



FLORIDA GOVERNOR POLL: BYRON DONALDS DOMINATES

*Conducted November 11-13, 2025. Sample size: 600 likely Republican primary election voters.
Not commissioned by any candidate or committee.*

Executive Summary

In our last poll of the Republican primary for Governor of Florida back in January, Congressman Byron Donalds dominated a field of potential candidates such as Jeanette Nuñez, Wilton Simpson, and Francis Suarez. Since then, the cast of characters has changed, but Donalds' lead has only grown. Now, Donalds has the support of 45% of the electorate. The other potentially relevant candidates – Paul Renner, Jay Collins, and James Fishback – all fail to garner even 3% of the vote.

Donalds is endorsed by President Donald Trump, and he's approaching the crucial 50% mark very early on in the race. Understandably, many people are considering Donalds the presumptive Republican nominee. Others, however, take issue with that conclusion, arguing that an endorsement from Governor Ron DeSantis could propel another candidate to a competitive position. Indeed, 28% of voters say they would be more likely to support the DeSantis-endorsed candidate if the Governor and President end up endorsing different candidates. So, while an endorsement from Governor DeSantis would undoubtedly give one of the lower-tier candidates a boost, it's unlikely that it would allow such a candidate to compete with the overwhelming financial and political capital that Donalds has amassed in recent months.

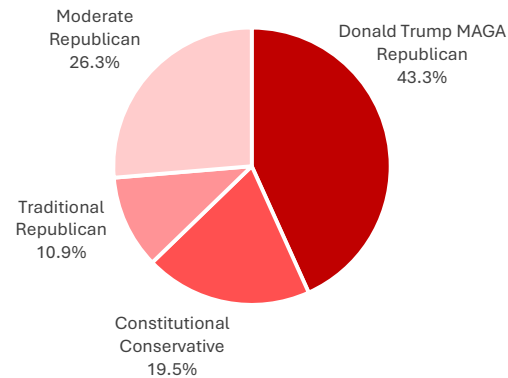
Furthermore, DeSantis' endorsement of another candidate – and the defection from President Trump that it would entail – would be a political risk that many believe the Governor is unwilling to take. DeSantis' campaign against Trump in the 2024 presidential primary burned many bridges and ultimately ended in failure. Defying Trump again, especially in a significant uphill battle against a dominant frontrunner like Donalds, could end up being a costly miscalculation.

For now, Donalds is rolling steadily towards the Governor's Mansion, with no other candidates achieving statistically significant relevance. Renner has already been snubbed by DeSantis, Collins is at 1% and is unlikely to run without DeSantis' blessing, and Fishback is occupying a somewhat fringe lane that primarily exists online. Unless something major changes, Donalds has a clear path to victory. **Read on to learn more.**

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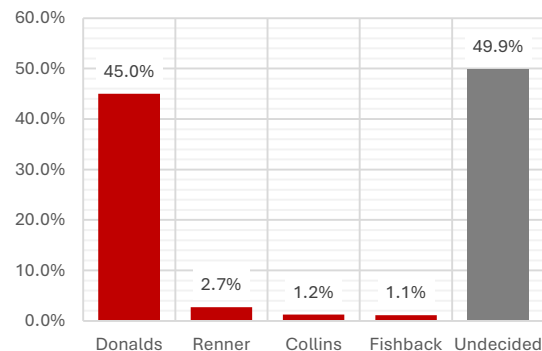
Type of Republican

We asked voters which “type” of Republican they consider themselves to be. A strong plurality (43%) identified as Donald Trump MAGA Republicans, while another 20% identified as Constitutional Conservatives. The less conservative wing makes up just over a third of the electorate, made up of Traditional Republicans (11%) and Moderate Republicans (26%).



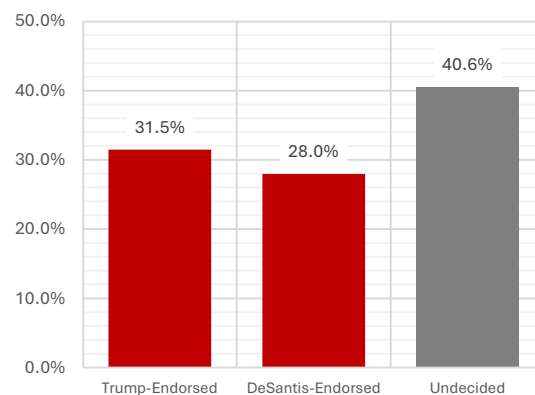
Republican Primary Ballot

Donalds is the only candidate with significant support, while just under half of voters remain undecided. Donalds dominates among all types of Republicans, but his strongest performance is among self-identified Donald Trump MAGA Republicans, 56% of whom say they're backing him.



Trump vs. DeSantis Endorsement

We asked voters who they would most likely vote for if Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis endorsed different candidates in the race for Governor of Florida. 31% opted for the Trump-endorsed candidate, while 28% sided with the DeSantis-endorsed candidate. However, the most popular option was “undecided” at 41%. Right now, Donalds dominates among all three groups.



Candidate Favorability

We asked voters to rate each candidate (as well as Trump and DeSantis) on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being extremely negative and 5 being extremely positive. Respondents could also indicate that they had no opinion of each candidate. The results of these questions, as well as some brief commentary, are included on the following page.

	Fishback	Collins	Renner	Donalds	Trump	DeSantis
1	3.9%	5.1%	4.9%	4.7%	11.7%	7.9%
2	3.3%	2.6%	3.8%	2.7%	3.8%	4.6%
3	5.3%	4.9%	6.1%	7.0%	6.9%	6.7%
4	1.4%	5.3%	4.7%	10.9%	12.4%	11.6%
5	3.2%	3.5%	1.8%	32.8%	61.4%	66.2%
No Opinion	83.0%	78.6%	78.7%	41.8%	3.7%	3.0%
Positive Name ID	4.6%	8.8%	6.5%	43.8%	73.8%	77.8%
Negative Name ID	7.1%	7.7%	8.6%	7.4%	15.6%	12.5%
Total Name ID	17.0%	21.4%	21.3%	58.2%	96.3%	97.0%
Average Opinionated Rating (AOR)	2.81	2.98	2.75	4.11	4.12	4.27
AOR w/ MAGA Republicans	3.01	3.13	2.59	4.48	4.72	4.63
AOR w/ Constitutional Conservatives	2.80	3.51	2.91	4.15	4.21	4.47
AOR w/ Traditional Republicans	2.69	2.24	2.45	3.38	3.64	3.87
AOR w/ Moderate Republicans	2.50	2.40	2.99	3.60	3.26	3.71

Among the gubernatorial candidates, there is very clear separation between Donalds and the rest of the field. Renner, Collins, and Fishback are each known by less than a quarter of voters, while Donalds is known by a majority of voters. Donalds' average rating of 4.11 among voters who know him stands far ahead of the other three candidates, who each score below 3.0. His 44% Positive Name ID is five times higher than any of his opponents'. Importantly, he outperforms all opponents among each of the four types of Republicans, and even outperforms President Trump among Moderate Republicans. Switching focus to Trump and DeSantis, DeSantis achieves a higher AOR than Trump, as we've been seeing in most of our Florida polls for years. Both Trump and DeSantis are ubiquitously known and extremely popular among Florida Republicans.