

2020 General Election Results Summary

(as of 3pm, November 4, 2020)

Yesterday's election saw unprecedented turnout both nationally and in Florida. An expected 65 percent of voters nationally cast ballots yesterday.

In Florida, a strong red wave seemed to cover the state. President Trump won Florida's 29 electoral votes, the Florida Senate maintained the Republican hold and the Florida House added five Republican seats. Florida's turnout was 11 million voters with close to nine million Floridians voting before election day.

As you have probably seen, the presidential race is still too close to call. President Trump carried Florida beating Joe Biden by 375,029 votes. As of this release, President Trump has 213 electoral votes and Joe Biden has 224 electoral votes. States still counting votes are: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan, Georgia, Nevada, and Wisconsin.

Please contact the team at [Shumaker Advisors](https://shumakeradvisors.com) should you have any questions.

United States Senate:

While our Florida senators did not have elections this year, we saw several key U.S. Senate races nationally that helped decide the overall balance of power. So far, both Republicans and Democrats won one seat and lost one seat. That means Republicans will likely still control the U.S. Senate 51 or 52 seats with several races still too close to call.

United States Congress:

We had several competitive congressional races in Florida, where Republicans gained two seats to increase the delegation majority to 16 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Nationally, congressional Democrats held a 32-seat advantage in the House of Representatives going into the election. Overall, Democrat and Republican seats will probably net a few in one direction or the other, but Democrats will remain in control of the U.S. House.

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Tampa Bay Region:

- **FL 15**, Northern Hillsborough and Polk Counties: Republican **Scott Franklin** defeated Democrat Alan Cohn.
- **FL 13**, Pinellas County: Republican Anna Paulina Luna lost to Democrat Congressman **Charlie Crist**.
- **FL 16**, Sarasota: Republican Congressman **Vern Buchanan** defeated Democrat Florida House Representative Margaret Good.
- **FL 17**, Sarasota & Manatee: Congressman **Greg Stuebe** retained his seat.

Other Congressional Seats Florida:

- **FL 26**, Miami Dade and Monroe Counties: Republican Miami Dade Mayor **Carlos Gimenez** upset Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell.
- **FL 27**, Miami Dade: Republican **Maria Elvira Salazar** defeats incumbent Democrat Donna Shalala.

Florida Senate:

The Florida Senate has been a very competitive environment as Republicans and Democrats put an incredible focus on three seats in different parts of the state (Districts 3, 9, and 39). Republicans controlled the majority 23-17 prior to the election and Wilton Simpson, the incoming Senate President, will see a net increase of two seats in the Senate with one race headed to a recount.

Tampa Bay:

- **District 20**, Pasco, Polk, Hillsborough Counties: Senator Tom Lee vacated his seat in 2020. **Danny Burgess**, previously served in the Florida House and as the Director of Florida's Veteran's Affairs, defeated Democrat Kathy Lewis.
- **District 21**, Sarasota/Manatee: Previous Florida House Representative **Jim Boyd** will serve in the Florida Senate.

Florida House of Representatives:

Republicans increased their control of the Florida House on Tuesday, knocking off three incumbent Democrats, picking up open seats, and successfully defending districts against Democratic challenges. Republicans could hold 78 of the 120 House seats going into the 2021 legislative session, with Representative Chris Sprowls serving as speaker.

In Tampa Bay, while most of the Bay Area Legislative Delegation remained intact, there were a few changes. Incumbents who retained their seats include Representatives: **Ralph Masullo, Blaise Ingoglia, Amber Mariano, Adrian Zika, Josie Tomkow, Collen Burton, Sam Killebrew, Melony Bell, Mike Beltran, Lawrence McClure, Jackie Toledo, Susan Valdes, Speaker Designate Chris Sprowls, Nick DiCeglie, Chris Latvala, Ben Diamond, Will Robinson, Tommy Gregory, and James Buchanan.**

- **District 69**, flipped Pinellas County back to a Republican with small businesswoman **Linda Cheney** winning.
- **District 72**, Sarasota, was held by Democrat Margaret Good who vacated her seat to run unsuccessfully against Vern Buchannan for Congress. Republican **Fiona Mcfarland** won that seat.
- In South Hillsborough, **District 59**, Democrat **Andrew Learned** narrowly beat Republican Michael Owen 51 percent to 49 percent.
- **District 64**, North Hillsborough: Republican **Traci Koster** won her seat to replace Jamie Grant, who left to become Florida's Chief Information Officer.

Tampa Bay Local Election Results

Hillsborough Sherriff **Chad Chronister**, Property Appraiser **Bob "Coach" Henriquez**, Tax Collector **Nancy McMillan**, and Clerk of the Court **Cindy Stuart** all won countywide elections.

- On the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners, both open seats were won by the Democrat (**Harry Cohen, Gwen Myers**), as well the incumbent (**Patricia "Pat" Kemp**). As a result of this election, the makeup of the County Commission will shift to five Democrats and two Republicans, which is a loss of one Republican (Sandy Murman) to the Board.
- For Hillsborough County School Board, **Lynn Gray** was the only incumbent who held her seat. District 1 (**Nadia Combs**) and District 5 (**Henry "Shake" Washington**) have been elected new representatives on the board, and **Jessica Vaughn** fills an open seat for District 3.
- In Pasco County, Superintendent of Schools incumbent, **Kurt Browning**, won by a considerable margin to take on a third term. On the Pasco Board of County Commissioners, both incumbents were reelected to their respective seats on the Board, District Three **Kathryn Starkey** and District Five **Jack Mariano**.

- In Pinellas County, **Janet Long** and **Charlie Justice** were reelected to the County Commission and **Rene Flowers** was elected in an open seat to fill the seat of departing Commissioner Ken Welch.
- **Laura Hine** and **Carprice Johnson Edmond** are the new Pinellas County School Board members.
- In Sarasota County, Commissioners that won were **Michael Moran, Nancy Detert, and Ron Cutsinger**.
- For the City of Sarasota, **Kyle Battie, Liz Alpert, and Erik Arroyo** all won election to the city council.

State Constitutional Amendments

The 2020 Election posed six Constitutional Amendments for Florida voters. Millions of dollars were spent on both sides of the issues and four of the amendments received over 60 percent required for approval. Four of the amendments were put on the ballot by petition and Amendments 5 and 6 were put on the ballot by the Florida Legislature.

Amendment 1: Citizenship Requirement to Vote in Florida Election Passed with 79.3 percent of the vote.

The amendment would slightly alter the wording of the state constitution to say that "only a citizen" of the United States can vote. It [is already the law](#) in Florida that only American citizens may vote. The amendment would simply change the wording that currently says that "every citizen" can vote.

Amendment 2: Raising Florida's Minimum Wage Passed with 61.3 percent of the vote.

This ballot initiative will gradually raise the minimum wage in Florida to \$15 per hour by 2026. Florida's current minimum wage is \$8.56 per hour, greater than the \$7.25 federal minimum wage.

Amendment 3: All Voters Vote in Primary Elections for State Legislature, Governor and Cabinet Failed: 56.9 percent yes to 43.1 percent no, hence not achieving the 60 percent required.

Currently, Florida's primaries are closed, meaning only voters registered with a certain party can vote in their party's primary to decide which candidate will move on to the general. This amendment would change that, making it so all registered

voters, regardless of party affiliation, can vote in a primary for governor, state legislature, and cabinet-level races. The two highest vote-getters, regardless of party, would advance to the general election. This system is often known as a "jungle primary." It could potentially mean that two Democrats or two Republicans face each other in the general election.

**Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments
Failed: 47.5 percent yes to 52.5 percent no.**

This amendment would have made it harder for voter ballot initiatives to change the foundation of Florida's laws. Instead of a single referendum requiring the approval of 60 percent of voters, this amendment would double the requirement. Constitutional amendments would need to get 60 percent approval in two separate elections.

**Amendment 5: Limitation on Homestead Assessments
Passed with 74.5 percent of the vote.**

This measure would clean up what some say is a loophole in the so-called "Save Our Homes" tax benefit available to Floridians. Currently, Floridians who move from one homesteaded property to another have two years from January 1 of the year of the sale of the first home to claim the tax benefit. This would give homeowners an additional year to do so.

Under Florida's "Save Our Homes" law, homeowners who claim a homestead exemption are allowed to have their home's taxable value increase by, at most, three percent per year. But, the market value of a home may outpace that growth. The difference between a home's assessed value and its taxable value is the "Save Our Homes" benefit.

**Amendment 6: Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans who had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities
Passed with 89.7 percent of the vote.**

Currently, some Florida veterans get a discount on their property taxes if they were honorably discharged, are over 65 years old, and have been permanently disabled by combat.

This amendment will allow spouses to continue to claim that property tax exemption after the veteran's death if the spouse [holds the title to the property and permanently lives there](#). It will also allow the spouse to transfer the exemption to a new property in some cases.

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2020 ELECTION

What's Next for Business:
Legislative and Policy
Expectations for Moving Forward

FEATURING:



AMY MAGUIRE
Principal
Shumaker Advisors



DAVID JOLLY
Executive Vice President & Principal
Shumaker Advisors

Join us to discuss policy priorities in
Tallahassee, Florida and Washington, D.C.
and what the election results mean
for your business and your clients.

VIRTUAL EVENT

Thursday, November 5, 2020
noon - 1:15 pm

Register [here](#)

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