New polling gives Joe Biden 10-point lead in Florida, Elizabeth Warren doubles support

“Elizabeth Warren is gathering strength and is becoming a real competitor for the state.”

By Ryan Nicol  on September 18, 2019

Former Vice President Joe Biden’s lead in the Sunshine State is shrinking, but he still maintains a 10-point lead over his opponents in the Democratic presidential primary.

That’s according to the latest poll of Florida voters conducted by the Florida Atlantic University Business and Economic Polling Initiative (FAU BEPI).

Biden received 34 percent support in the survey. That’s slightly down from the 39 percent the last time the poll was taken back in May. But he remains in the lead.

That lead is shrinking, however, due to U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts rocketing up from 12 percent support in May to 24 percent support in September.

Warren went from trailing Biden by 27 points to just 10 points.

“While Joe Biden continues to lead other primary candidates in Florida, Elizabeth Warren is gathering strength and is becoming a real competitor for the state,” said Ken Wagner, professor of political science at FAU and a research fellow of the initiative.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont sits in third place at 14 percent support. That’s up two percentage points from his May results.

Rounding out the top five are South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg at 5 percent support, followed by U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris of California at 4 percent.

In a surprising finding, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey of Minnesota, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, and Wall Street hedge fund manager Tom Steyer are among a trio of candidates showing 0 percent support in FAU’s survey.

President Donald Trump also finds himself trailing a trio of Republican primary challengers.

According to the FAU survey, Trump holds the party’sGer to be at 23 percent, with 8 percent support. Former U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford of South Carolina came in second at 16 percent. He was followed by former U.S. Sen. Joe Walsh of Illinois at 12 percent and former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld at 12 percent.

Pollsters conducted the survey Sept. 12 to 14 with a sample of 252 Florida registered voters. The margin of error for Democratic Primary results is +/- 6.5 percent. For the Republican primary, the MOE is +/- 5 percentage points.

FAU also polled hypothetical general election matchups between Trump and four of the Democratic front-runners.

While Biden has shown strength in head-to-head polling against Trump, Warren actually led the best in the FAU survey. Trump lost by a fraction of a percentage point, earning 57 percent support to her 48 percent.

Biden and Sanders both trailed by 1 percentage point against Trump. Harris was down by 2 points, losing out 56 percent to 48 percent.

“President Donald Trump is in a dead heat with the leading Democrats in Florida, which continues to be the largest battleground state,” Wagner said.

Florida voters will take to the polls on March 17 to make their selections in the respective presidential primaries. The general election will be on Nov. 3, 2020.

Written by Ryan Nicol

Ryan Nicol covers news out of South Florida for Florida Politic. Ryan is a native Floridian who attended undergrad at Nova Southeastern University before moving on to law school at Florida State. After graduating with a law degree, he moved into the news industry, working in TV News as a writer and producer, along with some freelance writing work. If you’d like to contact him, send an email to ryan.nicol@gmail.com.