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Polls Show Close Presidential Races In Southern States—Biden Leads Trump In Florida



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TOPLINE Three polls of Southern states released Friday show President Trump narrowly ahead in North Carolina and Georgia, while Biden leads more substantially in Florida.



Former vice president Joe Biden speaks during a campaign rally held at the University of South ... [+] JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

KEY FACTS

- An [East Carolina University poll](#) showed Trump leading Biden in North Carolina—a swing state—by 3 points, an improvement over [polls in April](#), which had Biden ahead in the state.
- Trump runs slightly stronger than Republican Senator Tom Tillis, who edged out Democratic opponent Cal Cunningham by 1 point, and is way ahead of Republican gubernatorial candidate Dan Forest, who trails Democratic incumbent Roy Cooper by 15 points.
- Trump also leads Biden by 2 points in a [Georgia poll](#) from the Republican State Leadership committee, while Republican Senator Dave Perdue leads challenger Jon Ossoff by 5 points in the traditional red state.
- [Two other](#) Republican internal polls in May have shown similarly tight races in Georgia, which Trump won by 5 points in 2016, after Clinton [targeted](#) the state.
- Biden got some good news out of Florida—a crucial swing state—where a [Florida Atlantic University poll](#) showed him leading Trump by 6 points.

KEY BACKGROUND

Florida has been one of Trump’s stronger swing states throughout his presidency, typically giving him good approval ratings and resisting the Democratic wave in 2018 by electing Republicans to the Governorship and the U.S. Senate. But [every poll](#) of the sunshine state since April has had Biden leading or tied, thanks in large part to Biden’s relative [strength with older voters](#).

TANGENT

The Florida poll also showed a unique result in the race to be Biden’s running mate. Whereas national and swing state polls have [shown](#) Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) favored among Democratic voters, this poll had Senator Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) ahead, with 23% of Biden supporters saying they want Harris, compared to 16% for Warren, 15% for former Georgia assemblywoman Stacey Abrams, 13% for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and 12% for Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

These numbers may look encouraging to Democrats, who have thus far focused their fire on taking back the Rust Belt. They may opt to execute a [Sunbelt strategy](#) focusing on Southern states like Georgia, North Carolina and Florida, as well as Arizona and Texas, which collectively hold five critical senate races, to take back the White House.

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I am a news desk reporter covering politics and the 2020 election. I have previously worked for MSNBC and Chronogram Magazine. I attended Vassar College and the London... **Read More**