

With COVID Taking Center Stage, Rubio is Winning -- DeSantis is Losing

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For Immediate Release:

In a recent poll of 1000 likely Florida voters, we have seen a huge swing from previous polls 8 weeks earlier. With the new surge of Covid, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R) is maintaining his lead against democratic challenger Val Demmings (55%-45%). However, when it comes to the other races, we see a dramatic shift in the voters take on Governor Ron DeSantis' handling of the pandemic as well as how he has lost a great deal of traction versus both Democrat opponents. When you look at the data on the following pages you will see that, as of today, the two democrat contenders (Charlie Crist and Nikki Fried) are stronger with their own party base than Ron DeSantis is with the Republican base.

First, when rating the handling of the Pandemic, DeSantis has 53.8% having either an unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion on how he is handling the overall pandemic. However, when you break it out by party lines, we see Republicans are still strongly supportive of his actions with 66.2% having a combined favorable and very favorable opinion of his handling of the situation.

What is your opinion on Governor Ron DeSantis' handling of the overall Covid 19 Pandemic?			
<i>Responses: 1000</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
	1. Very Favorable	271	27.1%
	2. Favorable	162	16.2%
	3. unfavorable	200	20.0%
	4. Very Unfavorable	338	33.8%
	5. No Opinion	29	2.9%

What is your opinion on Governor Ron DeSantis' handling of the overall Covid 19 Pandemic?				
<i>Responses: 1000</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Crosstab %</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
Party Labels				
Democrat, Responses: 450				
	1. Very Favorable	37	8.2%	3.7%
	2. Favorable	46	10.2%	4.6%
	3. unfavorable	123	27.3%	12.3%
	4. Very Unfavorable	238	52.9%	23.8%
	5. No Opinion	6	1.3%	0.6%
No Party Affiliation , Responses: 112				

	1. Very Favorable	43	38.4%	4.3%
	2. Favorable	17	15.2%	1.7%
	3. unfavorable	21	18.8%	2.1%
	4. Very Unfavorable	30	26.8%	3.0%
	5. No Opinion	1	0.9%	0.1%
Republican, Responses: 438				
	1. Very Favorable	191	43.6%	19.1%
	2. Favorable	99	22.6%	9.9%
	3. unfavorable	56	12.8%	5.6%
	4. Very Unfavorable	70	16.0%	7.0%
	5. No Opinion	22	5.0%	2.2%

Next, we see a complete flip from 8 weeks ago with, today, Charlie Crist leading DeSantis 56.7% to 43.3%. What seems to be the biggest part is the amount of grasp each has within their party. With Democrats we see Crist having 89.8% of his base whereas with the Republicans we see DeSantis only taking 74.7% of the GOP responders.

If the election for governor were held today, who would you choose between Ron DeSantis or Charlie Crist?

<i>Responses: 1000</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
1. Charlie Crist	567	56.7%
2. Ron DeSantis	433	43.3%

If the election for governor were held today, who would you choose between Ron DeSantis or Charlie Crist?

<i>Responses: 1000</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Crosstab %</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
Party Labels			
Democrat, Responses: 450			
1. Charlie Crist	404	89.8%	40.4%
2. Ron DeSantis	46	10.2%	4.6%
No Party Affiliation , Responses: 112			

	1. Charlie Crist	52	46.4%	5.2%
	2. Ron DeSantis	60	53.6%	6.0%
Republican, Responses: 438				
	1. Charlie Crist	111	25.3%	11.1%
	2. Ron DeSantis	327	74.7%	32.7%

Additionally, when looking at a race between Nikki Fried and Ron DeSantis, we see that same scenario with energizing their own party. Between then Fried gains 82.9% of Democratic voters as compared to 74.9% of Republican voters choosing DeSantis.

If the election was between Ron DeSantis or Nikki Fried, who would you choose?				
<i>Responses: 1000</i>		<i>Total</i>		<i>Overall %</i>
	1. Ron DeSantis	463		46.3%
	2. Nikki Fried	537		53.7%

If the election was between Ron DeSantis or Nikki Fried, who would you choose?				
<i>Responses: 1000</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Crosstab %</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
Party Labels				
Democrat, Responses: 450				
	1. Ron DeSantis	77	17.1%	7.7%
	2. Nikki Fried	373	82.9%	37.3%
No Party Affiliation , Responses: 112				
	1. Ron DeSantis	58	51.8%	5.8%
	2. Nikki Fried	54	48.2%	5.4%
Republican, Responses: 438				
	1. Ron DeSantis	328	74.9%	32.8%
	2. Nikki Fried	110	25.1%	11.0%

Here when we looked at the race for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R), we see that he is maintaining his lead across all party platforms. Overall Rubio has 54.9% while having nearly 53% of the

democratic votes in this poll. A great deal of this, though, might be that the opponent, Demmings, has not secured the Florida Democratic voice as of at this time.

If the election for United States Senate was today, and your choices were Sen. Marco Rubio, or Congresswoman Val Demmings; who would you choose?			
<i>Responses: 1000</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
	1. Marco Rubio	549	54.9%
	2. Val Demmings	451	45.1%

If the election for United States Senate was today, and your choices were Sen. Marco Rubio, or Congresswoman Val Demmings; who would you choose?				
<i>Responses: 1000</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Crosstab %</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
	Party Labels			
	Democrat, Responses: 459			
	1. Marco Rubio	241	52.5%	24.1%
	2. Val Demmings	218	47.5%	21.8%
	No Party Affiliation , Responses: 219			
	1. Marco Rubio	121	55.3%	12.1%
	2. Val Demmings	98	44.7%	9.8%
	Republican, Responses: 322			
	1. Marco Rubio	187	58.1%	18.7%
	2. Val Demmings	135	41.9%	13.5%

METHODOLOGY:

The persons sampled were Florida likely voters with a voting score of 100% for the primary and general election cycles. The voters called were those only with landlines and were called using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system and were called during the hours of 1PM to 8PM August 14-18, 2021. The Margin of Error for this study is +/- 3.1% with a confidence level of 95%.

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