

LEADERSHIP FLORIDA 2007 SUNSHINE STATE SURVEY

**MAJORITY SEE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AS VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM
SUPPORT STRONG CONTROL MEASURES, BUT ACKNOWLEDGE VALUE OF LABOR**

A majority of Floridians (51%) feel illegal immigration is a very serious problem in the state, with an additional 25% calling it a somewhat serious problem and only 22% indicating it was either not too serious or not a problem at all.

QUESTION: Do you feel illegal immigration in Florida is:

- A very serious problem 51%
- A somewhat serious problem 25%
- Not that serious of a problem 16%
- Not a problem at all 6%
- Not Sure (NOT READ) 2%

The perceived seriousness of the illegal immigration problem, however, reveals a number of political divisions in the state. Those who are more likely to say it is a very serious problem are registered voters (53%), Republicans (67%), Independents (59%), whites (55%) and African-Americans (53%). Those less likely to describe it as very serious are Democrats (37%) and Hispanics (34%). Even within the Hispanic community there is significant division, with 44% of those from Cuban descent saying it is a very serious problem, but only 26% of non-Cuban Hispanics feeling that way.

SERIOUSNESS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN FLORIDA

	VERY SERIOUS	SW SERIOUS	NOT TOO SERIOUS	NOT A PROBLEM	NOT SURE
REG VOTERS	53%	24%	15%	6%	2%
DEMS	37%	25%	26%	10%	2%
REPS	67%	24%	5%	2%	2%
INDS	59%	21%	14%	5%	1%
WHITE	55%	24%	14%	5%	2%
BLACK	53%	25%	17%	5%	1%
HISPANIC	34%	27%	23%	15%	1%
CUBAN	44%	27%	16%	13%	-
NON-CUBAN	26%	26%	29%	18%	1%

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A majority of Floridians (54%) are in favor of tougher policy measures to deal with illegal immigration, while 39% support guest worker programs and creating a path to citizenship.

QUESTION: In terms of immigration, which general policy approach do you most support: (ORDER ROTATED)

54% – Tightening security along the border, penalizing employers who hire illegal immigrants and deporting those who are in the country illegally, or

39% – Creating a guest worker program, allowing those who are working and can clear a criminal background check to stay and granting amnesty to those who want to become citizens?

7% – Not Sure (NOT READ)

The approach to handling illegal immigration also sparks several sharp political divisions in Florida. Those most in favor of taking a tough approach are registered voters (56%), Republicans (76%), Independents (63%), whites (57%) and African-Americans (56%). Democrats (58%) and Hispanics (60%) are in favor of creating a path to citizenship. In the Hispanic community, Cubans are about equally divided (49%-45% for tough measures), while non-Cubans back citizenship by a wide margin (74%-24%).

IMMIGRATION POLICY

	SECURE BORDER PENALIZE EMPLOYERS DEPORT	GUEST WORKER PATH TO CITIZENSHIP	NOT SURE
REG VOTERS	56%	37%	7%
DEMS	33%	58%	9%
REPS	76%	19%	5%
INDS	63%	28%	9%
WHITE	57%	35%	8%
BLACK	56%	41%	3%
HISPANIC	36%	60%	4%
CUBAN	49%	45%	6%
NON-CUBAN	74%	24%	2%

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Despite strong concern about the illegal immigration problem and calls for stronger action to control it, the majority of Floridians continue to recognize that illegal immigrants in the state primarily fill jobs that others won't do. Statewide, 59% feel that illegal immigrants primarily fill agriculture and tourism jobs, while only 34% said they primarily take away jobs from Floridians. These results are very similar to those from the 2006 Sunshine State Survey.

QUESTION: Do you feel that illegal immigrants in Florida primarily take away jobs from other Floridians, or do they primarily fill jobs in agriculture and tourism that many other Floridians won't do?

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Take Jobs	34%	31%
Fill Jobs	59%	60%
Not Sure	7%	9%

Those more likely to think illegal immigrants are taking jobs are registered voters (36%), Republicans (42%) and whites (38%). Those more likely to feel they are filling jobs are Democrats (63%), Blacks (67%) and Hispanics (78%). Among Hispanics, non-Cubans (87%) overwhelmingly say they are filling jobs that others won't take.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN FLORIDA

	TAKE JOBS	FILL JOBS	NOT SURE
REG VOTERS	36%	56%	8%
DEMS	32%	62%	6%
REPS	42%	50%	8%
INDS	31%	57%	13%
WHITE	38%	54%	8%
BLACK	28%	67%	5%
HISPANIC	16%	78%	6%
CUBAN	21%	68%	11%
NON-CUBAN	12%	87%	1%

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

This poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc. of Washington, D.C. from November 19 through November 30, 2007. A total of 1,200 resident Florida adults were interviewed statewide by telephone.

Those interviewed were selected by the random variation of the last four digits of telephone numbers. A cross-section of exchanges was utilized and quotas were assigned to reflect adult population by county.

The margin for error, according to standards customarily used by statisticians, is no more than plus or minus 2.1 percentage points. This means that there is a 95 percent probability that the "true" figure would fall within that range if all adults were surveyed. The margin for error is higher for any subgroup, such as a regional or gender grouping.

The survey also includes a sub-sample of 981 registered voters. The margin for error on results among registered voters is plus or minus 3.2%.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Are you currently a registered to vote in Florida?

Yes	82%	(981)
No	18%	(219)

- What is your current official party voter registration? Are you registered as a:

Democrat	41%	(402)
Republican	38%	(374)
Independent or Other	20%	(198)
Not Sure/Refused (NOT READ)	1%	(7)

- What is your age?

18-34	252	(21%)
35-49	327	(27%)
50-64	324	(27%)
65+	292	(24%)
Refused	5	

- Which of the following best describes your racial/ethnic origin?

White or Anglo	868	(72%)
Black or African-American	132	(11%)
Hispanic or Latino	165	(14%)
Asian or Other	31	(3%)
Refused (NOT READ)	4	

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GENDER:

Male	567	(47%)
Female	633	(53%)

REGION:

Panhandle	100	(8%)
Northeast Florida	120	(10%)
Orlando/Daytona	220	(18%)
Tampa Bay Metro	220	(18%)
Southwest Florida	120	(10%)
Palm Beach/Treasure Coast	125	(10%)
Southeast Florida	295	(25%)