



[New Presidential Polling Shows Trump and Biden are Neck and Neck in Florida](#)

The latest polling in Florida shows President Trump and former Vice President Biden locked in a dead heat, with both sitting at 48% according to a newly released NBC News/Marist poll. The survey finds that Trump holds a slight edge among the state's Latino voters, while Biden has a small advantage among seniors. Florida is a critical battleground state, and with the exception of 1992, has voted for the winner in every presidential election since 1964. Its status as an important swing state has been evident over the past six presidential elections in particular, with Florida voting for the respective Republican and Democratic nominee three times each during that time period. In 2016, Trump won Florida by a mere 1.2%, and the recent polling in the state suggests another extremely close margin this time around in 2020 as well.

On top of the razor-thin gap in Florida between President Trump and then Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016, the state has a consistent history of incredibly tight margins in presidential races. Back in 2012, incumbent President Barack Obama defeated Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney by less than one percentage point, 50% to 49.1%, on his way to re-election in what turned out to be the narrowest gap of any of the 50 states in that election cycle. Additionally, in the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore, Florida became subject to a major recount dispute and the infamous "hanging chads" controversy which ultimately resulted in a statewide Bush victory of only 537 votes, the closest state-winning margin in any U.S. presidential election ever. Bush's historically slim win in Florida turned out to be the deciding factor in the 2000 presidential race, with Bush defeating Gore in the Electoral College by a count of 271-266.

While showing Trump and Biden in a virtual tie overall, the NBC News/Marist poll that was released earlier this week also found that Biden is maintaining a double-digit lead among African-Americans, women, and independents in the state, while Trump leads by a similar margin among men and white voters without a college degree. Furthermore, 53% of voters surveyed believe that Trump is the better candidate for handling the economy, however Biden was deemed the preferable candidate regarding dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and race relations by margins of 49%-40% and 51%-37% respectively. Trump also has the slight edge over Biden on voter perceptions with respect to leading on crime, 48%-45%. Similarly to the deadlocked polling numbers, the favorability ratings for the two candidates are also nearly identical, with Trump at 47% and Biden at 46%. The NBC News/Marist poll gathered its results via phone interviews with 766 likely voters from August 31st until this past Sunday, September 6th – a time frame after both political parties held their conventions.

If recent history and these latest polling figures are an accurate indicator, Florida's 29 electoral votes are certainly up for grabs in the upcoming November presidential election. The state is one of the biggest prizes of election night, behind only California and Texas, and therefore it is worth monitoring if and how voter perceptions in Florida evolve as we head towards early November.