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POLITICS

FAU poll: Trump-Biden a dead heat in Fla, undecideds choose president

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Published 9:09 a.m. ET Sep. 15, 2020 | Updated 11:36 a.m. ET Sep. 15, 2020



President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House, Friday, Sept. 4, 2020, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci) *Evan Vucci, AP*

Undecided voters choosing President Trump have turned Florida into a dead heat ahead of the Nov. 3 election, according to Florida Atlantic University poll released Tuesday.

The FAU Business and Economics Polling Initiative found Biden leading Trump 49% to 46%, with a potentially decisive 5% still not certain who they would cast a ballot for.

However, an FAU statement said "undecideds are breaking for Trump 4:1, resulting in a statistical tie at 50 percent for each candidate."

Also in Trump's corner, apparently, voter enthusiasm with 72% of Trump supporters saying they are "extremely excited" while 60% of Biden supporters saying the same of their candidate.

"Florida is always a close state," said Kevin Wagner, a professor of political science at FAU and a research fellow of the Initiative. "People who probably have wandered away from the president are probably wandering back toward him."



Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the fourth day of the Democratic National Convention, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, at the Chase Center in Wilmington, Del. [AP Photo/Andrew Harnik] *Andrew Harnik, AP*

Just six months ago, before the pandemic settled in, FAU's pollsters said the fall race would be close, with Biden holding a narrow 2% point lead over Trump, 51% to 49%. Two months later, another poll by FAU found Biden's lead had widened to six points, a 53 percent to 47 percent advantage in May.

Tuesday's poll results, however, said 9% of Florida voters surveyed hold open the possibility of changing their minds. But 97% of those identifying as voting for Trump and 94% of those who said they will vote for Biden "insist they will stick with their choices."

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Also good news for Trump: His approval rating in the state rose four points to 47%.

"The trend line has always been clear. Florida is just a better state for the president," said Wagner. "His numbers here have always been better than the national ones."

Other findings:

- The economy was the top issue for voters surveyed at 37 percent, with the coronavirus second (17 percent) and healthcare third (14 percent).
- Racism/equality ranked fourth at 10 percent.
- Foreign policy (9 percent) rated fifth.
- No other issue eclipsed 5 percent.

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Interestingly, 82% of voters said they are confident in the election results, with 14 percent not so confident and 4 percent not confident at all.

According to FAU:

"Most voters polled expect to hear the results on Election Day (38 percent), while 31 percent expect to hear the next day. Only 9 percent think it could take longer than a week to determine a winner.

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When it comes to how they will vote, 45 percent of survey respondents said they plan to do so by mail before the election, while 31 percent said they plan to vote in-person early. Twenty-four percent of voters said they plan to vote in-person on Election Day.

Meanwhile, President Trump's approval rating has improved in his new home state since May, with 47 percent of respondents approving of his job performance, up from 43 percent. But his disapproval rating also increased, to 49 percent from 46 percent in May.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' approval rating declined again to 43 percent, from 51 percent in May and 54 percent in March. His disapproval rating increased to 43 percent, compared with 32 percent in May and 20 percent in March."

