



Florida Policy Survey: *Conservation & Environmental Policy*

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The background is a collage of three images: a close-up of green grass on the left, a blue body of water with ripples on the right, and a wide landscape with a horizon line under a cloudy sky in the center. A solid green rectangular area is overlaid on the center, containing the text.

Survey Administration

Florida Policy Survey, 2021



N = 600 Floridians

Stratified (region of the state)
quota sample (age, gender, race,
ethnicity, party affiliation)



Web-Based Panel

Prodege MR



July 15 – 25, 2021

Margin of Error +/- 4

Sample of Respondents

	USF Survey Sample	Florida Demographics
Female	51.8%	51.1%
Male	47.3%	48.9%
Other	0.8%	-
18-24	8.5%	10.8%
25-44	30.7%	31.2%
45-64	34.2%	32.4%
65+	26.7%	25.6%
Black/African American	17.5%	16.9%
White/Caucasian	72.3%	77.3%
Asian	3.0%	3.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.2%	0.5%
Other	6.0%	2.3%
Hispanic	27.2%	26.4%
Non-Hispanic	72.8%	73.6%
Democrat	36.0%	36.2%
Independent	25.9%	26.4%
Republican	36.6%	35.7%
Other	1.5%	1.7%



Findings

Floridians see a need for more government action on the environment. Nearly two-thirds of Floridians (64%) say that more action is needed to protect the state's environment from the effects of population growth and development. Democrats were more likely to support additional environmental measures, though a majority of Independents and Republicans said the same.

- The state is currently doing enough to protect the environment: 20.7%
- More action is needed to protect the environment: 63.7%
- Unsure: 15.7%

More action is needed:

Democrats: 76.4%

Independents: 61.4%

Republicans: 54.5%

There is strong support for protecting natural habitats and endangered species. A majority (55%) say that more action is needed to preserve the state's natural ecosystems, while only 24% say that the state is currently doing enough. Most Floridians would support additional funding to preserve ecosystems (86%) and to further protect endangered species (85%). Support was consistent among both Republicans and Democrats, though slightly lower among Independents.

- The state is currently doing enough to preserve its natural ecosystems: 24.0%
- More action is needed to preserve the state's natural ecosystems: 54.5%
- Unsure: 21.5%

Additional Funding to Preserve Florida's Natural Ecosystems:

- Strongly Support: 48.7%
- Somewhat Support: 37.7%
- Somewhat Oppose: 4.8%
- Strongly Oppose: 2.0%
- Unsure: 6.8%

Floridians overwhelmingly approve of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act. Earlier this year, the state of Florida adopted the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act, which set aside \$400 million to preserve ecosystems and wildlife in the state. Nearly nine in ten respondents (87%) said that they either strongly or somewhat approve of the act's passage.

- Strongly Approve: 50.8%
- Somewhat Approve: 36.2%
- Somewhat Disapprove: 4.2%
- Strongly Disapprove: 0.8%
- Unsure: 8.0%

Strongly/Somewhat Approve

Democrats: 90.8%

Independents: 83.6%

Republicans: 89.9%

Reforestation is a popular environmental solution. An overwhelming majority of respondents (89%) would support reforestation (i.e. extensive tree planting) to absorb carbon emissions. Support was equally high among Democrats and Republicans.

- Strongly Approve: 51.3%
- Somewhat Approve: 37.5%
- Somewhat Disapprove: 2.3%
- Strongly Disapprove: 1.0%
- Unsure: 7.8%

Strongly/Somewhat Support

Democrats: 90.8%

Independents: 87.9%

Republicans: 90.4%

Amid recent outbreaks of red-tide, a majority favor stricter regulations on agricultural fertilizers. More than eight in ten Floridians (85%) – including a large majority of both Republicans and Democrats – favor restrictions on the use of agricultural fertilizers, which are believed to contribute to red-tide outbreaks.

- Strongly Approve: 54.7%
- Somewhat Approve: 30.0%
- Somewhat Disapprove: 5.5%
- Strongly Disapprove: 2.0%
- Unsure: 7.8%

Strongly/Somewhat Support

Democrats: 89.8%

Independents: 82.9%

Republicans: 85.3%

There is surprisingly strong bipartisan support for a carbon tax among Floridians. Three-quarters of respondents (76%) favor taxing corporations to offset their carbon emissions. This includes bipartisan support among Democrats (87%), Independents (71%), and Republicans (71%).

- Strongly Approve: 50.0%
- Somewhat Approve: 25.8%
- Somewhat Disapprove: 7.8%
- Strongly Disapprove: 5.3%
- Unsure: 11.0%

Strongly/Somewhat Support

Democrats: 87.2%

Independents: 71.4%

Republicans: 70.7%

Floridians favor “home-rule” when it comes to single-use plastic bans. While the state of Florida currently prohibits bans on single-use plastic products, most Floridians (56.5%) say the decision should be left to local jurisdictions.

- It should be up to local governments if they want to enact bans or prohibitions on single-use plastics: 56.5%
- No, local governments should NOT be allowed to ban or prohibit single-use plastics: 25.0%
- Unsure: 18.5%

It should be up to local governments...

Democrats: 66.2%

Independents: 57.1%

Republicans: 49.0%



Questions???

Survey Report: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/public-affairs/documents/news-items/spa-policy-conservation-survey-results-2021.pdf>

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