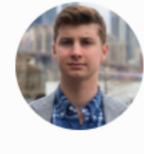
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# Polls Show Close Presidential Races In Southern States—Biden Leads Trump In Florida

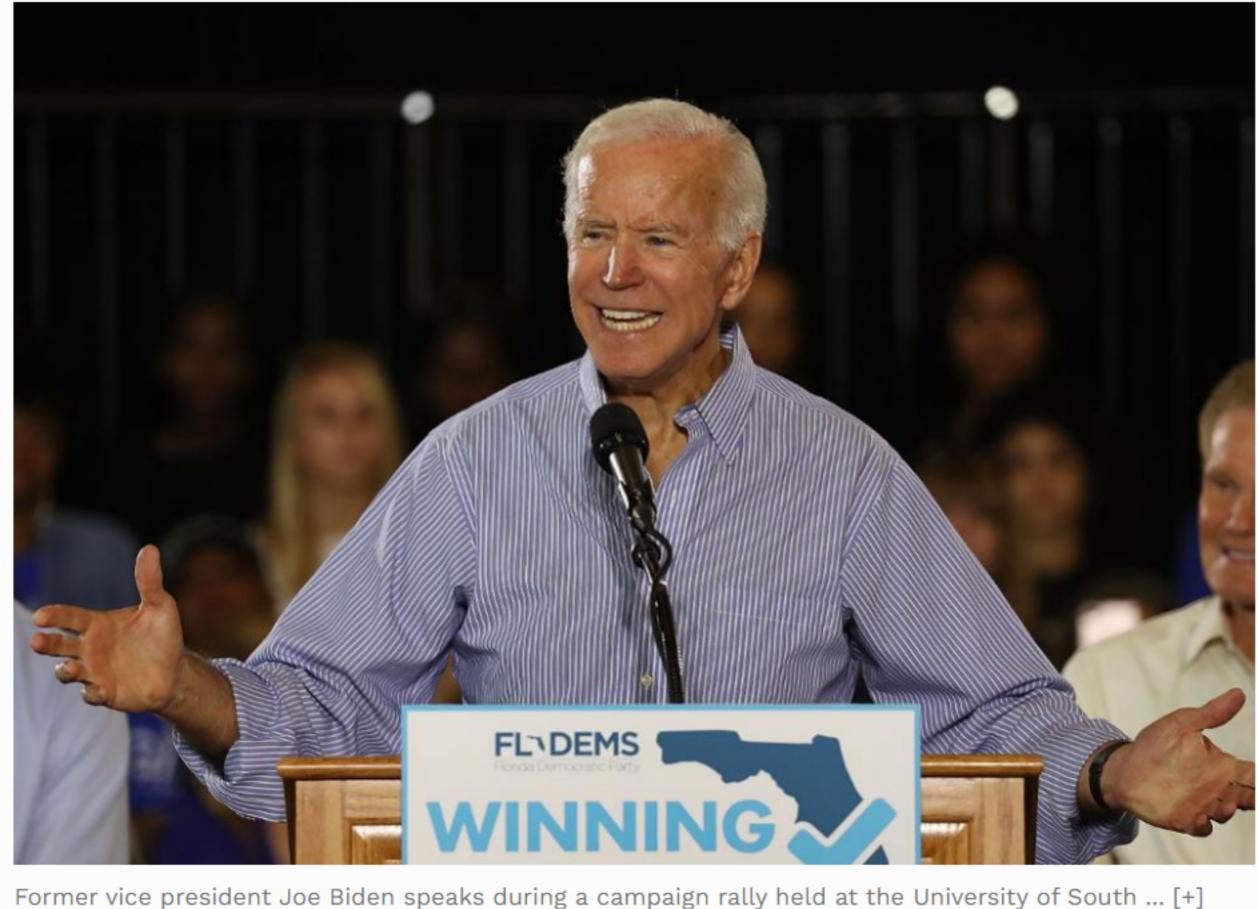


in

Andrew Solender Forbes Staff Business I cover politics and the 2020 election

Updated May 15, 2020, 04:55pm EDT

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.



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

#### An East Carolina University poll showed Trump leading Biden in North

**KEY FACTS** 

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.
- 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

Trump also leads Biden by 2 points in a Georgia poll from the Republican

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.

races in Georgia, which Trump won by 5 points in 2016, after Clinton

# Florida has been one of Trump's stronger swing states throughout his

**KEY BACKGROUND** 

targeted the state.

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



Print

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Tips

senate races, to take back the White House.

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