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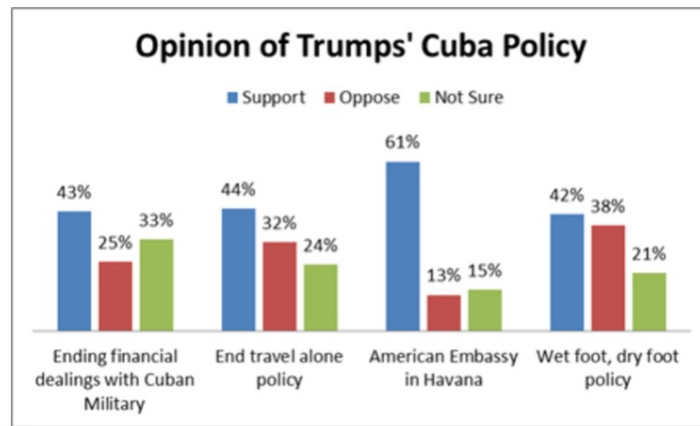
Poll: Trump's Cuba policy has some support but less popular than Obama's



Alex Leary, Times Washington Bureau Chief

Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:43am

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Cuba poll

Florida Atlantic University

President Donald Trump's Cuba policy is less popular than the opening created by President Barack Obama, a new Florida poll shows.

20 June

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"Overall, 47 percent of Floridians support Obama's Cuba policy, while Trump's policy changes announced on June 16 in Miami garnered 34 percent support. However, Trump's policy changes did receive a plurality of support," reads a release from Florida Atlantic University.

"The Trump administration's plans to prohibit commerce with Cuban businesses owned by the military and intelligence services won support from 43 percent of respondents, while 25 percent opposed and 33 percent said they were not sure."

More from the online poll:

-- Trump's new restriction to only allow Americans to visit Cuba as part of a tour group received 44 percent support, while 32 percent opposed and 24 percent were not sure. His decision to retain an American embassy in Havana was most popular, with 61 percent supporting, 13 percent opposing and 15 percent not sure.

-- While showing support for Trump's announced changes, Floridians were pessimistic the new policies will improve life for the Cuban people. Only 21 percent said the new policies would make life better for Cubans, while 36 percent said they would make life worse, and 43 percent expect no difference.

"Despite support from Floridians for President Trump's Cuba policies, they are pessimistic that they will improve the life of the Cuban people," said Monica Escaleras, director of the Business and Economics Polling Initiative.

Engage Cuba, a Washington interest group, seized on the results. "President Trump's Cuba policy isn't about Florida politics, it's about two influential Florida politicians," the group said in a statement.

Worrisome for Trump is his sliding approval rating in Florida, down six percentage points from a poll in March.

His disapproval rating is at 38 percent (but remains strong among Republicans at 78 percent.)

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The online poll included 500 Florida residents and has a margin of error of +/- 4.3 percentage points.

