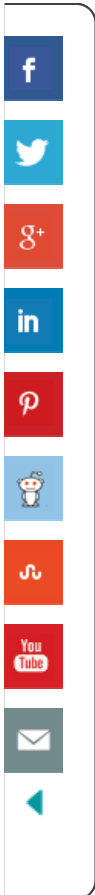
Republicans were the only group who supported cutting federal funds with 70 percent in support and 24 percent opposed.

A full two-thirds of those surveyed also said they do not want to pay for a border wall on the Mexican border (66 percent to 33 percent).

The poll also shows that 66 percent of those surveyed disapprove of President Trump's job performance, with only 34 percent approving.

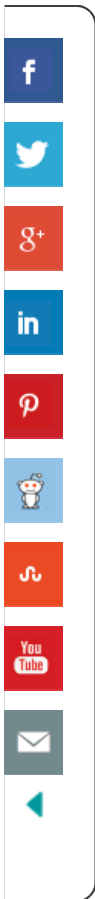
But the attitude of those surveyed was equally critical towards incumbent Democrats. Only 28 percent said he deserves re-election in 2018, while 72 percent said it was time to give someone else a chance.

The online survey was taken between February 1 and February 4, , with a margin of error of +/- 3.9 percent



Democratic Senator **Bill Nelson** appears vulnerable in his 2018 re-election attempt in this poll, with 28 percent saying he deserves re-election while 72 percent said it was time to give someone else a chance.

Of the 600 people surveyed, 148 were Democrats, 147 were Republicans, 144 were independents, and 161 were not registered to vote.



**Mitch Perry**

Mitch Perry has been a reporter with Extensive Enterprises since November of 2014. Previously, he served as five years as the political editor of the alternative newsweekly Creative Loafing. He also was the assistant news director with WMNF 88.5 FM in Tampa from 2000-2009, and currently hosts MidPoint, a weekly talk show, on WMNF on Thursday afternoons. He began his reporting career at KPFA radio in Berkeley. He's a San Francisco native who has now lived in Tampa for 15 years and can be reached at [mitch.perry@floridapolitics.com](mailto:mitch.perry@floridapolitics.com).

**2 Comments**



**PBowyer**

February 6, 2017 at 11:00 pm

No we do not support sanctuary cities.



**Kathy**

February 7, 2017 at 7:56 am

I don't know who you polled but we do Not want sanctuary cities. I live and vacation in Florida, I will spend my money outside of Florida if that happens.

