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LeRoy Collins Institute Study: 75% of Florida Counties are Landslide Counties

Following the Florida primaries, new report details Election Day 2020 demographics, wait times, and confidence levels in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Almost three-quarters of Florida counties are presidential “landslide” counties in which one party or the other holds at least a 20% margin over its rival, making majority-party nominations especially significant in those counties. This is among the findings of a new study by the [LeRoy Collins Institute](#) that reviews data from the 2020 Florida election.

The new “[2020 Florida Election Study Report](#)” reviews data from Florida’s last general election, including data about primary, vote-by-mail, and in-person voting, as well as demographics and attitudes toward voting.

The study found a discrepancy between the confidence level of Democrats and that of Republicans when it comes to whether their ballots are counted correctly. Democrats said they are “very” confident their ballot is counted correctly at the individual level (a 3.8 out of 4), while Republicans are only “somewhat confident” that their ballots are being counted correctly (a 3.0 out of 4).

“As we enter another important election cycle, these are important findings that can help guide and predict what might happen this fall and further into the future,” said LeRoy Collins Institute Director Lonna Atkeson. “Importantly, we will be doing a postelection survey of voters in 2022 and build on our 2020 results to see how new laws and rules governing election administration worked for voters.”

More Floridians voted by mail in 2020 than ever before, the study found: 41% of voters cast their ballot by mail, while 39% voted early in person and 17% voted on Election Day. Democrats (53%) were much more likely to vote by mail than Republicans (34%).

While it was widely reported that wait times at the polls were high, the largest share of in-person Florida voters (35%) had no wait time, and another 30% reported a wait time of less than 10 minutes. Only 7% of voters reported having to wait over an hour to vote.

Election Day voting times were actually much shorter than for those who decided to use early voting. Half of Election Day voters reported no wait times, while only 26% of early voters said they had no wait times. A total of 15% of early voters waited more than 30 minutes, while only 11% of Election Day voters reported the same. The presidential commission on elections recommends a wait time of less than half an hour for all in-person voters. Thus, we have some additional work to do here.

In the 2020 general election, Florida had over 15 million eligible voters, and over 11 million actually voted, representing the highest turnout rate in recent Florida history. That year, Republicans made up 39% of voters, while Democrats made up 36%, and voters who are registered with No Party Affiliation made up 25%.

The LeRoy Collins Institute study also found that women are far more likely to identify as Democrat than are men (41% vs. 33%), while men are more likely to identify as Republican (40% of men vs. 35% of women). Voters ages 50-64 made up the largest share of voters (28%); younger voters ages 18-24 made up about 8% and those ages 25-29 made up 6%.

The full report is linked [here](#).

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About the LeRoy Collins Institute

Established in 1988, the LeRoy Collins Institute is a nonpartisan, statewide policy organization that studies and promotes creative solutions to key private and public issues facing the people of Florida and the nation. The Institute, located in Tallahassee at Florida State University, is affiliated and works in collaboration with the State University System of Florida. Named in honor of former Florida Governor LeRoy Collins, the Institute is governed by a distinguished board of directors, chaired by Lester Abberger. Other board members include executives, local elected officials, and other professionals from throughout the state.