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UNF Poll Shows Crime Tops List of Voters' Concern

A new poll from the Public Opinion Research Laboratory at the University of North Florida reveals that crime tops the list of concerns among likely voters in Duval County. When asked about the most important problem facing Jacksonville today, 33 percent of likely voters answered crime, followed by education (17 percent) and the economy/jobs (13 percent).

Only 9 percent of likely voters think solving the public pension problem is Jacksonville's most important problem, and the two most discussed plans are only receiving tepid support. When asked whether voters support or oppose a half-cent tax increase dedicated to reducing the pension obligation, 48 percent indicated support for the plan, while 45 percent were opposed to the idea.

Likewise, when asked whether voters support or oppose having JEA pay a one-time lump sum to help pay down the pension obligation in exchange for reduced payments to the city's general fund in the future, only 45 percent were supportive of the idea, while 46 percent were opposed.

Regarding the Human Rights Ordinance, 62 percent of likely voters approve of the city adding sexual orientation to the existing list of groups protected from workplace discrimination, while a mere 27 percent are opposed.

When asked to rate the environmental quality of the St. Johns River, 55 percent of likely voters think the river is either mostly or very polluted. A solid majority (58 percent to 38 percent) of likely voters are supportive of a one-cent tax increase if those funds went to restoring the health of the St. Johns River.

Forty percent of the likely voters polled approve of the job that the Jacksonville City Council is doing. Twenty-four percent of those polled approve of the job that Matt Shirk, public defender, is doing, while 37 percent disapprove and 38 percent didn't know or refused to answer. State Attorney Angela Corey has a job approval rating of 35 percent, while a majority of voters (51 percent) disapprove of the job she is doing.

The Public Opinion Research Laboratory, through the use of a 27-station telephone-polling laboratory at UNF, conducted the survey. Approximately 120 UNF students participated in the data collection. A polling sample of randomly selected likely voters was drawn from the Duval County Supervisor of Elections voter file. Likely voters are classified as voters who cast a ballot in three of the four previous general elections (2011 first election, 2011 general election, 2012 general election and 2014 general election) or for more recently registered voters if they have voted in all eligible general elections (both 2012 and 2014, or only 2014 if they were registered to voter after the 2012 general election).

The survey was conducted Monday, Feb. 23, through Friday, Feb. 27, and includes 546 adult registered likely voters in Duval County with a margin of error of +/- 4 percent. Race, gender and party registration were weighted to reflect an electorate that is similar to what turned out in March 2011—partisan registration is roughly equal and African-American voters represent approximately 28 percent of electorate. Funding amount: \$0.

Below are the full results of this poll, which was supported by Dr. Barbara Hetrick, College of Arts and Sciences dean. For more information or questions about methodology, contact Dr. Michael Binder, UNF assistant professor of political science, at (904) 620-1205 or m.binder@unf.edu.

UNF, a [nationally ranked](#) university located on an environmentally beautiful campus, offers students who are dedicated to enriching the lives of others the opportunity to build their own futures through a well-rounded education.

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Q1. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing Jacksonville?

N=546 +/- 4%	Even Party ID (Similar March 2011)
Economy/Jobs	13%
Improving the Downtown Area	7%
Education	17%
Improving Transportation and Infrastructure	6%
Crime	33%
Solving the Public Pension Problem	9%
Balancing the Budget	8%
Something Else	4%
DK/R	2%

Q10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jacksonville City Council is handling its job?

N=546	
Strongly Approve	8%
Somewhat Approve	32%
Somewhat Disapprove	25%
Strongly Disapprove	18%
DK/R	17%

Q12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nikolai Vitti is handling his job as the Duval County Superintendent of Schools?

N=546	
Strongly Approve	22%
Somewhat Approve	28%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	17%
DK/R	21%

Q13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Matt Shirk is handling his job as public defender?

N=546	
Strongly Approve	6%
Somewhat Approve	18%
Somewhat Disapprove	11%
Strongly Disapprove	26%
DK/R	38%

Q14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Angela Corey is handling her job as state attorney?

N=546	
Strongly Approve	15%
Somewhat Approve	20%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	35%
DK/R	13%

Q15. How satisfied are you with the quality of public education in Jacksonville?

N=546	
Very Satisfied	7%
Somewhat Satisfied	32%
Somewhat Unsatisfied	23%
Strongly Unsatisfied	29%
DK/R	10%

Q20. Do you support or oppose the City of Jacksonville adding sexual orientation to the existing list of groups protected from workplace discrimination?

N=546	
Strongly Support	43%
Somewhat Support	19%
Somewhat Oppose	9%
Strongly Oppose	18%
DK/R	11%

Support for HRO by Party Registration

N=546	Democrat	Republican	NPA	Total
Strongly Support	53%	30%	54%	43%
Somewhat Support	19%	21%	15%	19%
Somewhat Oppose	9%	10%	4%	9%
Strongly Oppose	10%	27%	14%	18%
DK/R	9%	13%	12%	11%

Support for HRO by Race

N=546	White	African-American	Other	Total
Strongly Support	43%	42%	54%	43%
Somewhat Support	19%	21%	16%	19%
Somewhat Oppose	8%	10%	7%	9%
Strongly Oppose	19%	14%	18%	18%
DK/R	11%	13%	5%	11%

Q21. Do you support or oppose a half-cent tax increase dedicated to reducing the pension obligation?

N=546	
Strongly Support	26%
Somewhat Support	22%
Somewhat Oppose	13%
Strongly Oppose	32%
DK/R	6%

Q22. Do you support or oppose having JEA pay a one-time lump sum to help pay down the pension obligation in exchange for reduced payments to the city's general fund in the future?

N=546	
Strongly Support	22%
Somewhat Support	23%
Somewhat Oppose	13%
Strongly Oppose	23%
DK/R	18%

Q26. How would you rate the environmental quality of the St. Johns River?

N=546	
Very Clean	2%
Mostly Clean	27%
In Between	12%
Mostly Polluted	37%
Very Polluted	18%
DK/R	4%

Q27. Do you support or oppose a one-cent tax increase if those funds went to restoring the health of St. Johns River?

N=546	
Strongly Support	34%
Somewhat Support	24%
Somewhat Oppose	15%
Strongly Oppose	23%
DK/R	4%

Q28. Are we reaching you today on a landline or cell phone?

N=546	
Landline	40%
Cell Phone	59%
R	1%

Q29. What is the highest grade in school or year of college you have completed?

N=546	
Less than High School Degree	2%
High School Graduate	15%
Some College	31%
College Graduate	30%
Post Graduate	19%
DK/R	2%

Q30. What is your annual household income?

N=546	
Less than \$25,000	9%
\$25,000-\$50,000	21%
\$50,000-\$75,000	16%
\$75,000-\$100,000	13%
Above \$100,000	20%
DK/R	22%

Q31. Race

N=546	
White	67%
African-American	28%
Hispanic	3%
Other	2%

32. Party ID

N=546	
Democrat	45%
Republican	45%
No Party Affiliation	7%
Other	2%

33. Gender

N=546	
Male	46%
Female	54%