



**University of North Florida**  
Public Opinion Research Lab  
[www.unf.edu/coas/porl/](http://www.unf.edu/coas/porl/)

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**Racial and Partisan Divisions on Confederate Statues in Jacksonville**

A new poll of registered voters in Duval County by the Public Opinion Research Laboratory (PORN) at the University of North Florida finds that approximately 53 percent of Duval County registered voters oppose removing Confederate statues from public spaces, and 38 percent support their removal. Opposition is stronger among registered Republicans at 83 percent, while registered Democrats support removal of the statues at 56 percent. A similar split can be seen when comparing white and black respondents. Of the white registered voters, 68 percent oppose removing the Confederate statues, and 62 percent of black registered voters support their removal from public spaces.

“With these sizable partisan and racial differences on this issue, I just hope that emotions stay in check and ultimately we come to a resolution that everybody can live with,” Dr. Binder, faculty director of the PORN, commented.

For the third year in a row, Jacksonville residents view crime as the most important problem facing the city, with 40 percent of registered voters. Women are more likely than men to believe that crime is the most important problem facing Jacksonville. Fully half of the women in the sample see crime as the most important problem, whereas only 28 percent of men in the sample feel the same.

Mayor Lenny Curry continues his strong job approval number since he’s been in office as 69 percent strongly or somewhat approve of the job he is doing. Even Jacksonville City Council has high approval numbers, as 50 percent approve and only 26 percent disapprove. When asked about Mike William’s approval rate, 67 percent of Duval County registered voters strongly or somewhat approve of how he is handling his job as Jacksonville’s Sheriff. Like the mayor, the sheriff’s job approval crosses partisan lines as Republicans have 82 percent overall approval, and Democrats are not that far behind with 60 percent approval.

The State Attorney, Melissa Nelson, has 55 percent job approval almost a year into her first term, but only 13 percent disapproval as almost a third of registered voters did not offer an

opinion. Public Defender Charlie Cofer has only 36 percent approval and 14 percent disapproval, but 50 percent of the voters did not offer an opinion.

“All of Duval’s political leaders have extremely high job approval numbers,” said Dr. Binder. “Contrast this level of satisfaction with what is happening in Washington right now, and downtown looks like a political paradise.”

Regarding the homeless in Jacksonville, 65 percent of registered voters in Duval County believe the city is doing too little to reduce homelessness. Another topic of interest concerning the City Council is the funding of a public pool at UNF. Support for committing city funds to build a public pool at UNF is at 72 percent of the overall sample.

For detailed methodology and crosstabs by party registration, gender, education, race and go to: <http://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/aa/coas/porl/Crosstabs2.pdf>

### Methodology

The Jax Speaks Poll was conducted by PORL Monday, October 2, through Wednesday, October 4, by live callers via the telephone, and calls were made from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily. The sample of phone numbers was created through the voter file provided by Florida’s Division of Elections January 2017 update and selected through the use of probability sampling among Duval County, Fla. registered voters in the Florida voter file. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish by UNF undergraduate and graduate students. Overall, there were 512 completed surveys of Duval County registered voters, 18 years of age or older. Of those, 509 answered the demographic questions needed for weighting.

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is +/- 4.3 percentage points. The breakdown of completed responses on a landline phone to a cell phone was 20 to 80 percent. A single interviewer, through hand dialing, upon reaching the specific registered voter as identified in the Florida voter file, asked the respondent to participate, regardless of landline telephone or cell phone. The total sample was then weighted by partisan registration, gender, race, age, and education. Education weights were created from the 2016 American Community Survey (ACS). Partisan registration, gender, race, and age weights were created from the September 2017 update of the Florida voter file to match the active registered voters in Duval County. These demographic characteristics were pulled from the voter file list. All weighted demographic variables were applied using the SPSS version 23 rake weighting function. There were no statistical adjustments made due to design effects. This survey was sponsored by the UNF PORL and directed by Dr. Michael Binder, UNF associate professor of political science.

The PORL is a full-service survey research facility that provides tailored research to fulfill each client’s individual needs from political, economic, social and cultural projects. The PORL opened in 2001 and is an independent, non-partisan center, a charter member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative and a member of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organization. For more information about methodology, contact Dr. Binder at [porl@unf.edu](mailto:porl@unf.edu) or at (904) 620-2784.

Survey Results

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Lenny Curry is handling his job as Mayor of Jacksonville?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	28%
Somewhat Approve	41%
Somewhat Disapprove	8%
Strongly Disapprove	5%
Don't Know	17%
Refusal	2%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Lenny Curry is handling his job as Mayor of Jacksonville?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Registered Democrats</b>	<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>Registered NPA/Others</b>
Approve	57%	84%	67%
Disapprove	23%	2%	11%
Don't Know	18%	13%	22%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Lenny Curry is handling his job as Mayor of Jacksonville?\*

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>2017 Registered Voters</b>	<b>2016 Likely Voters</b>	<b>2015 Likely Voters (Brown)</b>	<b>2014 Registered Voters (Brown)</b>	<b>2013 Residents (Brown)</b>	<b>2012 Registered Voters (Brown)</b>
Approve	69%	69%	55%	59%	70%	75%
Disapprove	13%	17%	34%	22%	18%	11%
Don't Know	18%	15%	11%	19%	12%	14%

\*Mayor Alvin Brown is listed in parentheses for the years he was in office

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

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	6%
Somewhat Approve	44%
Somewhat Disapprove	16%
Strongly Disapprove	10%
Don't Know	23%
Refusal	2%

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

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>2017 Registered Voters</b>	<b>2016 Likely Voters</b>	<b>2015 Likely Voters</b>	<b>2014 Registered Voters</b>	<b>2013 Residents</b>
Approve	50%	48%	40%	45%	48%
Disapprove	26%	32%	43%	36%	34%
Don't Know	24%	19%	17%	18%	17%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Williams is handling his job as Jacksonville's Sheriff?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	33%
Somewhat Approve	34%
Somewhat Disapprove	10%
Strongly Disapprove	8%
Don't Know	14%
Refusal	2%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Williams is handling his job as Jacksonville's Sheriff?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Registered Democrats</b>	<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>Registered NPA/Others</b>
Approve	60%	82%	55%
Disapprove	27%	5%	25%
Don't Know	12%	12%	20%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Williams is handling his job as Jacksonville's Sheriff?\*

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>2017 Registered Voters</b>	<b>2016 Likely Voters</b>	<b>2015 Likely Voters (JSO)</b>	<b>2014 Registered Voters (JSO)</b>	<b>2013 Residents (JSO)</b>	<b>2012 Registered Voters (JSO)</b>
Approve	67%	72%	63%	66%	71%	72%
Disapprove	18%	13%	31%	28%	26%	23%
Don't Know	15%	14%	6%	6%	4%	5%

\*JSO is listed in parentheses for the years "Jacksonville Sheriff's Office" was asked

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Patricia Willis is handling her job as the Duval County Superintendent of Schools?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	13%
Somewhat Approve	29%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	8%
Don't Know	34%
Refusal	1%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Patricia Willis is handling her job as the Duval County Superintendent of Schools?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>2017 Registered Voters</b>	<b>2016 Likely Voters (Vitti)</b>	<b>2015 Likely Voters (Vitti)</b>	<b>2014 Registered Voters (Vitti)</b>	<b>2013 Residents (Vitti)</b>
Approve	42%	50%	50%	52%	43%
Disapprove	22%	34%	30%	26%	16%
Don't Know	36%	17%	21%	22%	40%

\*Nikolai Vitti is listed in parentheses for the years he was the superintendent

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Anna Brosche is handling her job as Jacksonville City Council President?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	6%
Somewhat Approve	23%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	7%
Don't Know	50%
Refusal	2%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Charlie Cofer is handling his job as Public Defender?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	9%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	7%
Strongly Disapprove	7%
Don't Know	48%
Refusal	2%

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Melissa Nelson is handling her job as State Attorney?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	36%
Somewhat Disapprove	7%
Strongly Disapprove	6%
Don't Know	31%
Refusal	1%

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

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Education	20%
Improving Transportation and Infrastructure	13%
Crime	40%
Taxes	2%
Economy/Jobs	11%
Improving the Downtown Area	10%
Something Else	4%
Don't Know	2%
Refusal	-

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

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Education	19%	20%
Improving Transportation and Infrastructure	17%	9%
Crime	28%	50%
Taxes	3%	2%
Economy/Jobs	14%	9%
Improving the Downtown Area	11%	8%
Something Else	7%	1%
Don't Know	2%	1%
Refusal	-	-

Duval County's Most Important Problem

<b>Date</b>	<b>Most Important Problem</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
2017 Registered Voters	Crime	40%
2016 Likely Voters	Crime	38%
2015 Likely Voters	Crime	33%
2014 Registered Voters	Public Education	27%
2013 Residents	Economy/Jobs	37%
2012 Registered Voters	Economy/Jobs	69%

Do you support or oppose removing Confederate statues from public spaces around Jacksonville?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	11%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	39%
Don't Know	7%
Refusal	2%

Do you support or oppose removing Confederate statues from public spaces around Jacksonville?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Registered Democrats</b>	<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>Registered NPA/Others</b>
Support	56%	15%	43%
Oppose	31%	83%	44%
Don't Know	9%	2%	12%

Do you support or oppose removing Confederate statues from public spaces around Jacksonville?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>African American/Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Other</b>
Support	30%	62%	40%	29%
Oppose	68%	24%	40%	53%
Don't Know	4%	11%	12%	8%

Do you support or oppose the City of Jacksonville contributing funds to the building of a publicly accessible pool at the University of North Florida?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support	32%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	12%
Don't Know	5%
Refusal	1%

\*According to UNF administration, the University is not seeking nor would it accept public funds for a public pool.

Do you think that the City of Jacksonville is doing too much, too little, or about the right amount to reduce homelessness in Jacksonville?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Too much	2%
Too little	65%
About the right amount	21%
Don't Know	12%
Refusal	1%

How appealing do you think downtown Jacksonville is to young adults?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Very appealing	6%
Somewhat appealing	36%
Somewhat unappealing	29%
Very unappealing	23%
Don't Know	6%
Refusal	-

What area (if any) of downtown Jacksonville should the city prioritize for development and improvements?

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Hemming Park/City Hall	9%
Stadium/Ship Yards	19%
Landing/Bay Street	38%
Southbank	7%
Resources should be directed elsewhere	22%
Don't Know	6%
Refusal	<1%

<b>Education</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Less than high school	2%
High school graduate	19%
Some college	49%
College graduate	20%
Post graduate degree	10%
Don't Know	-
Refusal	-



<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Landline	20%
Cell phone	80%
Don't Know	-
Refusal	-

<b>Survey language completed in...</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
English	99%
Spanish	<1%

<b>Race</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
White (not Hispanic)	60%
Black (not Hispanic)	28%
Hispanic	5%
Other	8%

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Male	45%
Female	55%

<b>Party Registration</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
Republican	38%
Democrat	41%
NPA and other	22%

<b>Age</b>	<b>Duval County Registered Voters n=509</b>
18 to 24	12%
25 to 34	19%
35 to 44	16%
45 to 55	18%
56 to 64	18%
65 and older	18%

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.