



## FLORIDA SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS POLL: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Florida Survey of 800 Likely Voters Conducted February 15-17, 2019

by Pulse Opinion Research

**Survey Summary:** The results of this recently completed statewide survey show that Florida voters overwhelmingly support 8-year term limits for school board members. Support for term limits is broad across all political and demographic groups. An overwhelming 77% of voters approve of an amendment to the Florida Constitution that will place term limits on school board members. **By a decisive margin of 84% to 10%, voters who support school board term limits prefer 8-year limits over the 12-year limits suggested by some lawmakers.** Large majorities also say that local politicians stay in power for too long, and that they're more likely to support state lawmakers who help advance term limits.

***Do you approve or disapprove of an amendment to the Florida Constitution that will place term limits on all elected school board members in Florida?***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A. *	White
<b>Approve</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>76%</b>
Strongly	47%	59%	38%	43%	49%	39%	49%
Somewhat	30%	26%	29%	33%	31%	32%	27%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Somewhat	9%	6%	10%	10%	7%	9%	9%
Strongly	6%	3%	8%	6%	4%	4%	6%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>

\*A.A. represents African-American voters surveyed

***If term limits are implemented, school board members would have to leave office after a set number of years to make room for new members. The two most common proposals are for an 8-year limit and a 12-year limit. Do you prefer an 8-year limit or a 12-year limit?***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.	White
<b>Prefer 8 Years</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>88%</b>
Strongly	58%	69%	50%	53%	53%	47%	63%
Somewhat	26%	19%	29%	31%	31%	25%	25%
<b>Prefer 12 Years</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Strongly	5%	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%
Somewhat	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%	10%	3%
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>4%</b>

***Would you be more or less likely to support a candidate for state legislature if you knew he or she helped pass term limits on school boards?***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.	White
<b>More Likely</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Much More	38%	51%	32%	32%	39%	36%	40%
Somewhat More	29%	25%	28%	35%	35%	27%	27%
<b>Less Likely</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Somewhat Less	9%	6%	14%	7%	13%	8%	8%
Much Less	5%	4%	8%	2%	4%	4%	5%
<b>No Difference</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Not Sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>

Two-in-three Florida voters, 67%, are substantially more likely to support a candidate for State Legislature who supports implementing term limits on Congress; 38% are much more likely.

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***Thinking about the tenure of local officials in Florida, including school board members, do local politicians stay in office too long, the right amount of time, or not long enough?***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind.	Hispanic	A.A.	White
<b>Stay Too Long</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Right Amount	28%	25%	32%	28%	35%	40%	23%
<b>Not Long Enough</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Not Sure	8%	3%	12%	8%	3%	11%	9%

**Conclusions:** Florida voters overwhelmingly support an amendment to the Florida Constitution limiting the terms of all school board members. The intensity of this support is measured in their drive to vote for state legislators who will vote “YES” on term limits. While the notion of a 12-year term limit is frequently mentioned at the Capitol, this idea is anathema to the voters of Florida, who prefer 8-year term limits by a landslide margin.

**Methodology:** This poll of 800 likely voters in Florida was conducted February 15-17, 2019, using an automated polling methodology. To reach those who have abandoned traditional landline telephones, Pulse Opinion Research uses an online survey tool to interview randomly selected participants from a demographically diverse panel. This accounts for 25% of the panel. Pulse Opinion Research determines its partisan weighting targets through a dynamic weighting system that takes into account the state’s voting history, national trends, and recent polling in a particular state or geographic area.

This poll of 800 likely voters in Florida has an accuracy of +/- 3.5% with a 95% level of confidence.

#### **Key Survey Demographics:**

##### **Gender**

**Men** - 47%

**Women** - 53%

##### **Age**

**18-39** – 32%

**40-64** – 47%

**65+** - 22%

##### **Race**

**White** – 63%

**African American** – 13%

**Hispanic** – 16%

**Other** – 7%

##### **Party**

**Republican** – 33%

**Democrat** – 33%

**Independent** – 34%