



FLORIDA

FLORIDA RESIDENTS' SPENDING
PRIORITIES AND REVENUE RAISING
PREFERENCES FOR THE STATE BUDGET.



11,000+ Residents Have Taken the People's Budget Challenge

OVERVIEW

In a period of one month in March of 2021, more than 11,300 Floridians from across the political spectrum have spent more than 1,300 hours weighing in on the state budget by taking the People's Budget Challenge.

RESULTS

Results taken from the digital engagement tool "The People's Budget Challenge" demonstrate a consistent desire among respondents to increase public spending in nearly all service categories with the exception of Criminal Justice. Even more clear is registered voters' rejection of service cuts in any budgetary response to the COVID pandemic and resulting economic crisis. Registered voters were also asked about their preferred funding options for these services. Increased corporate tax accountability ranked the most popular method for raising revenue in our state with clear support for raising corporate tax rates by at least 1%. Raising tuition at public colleges and universities was rejected equally among all political parties.

HIGHLIGHTS

83% of residents from all political parties want to see either increased or maintained spending on public services in the 2021 budget.

74% of residents support increased spending on public education.

Only 15% of residents support funding cuts for affordable housing.

74% of residents support closing corporate tax loopholes & eliminating corporate welfare.

78% of residents support increasing how much large corporations pay in taxes by 1%.



Who wins and who loses? Would you increase spending on these services? Keep it the same? Or make cuts?

1. PUBLIC EDUCATION

2.5 million students depend on state education funding; yet Florida invests so little in our kids that our state ranks 45th nationally in K-12 spending.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 88% | 61% | 74% | 74% |
| Maintain Spending | 9% | 28% | 20% | 19% |
| Cut Spending | 3% | 11% | 6% | 7% |

2. ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

In the midst of a pandemic, access to health care is critical. Yet over 1.5 million low income Floridians are without health insurance. Florida's health care system ranks 49th nationally. The state spends a mere \$19 a year for each resident on public health.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 86% | 48% | 67% | 67% |
| Maintain Spending | 10% | 36% | 24% | 23% |
| Cut Spending | 4% | 16% | 9% | 10% |



Who wins and who loses? Would you increase spending on these services? Keep it the same? Or make cuts?

3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

More than 21 million Floridians depend on public transit daily; yet Florida cities rank among the worst in public transportation.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 69% | 38% | 52% | 53% |
| Maintain Spending | 26% | 47% | 38% | 37% |
| Cut Spending | 5% | 15% | 10% | 10% |

4. CLIMATE CHANGE

Florida is increasingly vulnerable to hurricanes, coastal flooding, sea-level rise and other impacts of climate change.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 75% | 31% | 51% | 52% |
| Maintain Spending | 18% | 37% | 31% | 29% |
| Cut Spending | 7% | 32% | 18% | 19% |



Who wins and who loses? Would you increase spending on these services? Keep it the same? Or make cuts?

5. PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Our kids need a pathway to success through affordable college; yet our state ranks last in per student investment in higher education.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 77% | 44% | 58% | 60% |
| Maintain Spending | 18% | 35% | 31% | 28% |
| Cut Spending | 5% | 21% | 11% | 12% |

6. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Even before the pandemic Florida had an affordable housing crisis with the country's third largest homeless population and millions of Florida families struggling to pay their rent or mortgage.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 76% | 41% | 55% | 57% |
| Maintain Spending | 18% | 36% | 30% | 28% |
| Cut Spending | 6% | 23% | 15% | 15% |



Who wins and who loses? Would you increase spending on these services? Keep it the same? Or make cuts?

7. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Florida has the 3rd largest prison population in the country, spending \$2.8 billion annually to lock people up, more than we spend on job training, support for small businesses, housing and community development combined.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 29% | 29% | 25% | 28% |
| Maintain Spending | 24% | 38% | 33% | 31% |
| Cut Spending | 47% | 33% | 42% | 40% |

8. ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

State funding supports food assistance, unemployment benefits and other critical services.

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Increase Spending | 67% | 30% | 45% | 47% |
| Maintain Spending | 26% | 41% | 38% | 35% |
| Cut Spending | 7% | 29% | 17% | 18% |



How do we pay for it? Do you support or oppose these revenue raising ideas?

9. CLOSE CORPORATE TAX LOOPHOLES & ELIMINATE CORPORATE WELFARE

Raise approximately \$1.8 billion

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Support | 88% | 60% | 75% | 74% |
| Oppose | 12% | 40% | 25% | 26% |

10. TAX ASSETS LIKE STOCKS, BONDS, AND NOTES VALUED OVER \$1 MILLION

Raise approximately \$367 million

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Support | 75% | 48% | 60% | 61% |
| Oppose | 25% | 52% | 40% | 39% |



How do we pay for it? Do you support or oppose these revenue raising ideas?

11. RAISE COLLEGE TUITION AT PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Raise approximately \$7 million

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Support | 12% | 19% | 17% | 16% |
| Oppose | 88% | 81% | 83% | 84% |

12. EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOMES

Raise approximately \$198 million

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Support | 85% | 49% | 67% | 67% |
| Oppose | 15% | 51% | 33% | 33% |



How do we pay for it? Do you support or oppose these revenue raising ideas?

13. INCREASE HOW MUCH LARGE CORPORATIONS PAY IN TAXES BY JUST 1%

Raise approximately \$427 million

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Support | 91% | 65% | 79% | 78% |
| Oppose | 9% | 35% | 21% | 22% |

14. SKIP SALES TAX HOLIDAYS THIS YEAR

Raise approximately \$50 million

| | Democrat | Republican | NPA | All Voters |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|------------|
| Support | 63% | 57% | 61% | 60% |
| Oppose | 37% | 43% | 39% | 40% |



Any other ideas? Is there something we forgot to mention that you want to see in the People's Budget?

DEMOCRATS

- “Have our senators get the same insurance that the common people do”
- “Tax empty homes and apartments that have had no residency for more than 10 months out of the year”
- “Tax more large scale businesses that get a free ride”
- “More money on community development programs and less on prisons”
- “Give the government back to the people not corporations”
- “Increase the minimum wage now”
- “Legalize marijuana and tax it, using tax revenues towards education and health care initiatives”
- “Increase spending on community events to help curb youth violence”
- “With all the toll roads being installed take that money to use more into the public affordable transportation”
- “Lower how much rent people pay some of us living off fixed income”

REPUBLICANS

- “End crony capitalism in Florida”
- “Support small business”
- “Dedicate proceeds from the lottery for health care, education, social programs for low-income families”
- “Raise the budget for services for individuals with disabilities”
- “Fair tax act”
- “Reform the way the systems are administered before asking the working people to take another pay cut to fund them”
- “Heavily tax large corporations and the rich”
- “More accountability for the money spent from leaders! This is not about increasing taxes, this about how the money are spent”
- “Is there a way to tax gun ownership to support mental health awareness in schools and communities”
- “Infrastructure. Public investment in future.”



Any other ideas? Is there something we forgot to mention that you want to see in the People's Budget?

NPAs

“Set up state wide centralized job post”

“TAKE CARE OF THE PEOPLE FIRST”

“Budgets should be tied to community benefits not frittered away on politicians pet projects and corruption”

“Fix the roads”

“We need our voting in place for every bill/act being passed - NOT just general elections”

“Increase tax on wealthy and carbon footprint”

“Restore luxury sales tax on yachts”

“Educational training, retraining and medical coverage for unemployed seniors”

“Raise health care workers income”

“Yes quit giving astronomical tax breaks to huge corporations to come to Florida give the breaks and loans to small businesses because we all know if they disappear so does our economy”



FLORIDA

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET FLORIDA IS A COALITION OF UNIONS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND POLICY EXPERTS FIGHTING FOR A STATE THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US, NOT JUST CORPORATIONS. THE COALITION INCLUDES FLORIDA FOR ALL, FLORIDA RISING, SEIU, SEIU1199, SEIU-FPSU, THE FLORIDA IMMIGRANT COALITION, THE FLORIDA POLICY INSTITUTE AND OTHERS.