Florida's Hispanic voters optimistic on economy but down on Donald Trump

A new Hispanic consumer confidence survey from Florida Atlantic University finds Latino Florida voters more optimistic than the nation about the economy but about the same in assessing President Donald Trump.

The survey of 600 people, conducted by FAU's Business and Economic Polling Initiative, found that 39 percent approve of Trump's job performance, compared to 60 percent disapproval.

It also found minorities are happy and optimistic about the economy, attitudes not shared by Hispanics nationally.

"Hispanics in Florida are better off financially and this is reflected in their feelings about the economy," said Monica Escobar, director of FAU's Center for Latino Policy Research. "However, they still don't approve of the president's performance."

The poll, conducted during the first three months of 2017, has a margin of error of 3.7 percent.

It found that 53 percent of Florida Hispanics said they expect good times financially for the next five years. This contrasts to the national Hispanic index that found 57 percent of Hispanics said they expect good times financially for the next five years.

Florida Hispanics by a margin of 39 to 41 percent see business conditions as good for the next year. Overall, 66 percent of Florida Hispanics said they are better off financially than they were one year ago and nearly 4 out of 5 said they will be better off next year as well.

About one-third of Florida Hispanics (34 percent) expect the economy will get better, while 30 percent think it will get worse and 45 percent said it will stay the same.

Nearly 6 out of 10 Hispanics think it is a good time for buying a big item for their home. More than half (58 percent) think it is a good time to be a house, while nearly 65 percent said it was a good time to buy a car.

A pull quote from Hillary Clinton reading Donald Trump won't annoy Hispanics in Florida 3-2

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote in Florida, 53-47 percent. But Trump's margin was narrower than in the rest of the nation, 50-48 percent.

Hanging in the air is the question of whether Trump will continue his populist message.

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