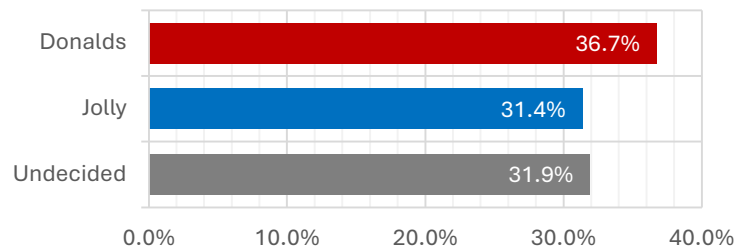


POLLING MEMO: BYRON DONALDS LEADS DAVID JOLLY FOR GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA

Former Congressman David Jolly has entered the race for Governor of Florida. Once a Republican, Jolly has been vocally anti-Trump in recent years and is running for Governor as a Democrat. Some observers received this news as a major development, positing that the fact that a Congressman was once a Republican would, by default, make him more palatable to modern Republicans, and therefore put the race for Florida Governor in play for the Democrats. One realizes that this particular thought process is grounded more so in hope than in reason upon remembering that the Democrats' nominee for Governor in 2022 was also once an elected Republican official, and he still lost in a landslide.

Nevertheless, we investigated. In the wake of Jolly's announcement, we conducted a poll of Florida voters, asking them who they would vote for in the 2026 general election for Governor of Florida, assuming a matchup between Jolly and the current Republican frontrunner, Byron Donalds. The overall results are displayed above. Donalds (37%) leads Jolly (31%) by 5.4%, while 32% of voters remain undecided. The 32% undecided number might seem a bit high for a partisan race, but when you consider that neither Donalds nor Jolly are known by a majority of voters yet (see *Figure 1* on the following page), that number seems less surprising. The logical next step is to consider who the undecided voters are. This is another headwind for Jolly: undecided voters lean Republican by 17%. In other words, Donalds already has a lead, and undecided voters are likely to break heavily in his favor.



Some may feel that this general election analysis is premature, considering the primary elections are still more than a year away. However, it's unclear thus far how competitive the primary elections will truly be. In a state where 43% of Republicans self-identify as "Donald Trump MAGA Republicans" (see *Figure 2*), Donalds' endorsement from President Trump is likely an insurmountable hurdle for any primary challenger. On the Democratic side, Jolly is the only potential contender on whom Republicans have set their sights so far, with Florida GOP Chair Evan Power joining Donalds in hurling attacks at Jolly and his record.

Long story short, nobody can be sure that the general election matchup in 2026 will be Donalds vs. Jolly, but nobody can make a convincing argument that any other scenario is more likely. As for us, we will continue to provide high-quality poll numbers and strategic analyses as the race develops.

✓ **Ben Galbraith**
Senior Pollster, Victory Insights

Figure 1: Candidate Favorability & Associated Metrics

Opinions	Trump	DeSantis	Donalds	Jolly
1	42.0%	32.5%	14.1%	12.1%
2	5.0%	11.9%	4.9%	4.1%
3	6.0%	7.0%	5.9%	10.6%
4	11.7%	10.3%	7.7%	6.7%
5	30.7%	33.2%	16.9%	8.5%
No Opinion	4.6%	5.2%	50.6%	58.1%
Positive Name ID	42.4%	43.4%	24.5%	15.1%
Negative Name ID	47.0%	44.4%	19.0%	16.2%
Total Name ID	95.4%	94.8%	49.4%	41.9%
Average Opinionated Rating (AOR)	2.83	3.00	3.17	2.89
AOR Among Donald Trump MAGA Republicans	4.79	4.64	4.48	1.86
AOR Among Constitutional Conservatives	4.10	4.40	4.11	1.64
AOR Among Traditional Republicans	3.70	3.71	3.51	3.09
AOR Among Moderate Republicans	3.08	3.20	3.90	2.47
AOR Among NPA/Third-Party Voters	2.41	2.79	2.87	2.78
AOR Among Democratic Voters	1.34	1.54	1.86	3.62

Figure 2: Self-Identified Type of Republican

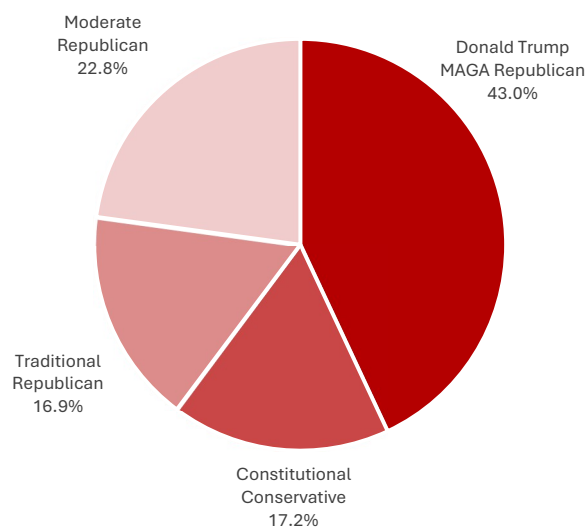
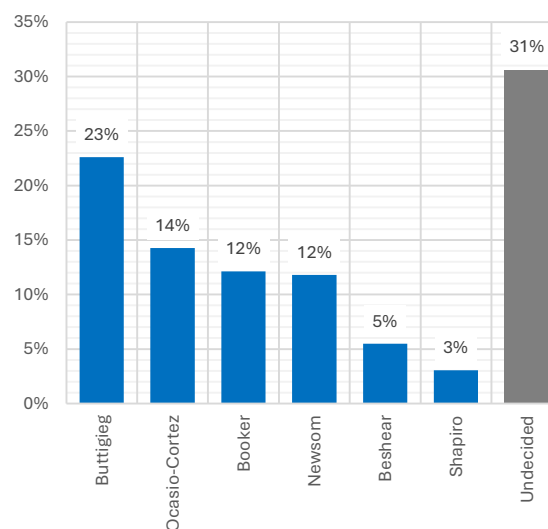


Figure 3: 2028 Dem. Presidential Primary



Conducted 6/7/25-6/10/25 among 600 likely voters throughout Florida. Poll conducted via Text-To-Web and Interactive Voice Response. Commissioned solely by Victory Insights LLC.