

2010 SURVEY OF AARP MEMBERS IN FLORIDA ABOUT AMENDMENTS #5 AND #6

AARP's Florida State Office commissioned this survey to explore the views of its members on two November ballot initiatives that propose changes to the Florida Constitution.

These results are based on a telephone survey, fielded August 31 through September 2, 2010, of AARP members in Florida who self-identified as registered voters. A total of 700 interviews were completed yielding a sampling error of ± 3.7 percent.

A weighted, annotated survey of responses begins on page 2, and detailed methodology is on page 10.

SURVEY-IN-BRIEF

- ❖ **Most AARP members in Florida support Amendment #5 – which would provide Florida legislators with guidelines to use when they re-draw legislative districts for the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate.**
 - ✓ 76 percent say they support this Amendment, 14 percent say they oppose it, and 10 percent are not sure.
 - ✓ Well over the majority of members – regardless of political party affiliation – say they support this amendment (Democrats, 79%; Republicans, 75%; Independents, 76%).

- ❖ **Most AARP members in Florida support Amendment #6 – which would provide Florida legislators with guidelines to use when they re-draw legislative districts for the U.S. Congress.**
 - ✓ 79 percent say they support this Amendment, 12 percent say they oppose it, and 8 percent are not sure.
 - ✓ Well over the majority of members – regardless of political party affiliation – say they support this amendment (Democrats, 79%; Republicans, 81%; Independents, 80%).

- ❖ **Nearly all AARP members in Florida agree that voting boundaries should not be drawn to favor one political party over another (95%) and that their vote should count the same as other votes (97%).**
 - ✓ 66 percent agree that boundaries for voting districts should be re-drawn with guidelines from voters.
 - ✓ 68 percent agree that if voters had a say in the boundaries of voting districts, they would be more fair and balanced to all voters.

- ❖ **Not many members, however, have seen, heard, or read anything about these amendments.**
 - ✓ Only 36 percent say they have seen, heard, or read “a lot or some” about the upcoming ballot initiatives that propose changes to the Florida Constitution. Of these members who have seen, heard, or read something, only 29 percent have seen, heard, or read “a lot or some” specifically about Amendments #5 and #6.

2010 AARP Florida Member Telephone Survey

Sample: AARP Members in Florida

Sample size: n=700; Sampling error: ±3.7%

(Data are weighted by age and gender)

SCREENING QUESTIONS

S-1 Are you a member of A-A-R-P?

100% Yes

S-2 Do you live in Florida?

100% Yes

S-3 Are you registered to vote in the State of Florida?

100% Yes

MAIN QUESTIONS

M-1 In the last few months, how much have you seen, heard, or read about any of the ballot initiatives in the upcoming November election that propose changes to the Florida Constitution? Have you seen, heard or read ...? [READ ANSWERS]

13.2% A lot

23.1% Some

31.5% Not very much

30.3% Nothing at all [SKIP TO QUESTION M-3]

1.8% Not sure [DO NOT READ]

0.1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-2 How much have you seen, heard, or read specifically about Amendment #5 or Amendment #6 – these amendments are about re-dis-trict-ing or how the boundaries of political voting districts are determined. Have you seen, heard, or read ...? [READ ANSWERS] (n=474)

5.7% A lot

22.9% Some

33.5% Not very much

35.9% Nothing at all

1.9% Not sure [DO NOT READ]

0.0% Refused [DO NOT READ]

By law, every ten years, states must re-draw the boundaries of their political voting districts. This process is called re-dis-trict-ing. In Florida, the state legislature must draw these new voting boundaries for representatives in the U-S Congress and for Florida state representatives and senators.

I'm going to read you four statements. After each one, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with it.

M-3 The boundaries for voting districts should be re-drawn with guidelines from voters. Do you agree or disagree?

65.7% Agree [SKIP TO M-3a]
21.5% Disagree [SKIP TO M-3b]
12.4% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.3% Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-3a Would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?

34.9% Strongly
30.8% Somewhat

M-3b Would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?

8.4% Strongly
13.1% Somewhat

M-4 Voting district boundaries should be drawn to favor one political party over another. Do you agree or disagree?

3.8% Agree [SKIP TO M-4a]
94.5% Disagree [SKIP TO M-4b]
1.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.2% Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-4a Would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?

2.0% Strongly
1.8% Somewhat

M-4b Would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?

86.1% Strongly
8.4% Somewhat

M-5 Your vote should count the same as any other vote in your district. Do you agree or disagree?

97.4% Agree [SKIP TO M-5a]
1.7% Disagree [SKIP TO M-5b]
0.8% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-5a Would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?

92.7% Strongly
4.7% Somewhat

M-5b Would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?

1.5% Strongly
0.2% Somewhat

M-6 If voters had a say in how the boundaries of voting districts were formed, the districts would be more balanced and fair to all voters. Do you agree or disagree?

68.0% Agree [SKIP TO M-6a]
18.4% Disagree [SKIP TO M-6b]
13.4% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.2% Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-6a Would you say you strongly agree or somewhat agree?

46.1% Strongly
21.9% Somewhat

M-6b Would you say you strongly disagree or somewhat disagree?

9.0% Strongly
9.4% Somewhat

M-7 There are two amendments to the Florida Constitution on the November election ballot on re-districting. Amendment #5 would provide state legislators with guidelines to use when they redraw State legislative districts for candidates running for the Florida House of Representatives or the Florida Senate.

This amendment says that legislators may NOT draw boundaries that favor one political party over another. They may NOT deny minorities an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

This amendment also says that each voting district should have about the same number of people in it, and where possible, use existing geographic boundaries. These districts could not be oddly shaped in order to capture the most members of a political party.

Based on what you know today, do you support or oppose Amendment #5?

75.9%	Support [SKIP TO M-7a]
13.5%	Oppose [SKIP TO M-7b]
10.1%	Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.5%	Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-7a Would you say you strongly support it or somewhat support it?

54.2%	Strongly
21.7%	Somewhat

M-7b Would you say you strongly oppose it or somewhat oppose it?

6.9%	Strongly
6.6%	Somewhat

M-8 Amendment #6 would provide state legislators with guidelines to use when they re-draw voting districts for those elected to the U-S Congress.

This amendment says that legislators may NOT draw boundaries that favor one political party over another. They may NOT deny minorities an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

This amendment also says that each voting district should have about the same number of people in it, and where possible, use existing geographic boundaries. These districts could not be oddly shaped in order to capture the most members of a political party.

Based on what you know today, do you support or oppose Amendment #6?

79.1% Support [SKIP TO M-8a]
12.2% Oppose [SKIP TO M-8b]
8.1% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
0.6% Refused [DO NOT READ]

M-8a Would you say you strongly support it or somewhat support it?

60.3% Strongly
18.8% Somewhat

M-8b Would you say you strongly oppose it or somewhat oppose it?

7.3% Strongly
4.9% Somewhat

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

Our final set of questions is for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

D-1 What is your age as of your last birthday? [RECORD IN YEARS]

0.1% Under 50 years
21.0% 50 to 59 years
48.0% 60 to 74 years
30.0% 75+ years
0.0% Don't know [DO NOT READ]
0.9% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-2 Gender [RECORD DO NOT ASK UNLESS UNSURE; CAN I ASK IF YOU ARE A MALE OR FEMALE?]

54.4% Male
45.6% Female

D-3 What is your 5-digit ZIP Code?

Record ZIP Code
Don't know [DO NOT READ]
Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-4 Which of the following best describes your current employment status? Are you ... [READ OPTIONS, IF NECESSARY]

2.4% Self-employed full-time
3.5% Self-employed part-time
14.8% Employed full-time
4.2% Employed part-time
66.8% Retired and not working at all
3.2% Unemployed and looking for work
3.0% Not in the labor force for other reasons
1.0% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
1.1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-5 What is the highest level of education that you completed? [READ OPTIONS, IF NECESSARY]

2.3% 0-12th grade (no diploma)
20.1% High school graduate (or equivalent)
11.0% Post-high school education (no degree)
18.5% 2-year college degree
27.2% 4-year college degree
4.7% Post-graduate study (no degree)
14.8% Graduate or professional degree(s)
0.2% Don't know [DO NOT READ]
1.2% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-6 What is your current marital status? [READ OPTIONS, IF NECESSARY]

- 65.7% Married
- 3.0% Not married, living with your partner or significant other
- 0.5% Separated
- 9.0% Divorced
- 13.4% Widowed
- 6.2% Currently single and never married
- 0.3% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 2.0% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-7 Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

- 3.0% Yes
- 94.4% No
- 0.4% Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 2.1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-8 What is your race? [READ OPTIONS IF NECESSARY]

- 86.2% White or Caucasian
- 6.9% Black or African American
- 0.6% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 0.2% Asian
- 0.0% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 2.6% Other
- 0.2% Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 3.3% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-9 Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else? [RANDOMIZE FIRST THREE]

- 33.8% Democrat
- 28.6% Republican
- 29.1% Independent
- 5.3% Something else
- 0.8% Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 2.4% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-10 Thinking about your state elections for Florida Governor and Legislators in the past, which of the following best describes your voting behavior? Would you say you vote always, most of the time, about half of the time, seldom, or would you say you never vote?

- 67.7% Always
- 23.3% Most of the time
- 3.8% About half of the time
- 2.0% Seldom
- 0.6% Never
- 0.5% Not sure [DO NOT READ]
- 2.1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

D-11 We realize that income is a private matter and so rather than ask you anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2009?

- 3.1% Less than \$10,000
- 6.1% \$10,000 to less than \$20,000
- 10.9% \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
- 11.6% \$30,000 to less than \$40,000
- 10.9% \$40,000 to less than \$50,000
- 6.9% \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 8.1% \$60,000 to less than \$70,000
- 5.3% \$70,000 to less than \$80,000
- 3.6% \$80,000 to less than \$90,000
- 2.5% \$90,000 to less than \$100,000
- 11.2% \$100,000 or more
- 2.7% Don't know [DO NOT READ]
- 17.1% Refused [DO NOT READ]

Methodology

AARP Florida commissioned a research study to explore the opinions of its members about upcoming ballot initiatives in the November election. RDD Field Services conducted a telephone survey of Florida residents who are members of AARP and are self-identified registered voters. The survey was fielded August 31 through September 2, 2010, and a total of 700 interviews were completed. A sample of this size has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.7 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Survey responses were weighted to reflect the actual distribution of age and gender for AARP membership in Florida. Interviewing was completed with a final response rate of 15.61 percent, cooperation rate of 58.66 percent, and refusal rate of 10.67 percent. The response, cooperation, and refusal rates were calculated according to AAPOR standards RR3, CCOP3, REF3.

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Research and Strategic Analysis

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