VICTORY INSIGHTS

FLORIDA REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL BATTLEGROUND SNAPSHOT

6 congressional districts. 1200 likely Republican primary election voters. Conducted by Victory Insights LLC from August 4-6, 2026, using a combination of Text-To-Web and Interactive Voice Response. Not commissioned by any candidate or committee.

For public release on Friday, August 7, 2026.

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Executive Summary

Florida has been a hotbed for contentious Republican primary elections in 2026. Mid-decade redistricting, retirements, scandals, and Gov. DeSantis's impending exit from office have created a perfect storm of chaos and opportunity. The purpose of this report is to cut through the noise and give politicos an unbiased and unfiltered perspective on the most contentious Florida GOP primary elections of the cycle.

At least the Governor's race is somewhat simple. We expect Byron Donalds to win the Republican nomination by a wide margin. Across the six congressional districts surveyed for this poll, Donalds earned 41% support, followed by Jay Collins at 15%, James Fishback at 11%, Paul Renner at 4%, and "Someone Else" at 5%, with 24% of voters still undecided. Donalds remains on track to win big.

The congressional races are less simple. In FL-2, Austin Rogers leads mega-spender Keith Gross. In FL-7, incumbent Cory Mills is vulnerable to a challenge by Ryan Elijah. In FL-9, four candidates are statistically tied for the lead. In FL-14, Kevin Steele and Mike Beltran are battling it out. In FL-19, a deep field of heavy hitters is in serious flux. And in FL-22, nobody likes the candidates. Welcome to Florida. Let's dive in.

Race Ratings

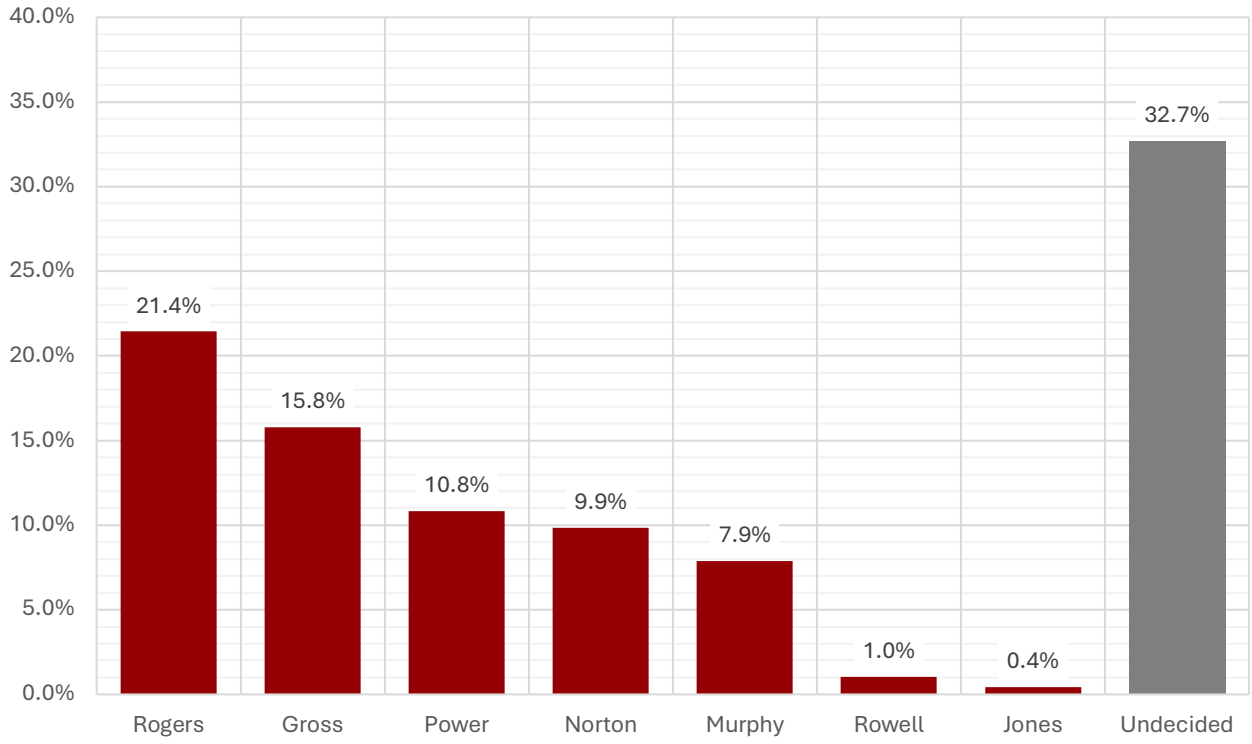
Governor:	Safe - Byron Donalds	**FL-2:**	Lean - Austin Rogers
FL-7:	Lean - Ryan Elijah	**FL-9:**	Toss-Up
FL-14:	Lean - Kevin Steele	**FL-19:**	Toss-Up
FL-22:	Toss-Up		

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Florida's 2nd Congressional District

Summary
Austin Rogers leads the race to succeed Rep. Neal Dunn, with Keith Gross in a clear second place. Evan Power, Jim Norton, and Luke Murphy are vying for third place, all within 3 points of one another. Nearly a third of voters remain undecided.

Ballot Chart

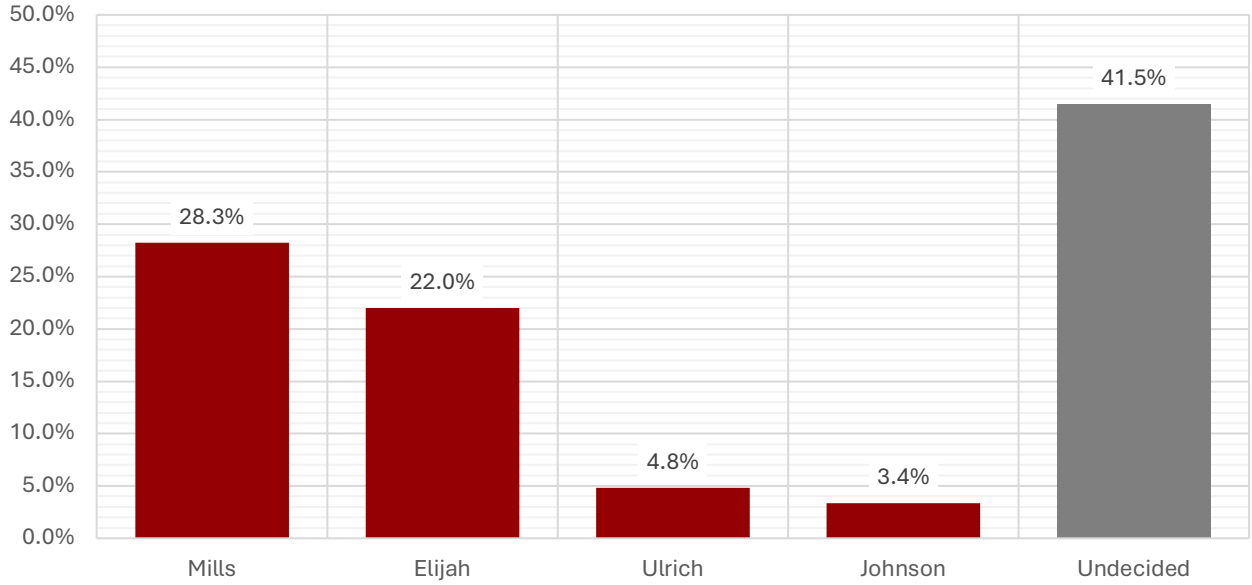


Analysis
Gross has spent many millions more than Rogers on his campaign. Nevertheless, Rogers is leading. Gross has been hit hard for his record on issues and his longtime registration as a Democrat. Meanwhile, Rogers has cemented himself as the chief alternative to Gross, landing big-time endorsements from Washington leaders like Jim Jordan, Steve Scalise, and Tom Emmer. All of this being said, a plurality of voters remain undecided. These voters will decide the race, and Gross is off to a rough start among them: 34% hold a negative opinion of him, while only 10% hold a positive opinion of him. Rogers has far less Name ID among undecided voters, so while he currently has the advantage, he must start making his case to undecideds if he hopes to retain his lead.

Florida's 7th Congressional District

Summary
Cory Mills, the embattled incumbent in Florida's 7th congressional district, holds a 6-point lead over Ryan Elijah, his principal challenger. Sarah Ulrich and Michael Johnson, two other challengers, remain mired in the low single digits. A whopping 41% of voters remain undecided.

Ballot Chart

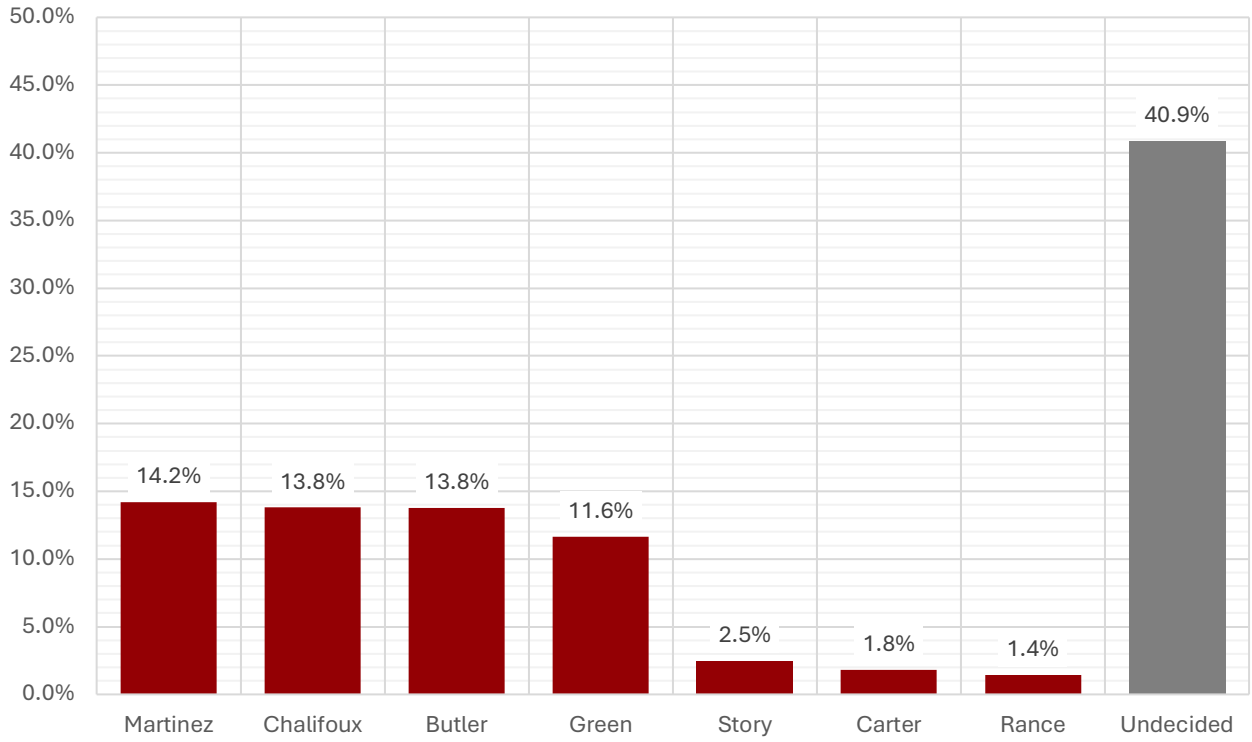


Analysis
Mills is in trouble, not just with the law, but also with the voters of District 7. Earning only 28% support as an incumbent should already be extremely concerning to Mills. Then consider that the opposition has largely consolidated behind one candidate, Elijah, who only trails by single digits. Then consider that Elijah has gained considerable momentum in recent days, landing various high-profile endorsements, including some from Mills' colleagues in Florida's congressional delegation. Finally, consider that undecided voters have turned against Mills: 35% hold a negative opinion of him, while only 14% hold a positive opinion of him. Make no mistake: Elijah still has work to do before he can take the lead, but he clearly has far more room to grow than Mills. It'll be essential for Elijah to remain the chief alternative; Mills should be hoping that Ulrich or Johnson step up in the final stretch to "steal" some of the anti-Mills vote share from Elijah, but there's no real indication so far that that's happening.

Florida's 9th Congressional District

Summary
Jorge Martinez, Thomas Chalifoux, Ben Butler, and Dan Green are statistically tied for the lead in FL-9. All other candidates remain in the very low single digits. 41% of voters remain undecided.

Ballot Chart

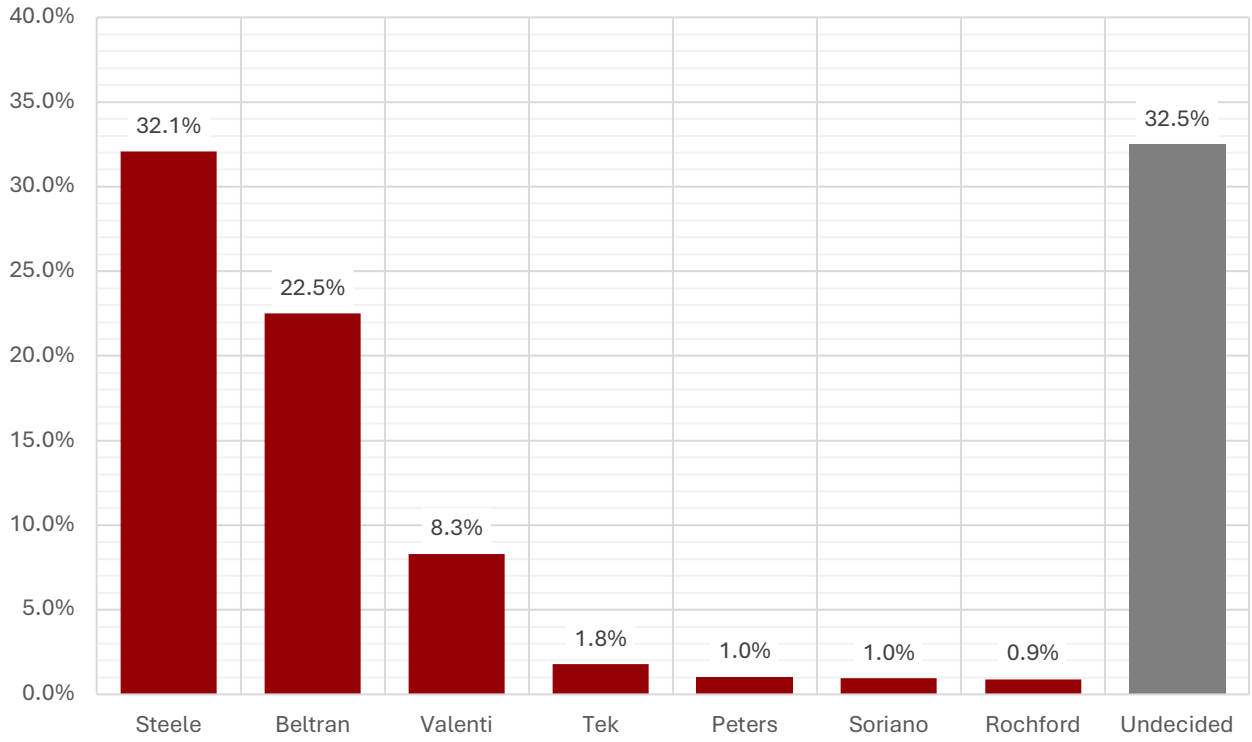


Analysis
It doesn't get any closer than this. Martinez, Chalifoux, and Butler each pull in 14% support, while Green earns 12% support, well within the margin of error. But the elephant in the room is not any of the candidates – it's undecideds. Despite the millions spent so far on campaigning, 41% of the electorate hasn't made up their minds yet. Among undecided voters, Green (17%) has the most Positive Name ID, followed by Butler (14%), Martinez (12%), and Chalifoux (10%). Frankly, this race is a complete toss-up. You could make the case for any of the four top-tier candidates: Martinez narrowly leads our poll, Chalifoux won the FL-9 nomination in 2024, Butler is the favorite on prediction markets, and Green has secured dozens of high-profile endorsements. This race is far from over.

Florida's 14th Congressional District

Summary
Kevin Steele holds a 10-point lead over Mike Beltran, while Bea Valenti is in a distant third place. All other candidates score in the low single digits. Just under a third of voters remain undecided.

Ballot Chart



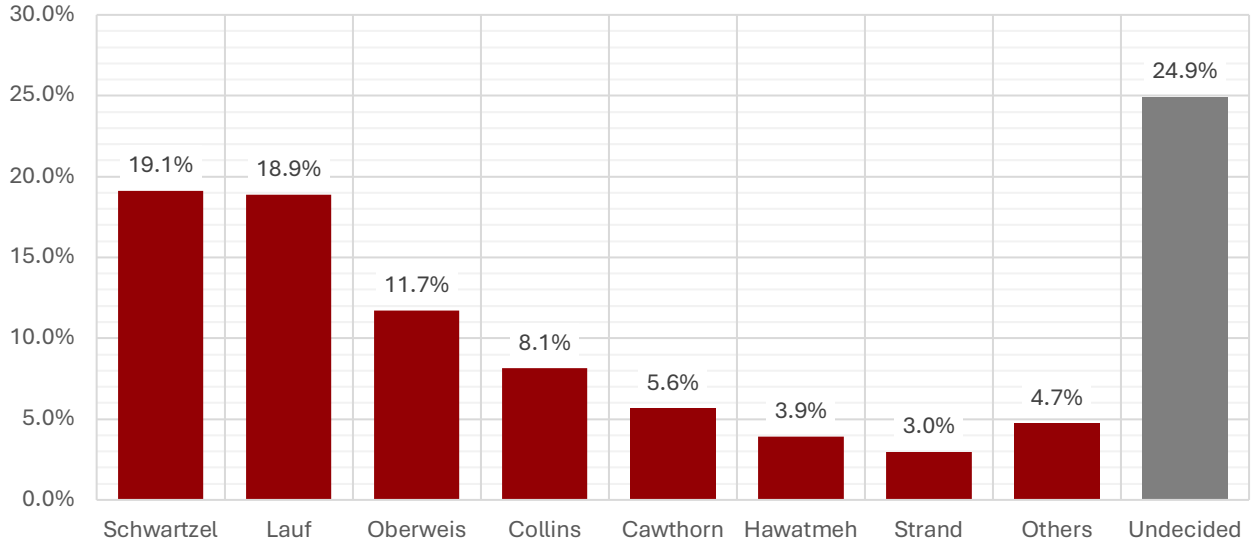
Analysis
Democrat Kathy Castor has represented the Tampa area in Congress for decades, but that could change in 2026. After mid-decade redistricting reshaped FL-14's boundaries, Republicans have their sights set on flipping the seat red. Steele and Beltran are the two GOP candidates with a shot at accomplishing that. Steele's strength is his consistency, as he leads among both the moderate and the conservative wings of the party. However, he's now dealing with a residency scandal which caused him to resign from the State House earlier this week. Whether this "scandal" will remain low-profile or will become a genuine point of contention on the campaign is yet to be seen. Beltran is certainly still in the hunt, but he'll be fighting an uphill battle between now and August 18th.

Florida's 19th Congressional District

Summary

Jim Schwartzel and Catalina Lauf make up the top tier of candidates at just below 20% support, while Jim Oberweis is the only other candidate to break into the double digits. Chris Collins is next with 8%, followed by Madison Cawthorn at 6%, Ola Hawatmeh at 4%, and John Strand at 3%. Approximately 1 in 4 voters remain undecided.

Ballot Chart



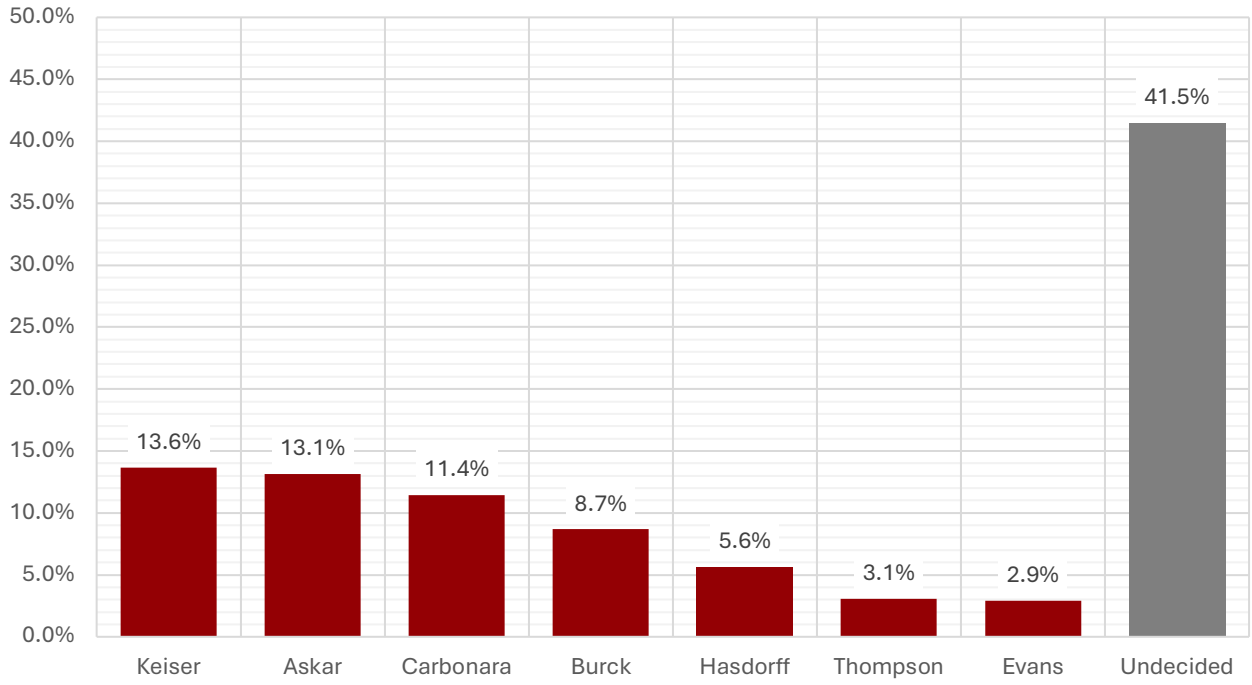
Analysis

Lauf is the big winner since our last poll from mid-June. She has risen from 5% to 19%, jumping from fourth place to second place, largely due to a surge in support from MAGA Republicans. Lauf now sits statistically tied with Schwartzel, who narrowly led our last poll as well. Oberweis has made virtually no progress since June and remains in the low double digits. Collins has also experienced a bump in support, surpassing Cawthorn for fourth place. FL-19 has a long history of contentious and nasty GOP primaries, and with attack ads abounding in the past month, this race seems to be no different. If previous FL-19 races have taught us anything, it's that peaking at the right time is of the utmost importance. One could argue that Lauf's well-timed rise is reminiscent of Byron Donalds' late surge in the 2020 primary election for FL-19. However, 11 days is a long time in the world of politics, and Lauf could crash as quickly as she rose. With 25% of voters still undecided and no candidate above 20%, this race remains winnable for any of the serious contenders.

Florida's 22nd Congressional District

Summary
Belinda Keiser, Casey Askar, and Michael Carbonara are statistically tied for the lead in FL-22, followed closely by David Burck, then Terri Hasdorff. 41% of voters remain undecided.

Ballot Chart



Analysis
FL-22 Republicans are allegedly choosing between an "Iraqi Extremist," a recipient of CCP funds, and a candidate who wasn't registered as a Republican until 2024. As you can imagine, the attack ads have been quite aggressive. These attack ads all seem to be working: the frontrunners all have much higher Negative Name ID than Positive Name ID, and voters are largely choosing to remain undecided rather than siding with any of the candidates. Eventually, though, undecided voters will need to make a decision, and one of the three big-spending frontrunners is very likely to come out on top. It's unclear which candidate they'll pick, though: only 3% of undecided voters hold a positive opinion of Askar, 4% of Keiser, and 10% of Carbonara. Long story short, the frontrunners have beaten each other up so much that voters don't really like any of them. Whoever advances from this primary would be more accurately described as a survivor than a winner.

ABOUT VICTORY INSIGHTS

Victory Insights is a national political polling, outreach, software, and strategy firm founded in 2020 and based in Fort Myers, Florida. Our polls have served as trusted guideposts in some of Florida's most-watched elections, including the 2024 presidential primary election and the 2026 Florida gubernatorial primary election. In the past 3 years alone, we've received over a dozen industry awards for our cutting-edge technologies, actionable polling insights, and targeted outreach campaigns.

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