

Politics

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## Rick Scott Ahead of Bill Nelson in FAU Poll

By SUNSHINE STATE NEWS  
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Richard Corcoran and Bill Nelson

A new poll shows Gov. Rick Scott with a slight lead over U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., in one of the most closely watched U.S. Senate races in the nation.

Florida Atlantic University Business and Economics Polling Initiative (FAU BEPI) released a poll on Wednesday which found Scott taking 44 percent and Nelson behind him with 40 percent and the rest undecided.

Half of those surveyed--50 percent--approve of Scott while 32 percent disapprove of him. Nelson was approved by 37 percent of those surveyed and disapproved by 32 percent.

President Donald Trump, who carried Florida in 2016 and is headed to Tampa on Tuesday, is upside down in the poll with 47 percent disapproving of him and 41 percent approving of him, down slightly from the highest rating he has scored as president from Florida voters according to FAU back in May when 43 percent approved of him and 45 percent disapproved of him.

Asked what the top issue is, 29 percent of those surveyed say immigration and 26 percent think it's health-care with a partisan divide on the matter as 43 percent of Republicans say immigration is the most important issues while 34 percent of Democrats say it is health-care.

An overwhelming majority of Floridians--86 percent--say they are concerned about toxic algae blooms impacting the state with 53 percent of those surveyed saying they are very concerned about them.

The survey, which polled 800 Florida registered voters July 20-21, was conducted using an online sample supplied by Survey Sampling International using online questionnaires and via an automated telephone platform (IVR) using registered voter lists supplied by Aristotle, Inc. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.4 percentage points.

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