

**SURVEY OF FLORIDA REGISTERED VOTERS
JANUARY 27-29, 2009**

Hello, may I please speak with Mr./Ms. _____. Mr./Ms. _____, this is _____ with Ayres, McHenry & Associates, a public opinion research company. We're talking with people today for just a few minutes about some issues facing the state. We are not trying to sell anything, your answers are completely confidential, and we would really appreciate your cooperation (DO NOT PAUSE).

A. Our records indicate that you are registered to vote in _____ County. Is that correct?

YES CONTINUE
NO THANK AND CLOSE

I would like to ask you a few questions about an agreement reached between the Florida Department of Transportation and the railroad company CSX, for the state to purchase 61 miles of CSX railroad track running through Volusia, Seminole, Orange, and Osceola counties for a commuter rail system. The track would continue to be used by CSX for hauling freight.

The total cost for the state will be about one-point-two billion dollars, to purchase the track, to make improvements to accommodate the commuter rail system, and to make improvements to CSX freight lines elsewhere in the state.

The Department of Transportation estimates that this commuter rail system would initially serve approximately three thousand five hundred riders, growing to approximately nine thousand riders over the next twenty years.

Florida taxpayers throughout the state would subsidize ridership for this commuter rail system for the first seven years of operation, at an estimated cost of thirty million dollars per year, for a total of two hundred ten million dollars. After the first seven years, the subsidy would be paid for by Orange, Volusia, Seminole, and Osceola county taxpayers.

1. Based on this information, do you think your legislators should support or oppose funding of the agreement in the upcoming session of the Florida legislature?

SUPPORT 25%
OPPOSE 61%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION (DO NOT READ) 14%

2. The agreement also requires that the Florida legislature and the governor approve a contract between CSX and the Department of Transportation which would shift the liability from CSX to the State of Florida for any accidents in the commuter rail corridor, including those due to negligence by CSX. Do you think your legislators should support or oppose transferring liability from CSX to the state of Florida?

SUPPORT 9%
OPPOSE 82%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION (DO NOT READ) 8%

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
Results are based on 641 statewide interviews, margin of error ±3.87 percent.

3. Please tell me which of the following three options for this agreement you would prefer your state legislators to choose: (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP):

- a. Keep the agreement for commuter rail in place as it is;
- b. Reject the current purchase terms and price and start negotiations over; or
- c. Completely reject the deal and use the money to help solve the current budget crisis.

KEEP THE AGREEMENT	12%
REJECT THE CURRENT TERMS AND START OVER	20%
COMPLETELY REJECT THE DEAL	59%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION (DO NOT READ).....	9%

Demographics

Now I have a few questions just for statistical purposes.

4. In politics today, do you normally think of yourself as (ROTATE: a Republican, an independent, or a Democrat)?

IF "REPUBLICAN" OR "DEMOCRAT", ASK: Would you consider yourself a strong or a not-so-strong Republican/Democrat?	STRONG REPUBLICAN	21%
	NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN	9%
	INDEPENDENT LEAN REPUBLICAN	7%
	INDEPENDENT/NO PREFERENCE	20%
IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK: Do you think of yourself as closer to the (ROTATE: Republican or Democratic Party)?	INDEPENDENT LEAN DEMOCRAT	7%
	NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT	6%
	STRONG DEMOCRAT	24%
	REFUSED	7%

5. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your age?

18 TO 34	17%
35 TO 49	20%
50 TO 64	40%
65 OR OLDER.....	22%
REFUSED.....	2%

6. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your total household income?

\$30,000 OR LESS.....	17%
\$30,000 TO \$50,000	19%
\$50,000 TO \$75,000	15%
\$75,000 TO \$100,000	12%
\$100,000 OR MORE	15%
REFUSED.....	22%

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
Results are based on 641 statewide interviews, margin of error ±3.87 percent.

7. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

IF "NO," ASK: What would you say is your main race: white, African American, Asian, or something else?

YES/HISPANIC	12%
NO/WHITE	70%
NO/BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	13%
NO/ASIAN	1%
OTHER	3%
REFUSED.....	2%

That's all the questions I have. Thank you very much for sharing your opinions with us.

8. COUNTY: _____

9. Gender (from observation)

MALE	46%
FEMALE.....	54%

Note: Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.
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