

American Public Dialogue

Florida Survey on Occupational Influence and Pensions

April 11, 2011 Conducted for The Florida Professional Fire fighters

American Public Dialogue

Executive Summary

Telephone survey: Monitored and conducted by live communicators.

Survey Dates: April 4 to April 9, 2011.

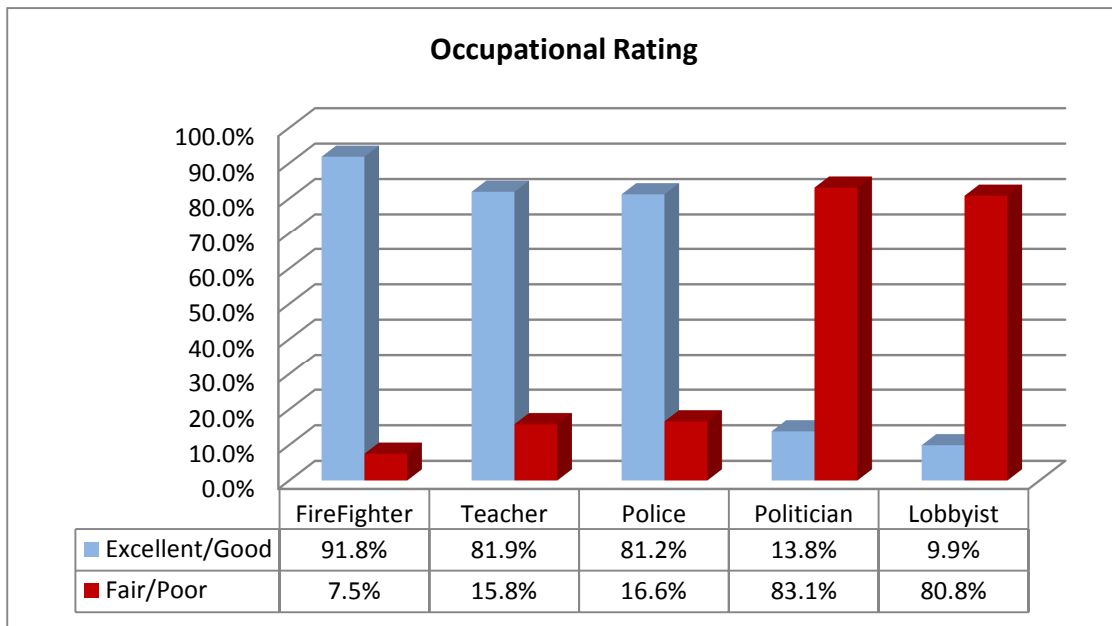
List Origin: Geographically stratified telephone listings, by counties, of residents within the State of Florida. Population of adult residents used to determine each county’s random sample.

Screen: Adults who describe themselves individually as residents of a specific Florida county.

Controls: Data collection and tabulation performed by **American Public Dialogue** staff on a client-blind basis.

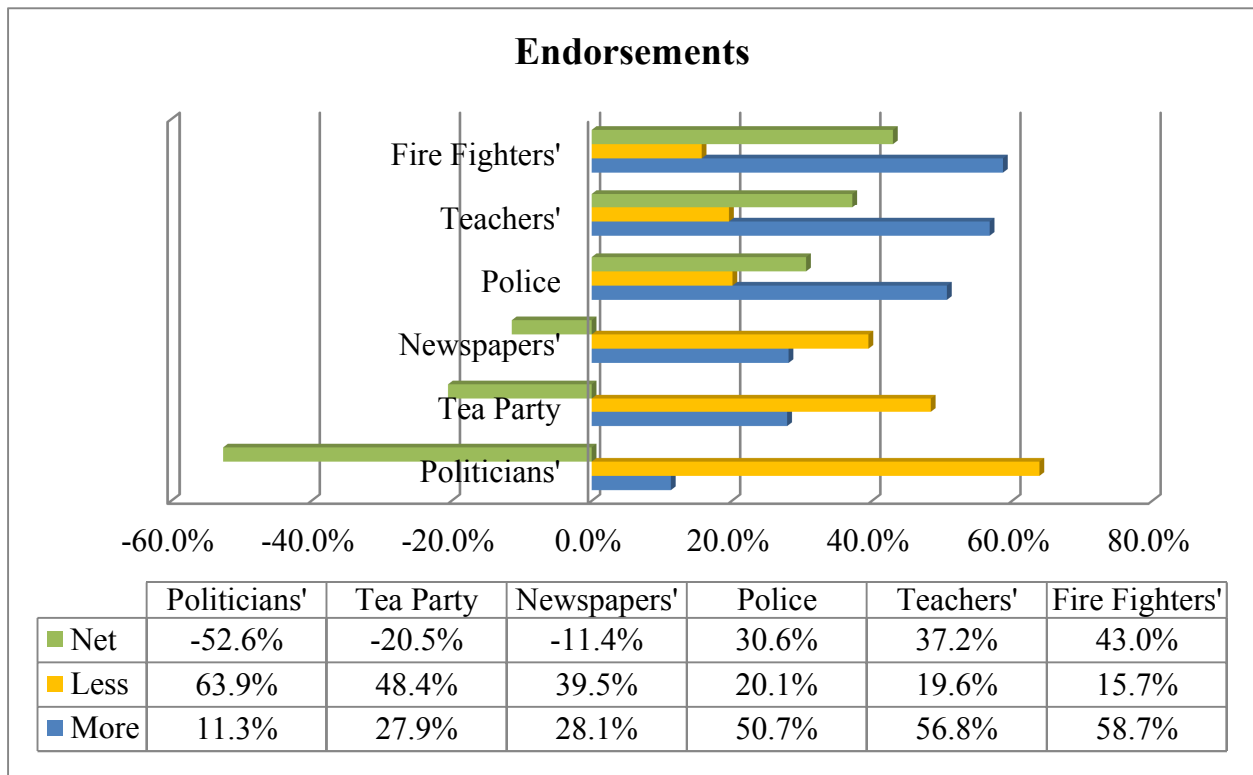
Responses: 611 completed responses. **Standard Deviation:** +3.9%

Note: statistical reliability for the cross-tabulations in this survey is considerably less accurate than the overall. In addition, please assume that any cross-tabulation in which the cell size is less than n=50 is fairly indistinct and should not be relied upon for major or critical assumptions.



Fire fighter is the highest rated occupation by Florida residents, 92% have an excellent or good opinion of the occupation and 7.5% rate them as fair or poor. Teacher and Police receive almost identical marks. Politicians and lobbyists are rated far worse by Floridians with at least 8 out of 10 respondents rating the occupations as fair or good.

The endorsement of the fire fighters carries the strongest positive impact with 59% saying they are more likely to vote for a candidate they endorse compared to 16% who are less likely. The



net positive is 43% for their endorsement. Teacher and Police endorsements also have a net positive push. Newspaper endorsements garner 28% “more likely” and 39% less likely. The Tea Party receives a 28% “more likely” response and a 48% “less likely.” The endorsement of “generic” politicians has a 64% “less likely” response rate which results in a negative push of 53%.

Respondents were asked what the primary focus of the Florida Legislature should be this year and provided a number of options. 46.2% respond “job creation.” “Education” is second with 27.3%. Tax Cuts received 9.8%. Only 5.4% respond “pension reform” and 3.4% say “high speed rail.” There are 12.4% who provided some other response.

65% have seen or read news stories about the Florida State Retirement System for State employees, a third have not. Floridians favor collective bargaining for public safety employees by a 67% to 21% ratio. They also are opposed to legislation designed to “protect” union workers by a margin of 52% to 24%. 23% feel the FRS is in good shape while 55% say it needs reform and 22% are unsure. Overall, 60% want the state to stay out of local contracts and 22% want them to intercede.

Politicians are to blame for our economic woes according to 59%. 13% blame Wall Street and 12% say lobbyists. Only 3.4% say middle class workers are responsible. The remaining 12% are unsure.

1) **County/Region**

Geographic Distribution: 10.5% West Florida (Panhandle); 8.3% Northeast Florida; 19.5% Central Florida; 4.9% Space Coast; 26.4% Southwest Florida; 30.4% Southeast Florida.

2) **What do you believe the primary issue of the State Legislature should be during the 2011 session? a) Job creation b) Pension Reform c) High Speed Rail d) Tax Cuts e) Education. f) Other**

3)

Q2	Job Creation	Education	Tax Cuts	Pension Reform	HS Rail	Other
All	46.2%	27.3%	9.8%	5.4%	3.4%	12.4%
Male	43.1%	24.2%	12.1%	6.8%	2.5%	16.4%
Female	48.8%	30.0%	7.9%	4.2%	4.2%	9.1%
Union	49.1%	30.4%	8.0%	5.4%	1.8%	8.0%
Non-Union	45.8%	27.0%	10.4%	4.7%	3.7%	13.5%
Tea Party	47.7%	15.9%	15.9%	21.1%	4.5%	11.4%

I am going to read you a list of occupations, after each, please rate the occupation on a scale of excellent, good, fair, or poor. (Questions 3 through 7)

Q3 Police	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	(n)
All	36.2%	45.0%	12.8%	3.8%	611
Male	32.7%	43.4%	16.4%	4.6%	281
Female	39.1%	46.4%	9.7%	3.0%	330
Union	38.4%	45.5%	13.4%	1.8%	112
Non-Union	36.2%	45.2%	12.1%	4.1%	489
Tea Party	47.7%	31.8%	15.9%	2.3%	44

Q4 Politician	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	(n)
All	3.3%	10.5%	31.9%	51.2%	611
Male	2.5%	12.5%	28.5%	53.7%	281
Female	3.9%	8.8%	34.8%	49.1%	330
Union	2.7%	8.0%	34.8%	51.8%	112
Non-Union	3.3%	10.8%	31.5%	51.3%	489
Tea Party	2.3%	9.1%	54.5%	34.1%	44

Q5 Lobbyist	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	(n)
All	2.9%	7.0%	20.6%	60.2%	611
Male	3.2%	6.0%	19.2%	64.8%	281
Female	2.7%	7.9%	21.8%	56.4%	330
Union	4.5%	4.5%	18.2%	63.6%	112
Non-Union	2.9%	7.0%	18.6%	61.8%	489
Tea Party	4.5%	4.5%	18.2%	63.6%	44

Q6 Fire fighter	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	(n)
All	48.1%	43.7%	5.9%	1.6%	611
Male	39.1%	50.5%	7.8%	2.1%	281
Female	55.8%	37.9%	4.2%	1.2%	330
Union	50.0%	42.9%	5.4%	1.8%	112
Non-Union	48.5%	44.4%	4.9%	1.4%	489
Tea Party	65.9%	25.0%	9.1%	0.0%	44

Q7 Teacher	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	(n)
All	42.9%	39.0%	11.1%	4.7%	611
Male	40.9%	39.5%	12.1%	5.0%	281
Female	44.5%	38.5%	10.3%	4.5%	330
Union	49.1%	36.6%	8.0%	5.4%	112
Non-Union	41.9%	39.3%	11.9%	4.3%	489
Tea Party	34.1%	38.6%	20.5%	6.8%	44

Now I will read a list of entities that often endorse in political campaigns. After each please tell me if you are more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate endorsed by them. (Questions 8 through 13)

Q8 Newspapers'	Much More	More	Less	Much Less	Doesn't Matter	(n)
All	4.4%	23.7%	29.5%	10.0%	32.4%	611
Male	3.9%	24.6%	32.0%	10.0%	29.5%	281
Female	4.8%	23.0%	27.3%	10.0%	34.8%	330
Union	4.5%	28.6%	32.1%	8.9%	25.9%	112
Non-Union	4.5%	22.7%	28.6%	10.4%	33.7%	489
Tea Party	4.5%	13.6%	40.9%	13.6%	27.3%	44

Q9 Police	Much More	More	Less	Much Less	Doesn't Matter	(n)
All	8.3%	42.4%	15.5%	4.6%	29.1%	611
Male	7.1%	45.6%	17.1%	5.0%	25.3%	281
Female	9.4%	39.7%	14.2%	4.2%	32.4%	330
Union	8.0%	49.1%	8.0%	3.6%	31.3%	112
Non-Union	8.2%	41.7%	17.0%	4.9%	28.2%	489
Tea Party	13.6%	40.9%	20.5%	2.3%	22.7%	44

Q10 Teachers'	Much More	More	Less	Much Less	Doesn't Matter	(n)
All	12.6%	44.2%	14.2%	5.4%	23.6%	611
Male	11.0%	44.8%	13.2%	7.8%	23.1%	281
Female	13.9%	43.6%	15.2%	3.3%	23.9%	330
Union	13.4%	45.5%	13.4%	5.4%	22.3%	112
Non-Union	12.5%	44.0%	15.0%	5.3%	23.7%	489
Tea Party	9.1%	34.1%	29.5%	4.5%	22.7%	44

Q11 Politicians'	Much More	More	Less	Much Less	Doesn't Matter	(n)
All	2.1%	9.2%	34.9%	29.0%	24.9%	611
Male	1.4%	7.1%	36.3%	33.5%	21.7%	281
Female	2.7%	10.9%	33.6%	25.2%	27.6%	330
Union	0.0%	9.8%	43.8%	25.9%	20.5%	112
Non-Union	2.5%	8.8%	32.7%	30.3%	25.8%	489
Tea Party	0.0%	9.1%	43.2%	22.7%	25.9%	44

Q12 Fire Fighters'	Much More	More	Less	Much Less	Doesn't Matter	(n)
All	11.9%	46.8%	11.8%	3.9%	25.5%	611
Male	8.5%	50.5%	13.5%	5.0%	22.4%	281
Female	14.8%	43.6%	10.3%	3.0%	28.2%	330
Union	8.9%	57.1%	8.0%	3.6%	22.3%	112
Non-Union	12.9%	45.0%	12.1%	3.9%	26.2%	489
Tea Party	9.1%	4.8%	22.7%	2.3%	18.2%	44

Q13 Tea Party	Much More	More	Less	Much Less	Doesn't Matter	(n)
All	9.7%	18.2%	20.1%	28.3%	23.7%	611
Male	10.7%	20.3%	19.6%	26.3%	23.1%	281
Female	8.8%	16.4%	20.6%	30.0%	24.2%	330
Union	8.0%	15.2%	5.0%	27.7%	24.1%	112
Non-Union	10.0%	19.2%	18.4%	29.0%	23.3%	489
Tea Party	27.3%	38.6%	15.9%	2.3%	15.9%	44

14) The Florida Retirement System for State employees has been in the news recently. In the last month have you read or seen any news stories about the issue?

Q14 FRS News	Yes-Aware	No	N/A	(n)
All	65.5%	32.7%	1.8%	611
Male	68.3%	29.9%	1.8%	281
Female	63.0%	35.2%	1.8%	330
Union	68.8%	27.7%	3.6%	112
Non-Union	65.0%	34.2%	0.8%	489
Tea Party	65.9%	27.3%	6.8%	44

15) Which of the following statements is closest to your opinion about the Florida Retirement System? A) The Florida Retirement System is ranked as one of the best in the nation and is considered to be in good financial health. B) The Florida Retirement System is in serious need of reform and without it the system will be bankrupt in the next few years.

Q15 FRS Opinion	Good Shape	Needs Reform	Don't Know	(n)
All	23.2%	55.2%	21.6%	611
Male	24.2%	55.5%	20.3%	281
Female	22.4%	54.8%	22.7%	330
Union	26.8%	53.6%	19.6%	112
Non-Union	24.3%	54.6%	21.2%	489
Tea Party	13.6%	68.2%	18.2%	44

16) Should public safety employees such as Fire Fighters and Police Officers be allowed to collectively bargain for their benefits and safety?

Q16 PS Collective Bargaining	Yes	No	Unsure	(n)
All	67.4%	21.3%	13.0%	611
Male	66.5%	24.6%	8.9%	281
Female	68.2%	18.5%	13.3%	330
Union	79.5%	14.3%	6.3%	112
Non-Union	65.4%	22.9%	11.7%	489
Tea Party	36.4%	50.0%	13.6%	44

17) Currently, the legislature is trying to enact a law that they claim protects the workers belonging to a union. In Florida, membership in a union is voluntary. If the members can protect themselves at any time by leaving a union they joined voluntarily, is this legislation necessary?

Q17 New Legislation	Yes	No	Unsure	(n)
All	23.6%	52.6%	23.9%	611
Male	28.5%	52.7%	18.9%	281
Female	19.4%	52.4%	28.2%	330
Union	23.2%	55.4%	21.4%	112
Non-Union	23.7%	52.4%	23.9%	489
Tea Party	34.1%	50.0%	15.9%	44

18) Currently, public sector workers across the nation are being blamed for budget and economic woes. Who do you consider to be the main cause of Florida's economic state? A) Politicians, B) Middle Class Workers, C) Wall Street, D) Lobbyists.

Economic Cause	Politicians	Middle Class	Wall Street	Lobbyists	Unsure	(n)
All	59.2%	3.4%	13.1%	11.9%	12.3%	611
Male	61.2%	4.3%	12.5%	11.0%	11.0%	281
Female	57.6%	2.7%	13.6%	12.7%	13.3%	330
Union	56.3%	3.6%	17.9%	11.6%	10.7%	112
Non-Union	60.7%	3.3%	11.0%	12.3%	12.7%	489
Tea Party	59.1%	2.3%	13.6%	20.5%	4.5%	44

19) Many cities are appealing to the state for legislation to fix their local pension plans. Which of the following is closest to your opinion on the issue: A) Florida state government should fix all of the cities' pension problems. B) It is not the job of the Florida legislature to fix deals negotiated by local governments.

	State	Not State's Job	Unsure	(n)
All	22.4%	59.9%	17.7%	611
Male	23.5%	60.9%	15.7%	281
Female	21.5%	59.1%	19.4%	330
Union	32.1%	49.1%	18.8%	112
Non-Union	20.4%	62.8%	16.8%	489
Tea Party	25.0%	65.9%	9.1%	44

Demographics

20. Male Age Group: *Is your age between: 18 to 29, 30 to 49, 50 to 64, 65 to 70 or over 70?*

Male Age Group - 46.0% Males

1.0% 18 to 29, 10.0% 30 to 49, 13.3% 50 to 64, 6.4% 65 to 70, 14.2% Over 70, 1.1% Refused age.

21. Female Age Group: *Is your age between: 18 to 29, 30 to 49, 50 to 64, 65 to 70 or over 70?*

Female Age Group - 54.0% Females

1.1% 18 to 29, 10.0% 30 to 49, 15.7% 50 to 64, 6.5% 65 to 70, 19.8% Over 70, 0.8% Refused age

22. Is your household income: *under \$25,000, \$25,000 to \$50,000, \$51,000 to \$75,000, \$75,000 to \$100,000 or over \$100,000?*

Household Income

15.5% < \$ 25k, 25.4% \$ 25 to \$ 50k, 17.5% \$ 51 to \$ 75k, 8.7% \$75 to \$ 100k, 9.2% > \$ 100k
23.7% Refused

23. Which of the following best describes your education level: *Less than High School, High School Diploma, some college courses, a two-year degree, a Bachelors Degree, a Post Graduate Degree?*

Education Level

10.0% < High School diploma, 14.6% H S Graduate, 20.9% Some College, 14.6% Two-year degree, 24.1% Bachelor's degree, 15.1% post graduate degree, 0.8% R

24. Are you or a close family member a union member?

Union Member - 18.3% Yes, 80.0% No, 1.6% Refused

25. Are you or a family member involved in the Tea Party political movement?

Tea Party Involved - 7.2% Yes, 89.7% No, 3.1% Refused