



University of North Florida
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www.unf.edu/coas/porl/

August 24, 2016

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A Poll of Florida’s Fourth Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Shows Melissa Nelson with a Commanding Lead in the State Attorney’s Race

Jacksonville, Fla. – A new poll of likely Republican Primary voters in Florida’s Fourth Judicial Circuit by the Public Opinion Research Laboratory (PORL) at the University of North Florida, in partnership with The Florida Times-Union, shows that Melissa Nelson leads Angela Corey in the State Attorney’s race 52 percent to 20 percent, respectively. Wes White garnered 7 percent with 21 percent still undecided.

This is a substantial change from the poll PORL conducted at the end of June in which Nelson had 34 percent and Corey had 24 percent. “The increase in support for Nelson is likely a combination of effects from endorsements, positive exposure and a well-run campaign,” said Dr. Michael Binder, PORL faculty director. While support for Wes White remained constant since the PORL’s poll last month, the undecided voters appear to be gravitating toward Nelson as the August 30th Election Day draws closer.

“Nelson has widespread support across all three counties” said Dr. Binder. “The lead Nelson has opened in the last month is very surprising. Incumbents are typically tough to beat, especially ones with name recognition.”

Early voting has been in progress since August 15 and 13 percent of the sample indicated they had already voted. Of those who have already cast their ballot, 57 percent said they selected Nelson and 26 percent said they had voted for Corey.

Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit likely Republican Primary poll shows that Charles Cofer is ahead in the Public Defender's race.

Jacksonville, Fla. – A new poll of likely Republican Primary voters in Florida's Fourth Judicial Circuit by the Public Opinion Research Laboratory (PORN) at the University of North Florida, in partnership with The Florida Times-Union, shows that Charles Cofer, with 43 percent, holds a comfortable edge over Matt Shirk, with 21 percent, in the Public Defender's race.

“Even though Cofer is ahead by twenty plus points, there is still a great deal of indecision in the electorate for this race”, said Binder. “This race has not attracted the same level of attention that the state attorney's race has gotten and, as such, has been overshadowed.”

According to Dr. Binder, “Among those who have already cast a ballot, Cofer's lead jumps to over thirty points. But for those who have not yet voted, the lead is less, only twenty points. It is possible that voters who were previously unsure are making the choice to vote for Cofer.”

Survey Results

State Attorney

Respondents were asked for whom they would vote if the election for State Attorney were being held today. The 4th Judicial Circuit includes Duval, Nassau and Clay Counties.

Candidate	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters n= 604	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters (June 2016) n= 467
Angela Corey	20%	24%
Melissa Nelson	52%	34%
Wes White	7%	8%
Don't Know	21%	35%

State Attorney Vote Choice by County

Candidate n= 604	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Duval County (63% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Clay County (23% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Nassau County (13% of total sample)
Angela Corey	22%	16%	19%
Melissa Nelson	53%	53%	44%
Wes White	7%	7%	10%
Don't Know	18%	24%	28%

State Attorney Vote Choice by Gender

Candidate n= 604	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Men (47% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Women (53% of total sample)
Angela Corey	18%	23%
Melissa Nelson	53%	51%
Wes White	7%	7%
Don't Know	22%	19%

State Attorney Vote Choice by Vote Status

Candidate	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Already Voted (13% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Have <i>Not</i> Voted Yet (87% of total sample)
Angela Corey	26%	20%
Melissa Nelson	57%	51%
Wes White	9%	7%
Don't Know	8%	23%

Public Defender

Respondents were asked for whom they would vote if the election (in Florida's 4th Judicial Circuit) for Public Defender were being held today.

Candidate	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters n= 604	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters (June 2016) n= 467
Charles Cofer	43%	35%
Matt Shirk	21%	17%
Don't Know	36%	48%

Public Defender Vote Choice by County

Candidate	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Duval County (63% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Clay County (23% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Nassau County (13% of total sample)
Charles Cofer	45%	40%	39%
Matt Shirk	23%	18%	16%
Don't Know	33%	42%	45%

Public Defender Vote Choice by Gender

Candidate	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Men (47% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Women (53% of total sample)
Charles Cofer	41%	45%
Matt Shirk	24%	18%
Don't Know	35%	38%

Public Defender Vote Choice by Vote Status

Candidate	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Already Voted (13% of total sample)	4th Judicial Circuit Likely Republican Primary Voters Have <i>Not</i> Voted Yet (87% of total sample)
Charles Cofer	57%	41%
Matt Shirk	22%	20%
Don't Know	21%	39%

Methodology

The Florida Fourth Judicial Circuit Poll was conducted by the Public Opinion Research Laboratory (PORN), in partnership with The Florida Times-Union, Saturday August 20 through Tuesday, August 23, 2016 by telephone with live callers. Respondents were likely Republican primary voters in the Fourth Judicial Circuit (Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties, Florida). Samples were created through voter files provided by each county's supervisor of elections and selected through the use of randomization among likely voters. Calls were conducted only in English, with 604 registered likely voters 18 years of age or older. Likely voters were considered people who had voted in the 2012 or the 2014 statewide primary election; or were newly registered voters that voted in the 2016 presidential preference primary; or new voters registered after June 27, 2016 were also included as likely voters. In addition to be considered a likely voter, respondent indicated that they would "Definitely Vote" or "Probably Vote" in August's primary election.

The margin of error is +/- 3.99 percent for the survey. The breakdown of completed responses on a landline phone to a cell phone was 43 to 57 percent with <1 percent unknown. The sample used quotas for each county to ensure geographic representation. This survey was sponsored by The Florida Times-Union and the PORN at the University of North Florida and was directed by associate professor of Political Science Dr. Michael Binder. The PORN 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 PORN opened in 2001 and is an independent, non-partisan center and a charter member of the American Association for Public

Opinion Research Transparency Initiative. For more information about methodology, contact Binder at porl@unf.edu or at (904) 620-2784. PDF version; website: <https://www.unf.edu/coas/porl/>

Survey Instrument

S1. As you may know the Florida Primary Election is being held on August 30th. How likely are you to vote in this election.....

1. You will definitely vote
2. You will probably vote
3. You will probably not vote [End Survey]
4. You will definitely not vote [End Survey]
5. Already Voted (volunteered – continue)
6. Don't Know [End Survey] VOL
7. No Answer [End Survey] VOL

Q1. If the election for State Attorney were being held today, for whom would you vote? [Rotate – Leave Someone Else last]

1. Angela Corey
2. Melissa Nelson
3. Wes White
4. Someone Else _____ VOL
5. Don't Know VOL
6. No Answer VOL

Q2. If the election for Public Defender were being held today, for whom would you vote? [Rotate – Leave Someone Else last]

1. Charles Cofer
2. Matt Shirk
3. Someone Else _____ VOL
4. Don't Know VOL
5. No Answer VOL