



# SUNSHINE STATE SURVEY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

## Quick Facts

### Data Release No. 2 | Oct. 10, 2016 Immigration | Crime/Law Enforcement | Personal Safety/Liberty

#### The USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey

Florida, the nation's third largest state, is also one of the most diverse in terms of the people who live here. The constant in- and out-migration of people from other states and countries, as well as within-state re-locations, give rise to new problems and differing opinions as to how to resolve them. The goal of the annual USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey is to provide the state's government, business, and not-for-profit leaders, as well as citizens, in-depth analyses of public opinion on a wide-range of issues so that they might better serve the people who choose Florida as their home.

#### IMMIGRATION

##### Right or Wrong Direction? – Grant More Rights/Assistance to Undocumented Immigrants

**A majority of Floridians is against the state granting more rights and assistance to undocumented immigrants in Florida.**

- A majority of Floridians—55%—is against the state granting more rights and assistance to undocumented immigrants. Less than a quarter—23%—see granting more rights/assistance as moving in the “right direction.” Another 21% did not express an opinion.
- Millennials, racial/ethnic minorities, low-income households, and residents of the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale and Palm Beach areas are the most likely to support granting more rights and assistance to undocumented immigrants. Older Floridians, whites, more affluent households, and residents of the Tampa Bay and North Florida areas see such a policy as moving in the “wrong direction.” (See full data release for details.)

#### Safe Zones in Florida Cities for Undocumented Immigrants Facing Deportation

**Nearly 60% of Floridians do not think Florida cities should be allowed to create safe zones for undocumented immigrants facing deportation from the United States.**

- A majority of Floridians—58%—thinks Florida cities should not be allowed to create safe zones for undocumented immigrants facing deportation. One third does. Just 9% do not express an opinion.
- Support and opposition to the proposal fall along similar lines to the question on rights and assistance to undocumented immigrants. Millennials, racial/ethnic minorities, unemployed Floridians, and low-income households are the most supportive of creating safe zones. Most likely to oppose are older Floridians, whites, retired Floridians, full-time workers, and more affluent households. (See full data release for details.)

#### CRIME

##### State Government Performance Ratings: Reducing Human/Sex Trafficking

**State government receives poor marks for reducing human/sex trafficking, while one-quarter of Floridians are unsure.**

- Only 23% of Floridians think state government is doing a “good” (19%) or “excellent” (4%) job of reducing human/sex trafficking, while 52% give it “fair” (29%) or “poor” (23%) marks. One fourth do not offer an opinion.

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#### State Government Performance Ratings:

##### Reducing Human/Sex Trafficking, *cont.*

- Most likely to give the state good marks are males and young Floridians. Most critical of state efforts are females, working-age Floridians, African-Americans, and Hispanics. (See full data release for details.)

## PERSONAL SAFETY AND LIBERTY

#### Right or Wrong Direction? Ban Sale of Semi-Automatic Assault Weapons

**Almost half of Floridians thinks that banning the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons is moving the state in the “right” direction.**

- Slightly less than half of Floridians—49%—regard a ban on the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons as moving the state in the “right direction.” Over a third (37%) thinks just the opposite. Another 13% does not express an opinion.
- Females, older Floridians, and African-Americans are the most likely to support a sales ban. (See full data release for details.)

#### Felon Gun Rights – Easier or Harder to Restore?

**Six-in-ten Floridians agree that it should either be harder or impossible for convicted felons to have their gun rights restored.**

- A majority of Floridians thinks that it should be *harder* for convicted felons to have their gun rights restored (57%) while another 3% volunteered that felons should never have their gun rights restored. One third judges the current policy to be about right, while 4% believes that it should be *easier* for convicted felons to regain their gun rights.

- Females, older Floridians, and those with a child under 18 in their home are most likely to support making it harder or impossible for felons to regain their gun rights. (See full data release for details.)

#### State Government Performance Ratings:

##### Regulating Private Use of Drones

**More Floridians think the state government does a “poor” job of regulating *private* drone use than a “good” or “excellent” job.**

- Only 23% of Floridians rate the state’s performance regulating private drone use as either “good” or “excellent,” while 24% rate it as “poor.” Another 30% rates the state’s efforts as just “fair,” while nearly a quarter (24%) did not express an opinion.
- The most positive marks come from younger Floridians, low-income households, and those with lower educational attainment. In contrast, negative ratings are highest among older Floridians and mid-income households. (See full data release for details.)

#### Right or Wrong Direction? – Pass Legislation to Protect Religious Liberty in Florida

**Nearly 60% of Floridians support passing legislation to protect religious liberty in Florida**

- A majority of Floridians—58%—thinks passing a law to protect religious liberty in Florida is a move in the “right direction.” Only 14% think that it is the “wrong direction.” Another 27% did not express an opinion.
- Floridians with a child under 18 in their home, unemployed and retired Floridians, and those with higher educational attainment are the most supportive of legislation protecting religious liberty. (See full data release for details.)

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# 2016 USF-Nielsen Sunshine State Survey

## Data Release 2

### Detailed Analysis of Hot Topics and Additional Questions on Crime/Law Enforcement, And Personal Safety/Liberty

#### Detailed Contents

##### Hot Topics

- NEW** Right or Wrong Direction? – More Rights/Assistance to Undocumented Immigrants
- NEW** Safe Zones in Florida Cities for Undocumented Immigrants Facing Deportation
- NEW** State Government Performance Ratings – Reducing Human/Sex Trafficking
- NEW** Right or Wrong Direction? – Ban Sale of Semi-Automatic Assault Weapons
- NEW** Felon Gun Rights – Easier or Harder to Restore?
- NEW** State Government Performance Ratings – Regulating Private Use of Drones
- NEW** Right or Wrong Direction? – Pass Legislation to Protect Religious Liberty in Florida

##### Crime/Law Enforcement

-  Right or Wrong Direction? – Repeal the Death Penalty
-  Right or Wrong Direction? – Repeal Stand Your Ground Law
-  Right or Wrong Direction? – Allow Local Law Enforcement to Use Drones
-  Overall Performance of Government – Florida Law Enforcement
-  Overall Performance of Government – Florida’s Court System

##### Personal Safety/Liberty

- NEW** Right or Wrong Direction? – Legalize *Recreational* Marijuana
-  State Government Performance Ratings – Securing Safety of Adults in Public Places

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