



TO: Environmental Defense Action Fund
FR: Morning Consult
DT: June 2021
RE: Results: Florida Respondents' Perceptions of
Hurricanes and Flooding, Support for Preventative Measures



Respondents in Florida support preventative measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters before they happen, and support funding natural infrastructure as part of the American Jobs Plan. Hurricanes and flooding are viewed as problems among FL respondents, and they believe the costs to clean up and recover from these events has increased in recent years.

SUPPORT FOR POLICIES

A MAJORITY OF FL RESPONDENTS (89%) SUPPORT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF NATURAL DISASTERS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN. OVER NINE IN TEN FL DEMOCRATS (97%) AND AROUND FOUR IN FIVE FL INDEPENDENTS (83%) AND FL REPUBLICANS (79%) SUPPORT THESE MEASURES.

- Strong support also exists across Florida community types. 96% of urban respondents, 85% of suburban respondents, and 84% of rural respondents in the state support these measures.

THREE QUARTERS OF FLORIDA RESPONDENTS (74%) SUPPORT FUNDING NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS PART OF THE AMERICAN JOBS PLAN.

- Over four in five FL Democrats (92%), two thirds of FL independents (66%) and half of FL Republicans (53%) support funding for natural infrastructure as part of the proposed plan.
- Three quarters of coastal FL respondents (75%) support funding natural infrastructure, as do 76% of inland FL respondents.

RESPONDENTS IN FLORIDA RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL OF PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO HELP ON A RANGE OF ISSUES.

- Respondents in Florida say preventative measures to deal with natural disasters would “mostly help” the safety of human life (75%), infrastructure (64%), the condition of property (68%), agriculture (61%) as well as state (59%), local (62%), and national (56%) economies.

Methodology: This poll was conducted between May 19-May 27, 2021 among a sample of 506 Florida adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, age, educational attainment, race, marital status, population density, and home ownership. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

WHEN IT COMES TO DISASTER READINESS, RESPONDENTS IN FLORIDA SUPPORT A NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE APPROACH, DEFINED AS NATURALLY OCCURRING LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND/OR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS THAT PROMOTE, USE, RESTORE OR EMULATE NATURAL ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES.

Percentage of FL Respondents Who Support the Following Proposal to Address Disaster Readiness	
% Support (strongly + somewhat)	Natural infrastructure measures, such as restored barrier islands, wetlands, and floodplains
FL Respondents	86%
FL Democrats	92%
FL Independents	82%
FL Republicans	81%
Coastal FL Respondents	87%
Inland FL Respondents	88%
Urban FL Respondents	93%
Suburban FL Respondents	84%
Rural FL Respondents	81%

CONCERN OVER HURRICANES AND FLOODING

MAJORITIES OF FLORIDA RESPONDENTS VIEW HURRICANES (97%) AND FLOODING (91%) AS PROBLEMS IN THE U.S.

- Seven in ten respondents living in suburban areas of Florida (70%) view hurricanes as a major problem, where 78% of those living in urban areas of Florida and 80% of those living in rural areas of Florida say hurricanes are a major problem.

MORE THAN THREE QUARTERS OF FL RESPONDENTS BELIEVE THE ECONOMIC OR FINANCIAL COSTS TO CLEAN UP AND RECOVER FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE U.S. HAS INCREASED IN THE PAST 3-5 YEARS.

- 80% of FL respondents say the costs of cleaning up and recovering from hurricanes have increased (a lot + somewhat) in the past 3-5 years, and 78% say the same of flooding.
- Around four in five coastal FL respondents say the cost of hurricanes (82%) and flooding (80%) has increased in recent years.

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR COST OF NATURAL DISASTERS

WHEN IT COMES TO HURRICANES AND FLOODING, RESPONDENTS IN FLORIDA ARE MORE LIKELY TO SAY GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF CONTAINING AND RECOVERING FROM THESE EVENTS AS OPPOSED TO INDIVIDUALS.

Percentage of FL Respondents Who Believe Each of the Following Should be Responsible for Costs of Containing and Recovering From...		
% Responsible (very + somewhat)	Hurricanes	Flooding
Federal Government	89%	86%
State Government	91%	87%
Local Government	86%	85%
Individuals	63%	65%

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