

Voting Rights & Florida's Independent Voters

**John Marvin
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Agenda

The State of the Union (Primaries)

Why Voting Rights for Primaries Matter

Support for Open Primaries in FL

How You Can Help

OPEN PARTISAN NONPARTISAN REGISTRATION

Alabama	Arkansas
Georgia	Illinois
Indiana	Michigan
Minnesota	Mississippi
Missouri	Montana
North Carolina	North Dakota
South Carolina	Tennessee
Texas	Vermont
Virginia	Wisconsin
Hawaii	

OPEN PARTISAN PARTISAN REGISTRATION

Arizona	Colorado
Kansas	Massachusetts
New Hampshire	New Mexico
Rhode Island	West Virginia
Maine	

OPEN NONPARTISAN **PRIMARY**

TOP TWO

California
Louisiana
Washington

Most U.S. Cities

TOP FOUR

Alaska

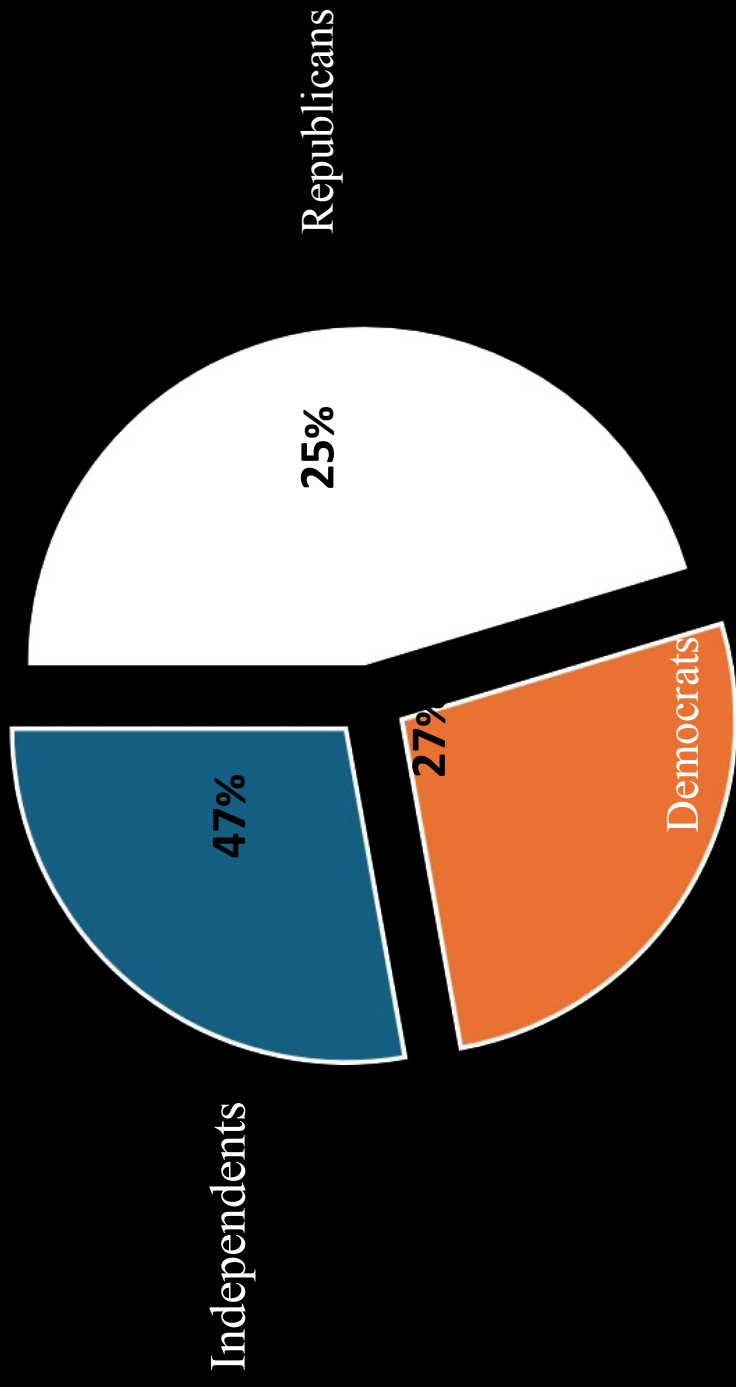
CLOSED/RESTRICTED PRIMARY

Only voters registered with a particular party may vote in that party's primary election.

Connecticut	Delaware
Florida	Idaho*
Kentucky	Maryland
Nevada	Oklahoma*
New Jersey	New York
Oregon	Pennsylvania
Dakota*	South
Wyoming	Utah*
	Iowa

*In these states the Democratic party has amended its rules to allow Independents to participate.

Many More Americans Consider Themselves to be Independent than Democrat or Republican



- Gallup 2025 Q3

Independent Voters in America Today

Independent Voters are the Fastest Growing Community of Voters

Every month 10,000 Americans are re-registering independent

55% of post 9/11 veterans

52% of voters under the age of 25

52% of Hispanic American voters

41% of Asian American voters

20% of African American voters

27% of Native American voters

28% of voters of mixed race voters

Reasons for Independence

% I prefer to assess each candidate individually, rather than their party affiliation

% I feel that political parties are too influenced by corporate interests or lobbyists

% I think for myself, independent of what parties and candidates tell me to think

% I believe the political system is corrupt and needs significant reform

% I value political flexibility and the freedom to choose without party constraints

% I'm concerned about the divisiveness and partisanship in current politics

Primary Elections are Consequential

The vast majority of elections are decided in the primaries

2024 Election: U.S. House of Representatives

7% OF U.S. HOUSE

380 / 435 SEATS IN THE U.S. HOUSE



■ Elected in a Primary ■ Elected in the General

% OF U.S. VOTERS

18.1M / 260M VOTING AGE AMERICANS

169 of safe seats uncontested in primary: 100 million Americans disenfranchised

Closed Primaries are Unfair

- Primaries are funded by the tax dollars of all voters, including the independents prohibited from voting in them.
- Why should independents be required to forfeit their right to free association with other independents in order to exercise their right to vote?

The Primary Problem



- Elected officials are choosing voters, rather than voters choosing elected officials
- Politicians pander to a small group of the most partisan voters
- Dysfunctional Government
- Voting rights of independents are trampled

Some Good News

Florida Democratic Party Chair Nikki Fried has discussed opening the FL Democratic Primary to Independents

Open Primaries are Supported by Florida Voters

- 2020: Open Primaries Ballot Initiative received 57% support, despite millions of dollars spent by both major parties in opposition
- 2025: Poll of Democrats and Independents shows strong support

Talking politics – and open primaries – with Florida Democratic Chair Nikki Fried

WUSF | By **Steve Newborn**

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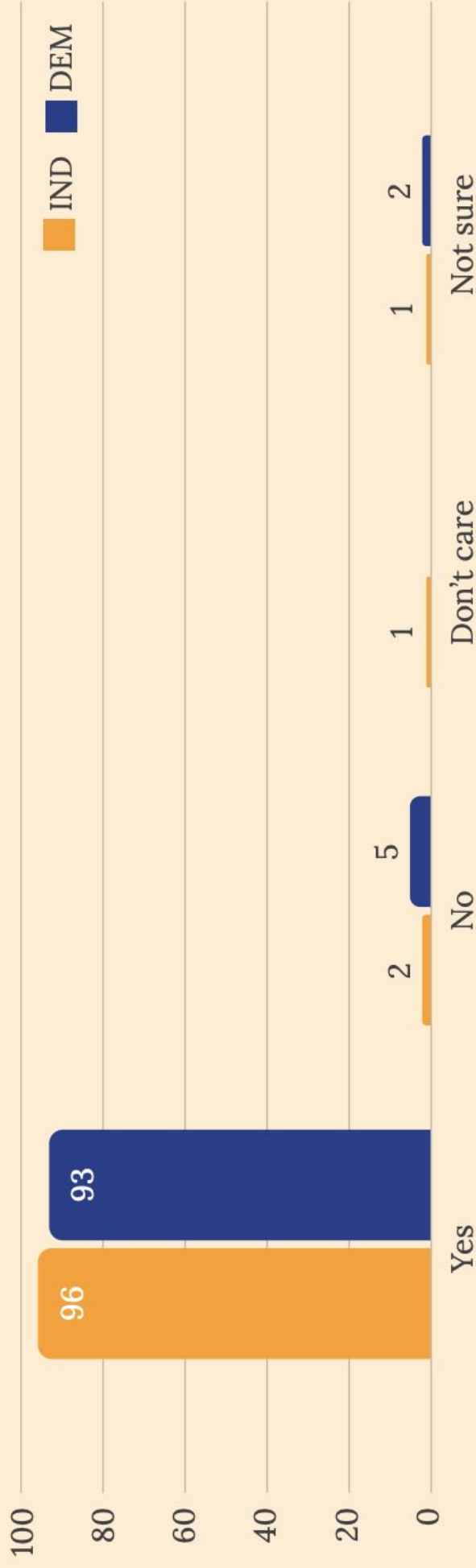
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Should FL Adopt an Open Primary System?

Poll of Independents & Democrats

Do you believe that Florida should adopt an open primary system, where the 3.4 million NPA voters would be able to vote in publicly funded primaries?



METHODOLOGY: This poll was conducted from August 5 – September 1, 2025. The poll was conducted online and via email. The poll included 684 independent (NPA) voters and 626 Democrats from across the state.

Should the FL Democratic Party Open Their

Primaries?

The Chair of the Democratic Party of Florida, **Rob Alford**, is considering opening their party primaries to NPA voters. Would you like to see the Democratic Party open their primaries?

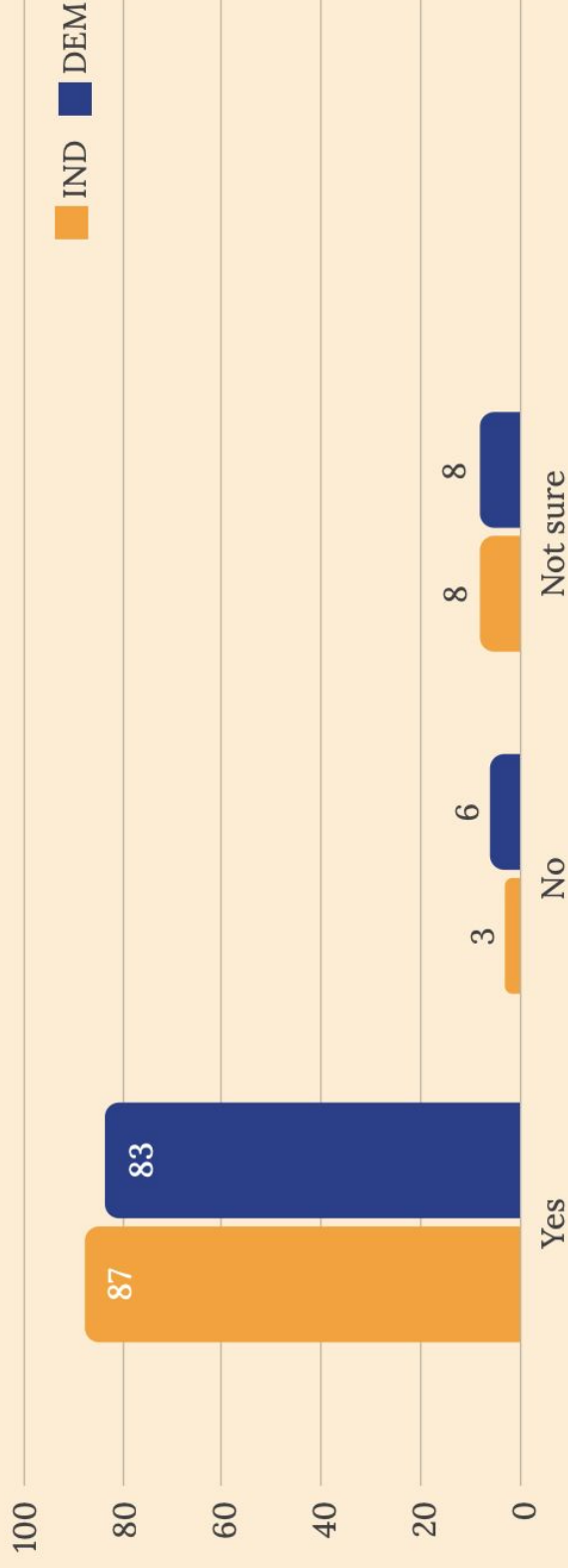


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Do You Support Lobbying the FL Democratic Party to Open Their Primaries?

Poll of Independents & Democrats

Would you support a lobbying effort directed at the DP to ask them to do the following: **1.** Open their primaries to NPA voters and call on the RP to do the same **2.** Acknowledge they made a mistake in 2020 in opposing open primaries when it was on the ballot **3.** Introduce legislation for a nonpartisan primary system for the state **4.** Pledge to stop using the “write in loophole” that allows them to close primaries when only one party has a primary.



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 - Email Nikki Fried, FL Democratic Chair
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- Lobby FL State Reps to Change Voter Laws
 - Open FL primaries
 - Remove party registration requirements

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 - Remove party registration requirements
- Independents Speak Out
 - Share your views via questionnaire at FLOPENPRIMARIES.ORG
 - Let media, elected officials, and public know who independents are

Thank You

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- Openprimaries.org (National Organization)