

# Poll: Floridians on Nelson-Scott Senate race, Trump, Confederate statues

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Floridians' views on Gov. Rick Scott, Sen. Bill Nelson, President Donald Trump and Confederate statues were measured in a new FAU poll.

An expected 2018 Senate race between Democratic Sen. **Bill Nelson** and Republican Gov. **Rick Scott** is a virtual tie, according to a new Florida Atlantic University poll, which also finds wide-open Republican and Democratic primary races for governor and mixed views on President **Donald Trump's** "both sides" remarks about Charlottesville.

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more pronounced views on statues of Confederate figures in public places. Forty-nine percent say the statues should remain. Thirty percent say they should be removed, as three Democratic candidates for governor advocated Monday in West Palm Beach.

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FAU's poll of 800 registered Florida voters, conducted last Thursday through Saturday, shows three-term incumbent Sen. Nelson getting 42 percent and term-limited Gov. Scott getting 40 percent in a hypothetical Senate race. That's a virtual tie considering the poll's 4 percent margin of error.

Scott hasn't announced his 2018 plans, but the expectation he'll run for Senate is so great that no other Republicans have entered the race.

In the race to replace Scott as governor, 53 percent of Republican voters say they're undecided on a nominee a year before the primary. Agriculture Commissioner **Adam Putnam** is the leading GOP candidate with 27 percent, while recently declared state Sen. **Jack Latvala**, R-Clearwater, gets 2 percent. Two potential candidates — House Speaker **Richard Corcoran**, R-Land-O'Lakes, and U.S. Rep. **Ron DeSantis**, R-Palm Coast — get 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

The Democratic gubernatorial race is also very much up for grabs, with a 47 percent plurality saying they are undecided and trial lawyer **John Morgan** — who hasn't said whether he'll run — leading the field with 19 percent. Former U.S. Rep. **Gwen Graham** gets 14 percent, Tallahassee Mayor **Andrew Gillum** 9 percent, undeclared Miami Beach Mayor **Philip Levine** 8 percent and Winter Park businessman **Chris King** 4

percent.

Part-time Palm Beach resident Trump gets a 37 percent job approval rating in the FAU poll, with 47 percent disapproving. Nationally, [the RealClearPolitics.com average of polls](#) shows Trump with a 38.5 percent approval score and 55.6 disapproval rating.

Asked about Trump's [declaration that "both sides" bore blame](#) for the deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, 44 percent of Floridians disagreed and 42 percent agreed, with 14 percent undecided.