



By **Steven Lemongello** · Contact Reporter
Orlando Sentinel

Get the free Sentinel Insight newsletter, a twice-weekly glimpse of different points of view on issues in the news.

Enter your email

[Privacy Policy](#)

MAY 8, 2018, 5:35 PM

Gov. **Rick Scott** has a four-point lead over U.S. Sen. **Bill Nelson**, 44 to 40 percent, in a new statewide poll released Tuesday by Florida Atlantic University.

The poll of 1,000 registered voters taken from May 4 to 7 shows a six-point swing from an FAU poll in February, which had Nelson with a 40 to 38 percent lead.

Sixteen percent were still undecided.

“The Senate race in Florida continues to be very close and is going to be one of the most expensive and competitive contests in the nation,” said Kevin Wagner, professor of political science at FAU. “**President Trump**’s approval ratings in Florida are edging up, and if that continues, it could help Rick Scott and other Republicans on the midterm ballot.”

In the Republican field for governor, U.S. Rep. **Ron DeSantis** of Palm Coast had 16 percent and Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam had 15 percent.

Among Democrats for governor, former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine had 16 percent, while former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham of Tallahassee had 15 percent, businessman Chris King of Winter Park had 10 percent and Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum had 9 percent, the poll showed.

More than 40 percent of both parties’ voters, however, are still undecided.

“The race for governor remains wide open in Florida, with large numbers of undecided voters in both races,” said Monica Escaleras, director of the FAU Business and Economic Polling Initiative. “It is not unusual to have so many undecided voters at this early stage, as even the leading candidates are still introducing themselves to much of Florida.”

The most important issues for voters were immigration at 23 percent followed by healthcare at 20 percent, the economy at 19 percent and gun control at 19 percent.



ADVERTISEMENT



ADVERTISEMENT

ORLANDO SENTINEL

Planning a vacation? Check out the best travel deals and destinations

HIDE AWAY ORLANDO

healthcare at 20 percent, the economy at 13 percent and gun control at 12 percent.

The poll has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

slemongello@orlandosentinel.com, 407-418-5920 or @stevelemongello

