UNIVERSITY of SOUTH FLORIDA

July 7, 2023
Florida Government and Politics Survey, 2023
Topline Results

Summary: Researchers at the University of South Florida conducted a statewide survey of 600 adult Floridians as a supplement to the *Government and Politics in Florida*, 4th edition. The survey examined public opinions on a range of issues, including approval of the Governor and State Legislature, political climate, education policy, housing policy, and healthcare policy. This report provides topline results from the survey, which was fielded between June 3rd and June 13th, 2023. Results are reported with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error +/- 4.0.

In your opinion, what is the <u>most</u> important issue facing the state of Florida today?

	Frequency	Percentage
Inflation	114	19.0
Affordable Housing	109	18.2
Homeowner's Insurance	73	12.2
Immigration	56	9.3
Government Corruption	50	8.3
Jobs and the Economy	47	7.8
Crime	28	4.7
Climate Change	19	3.2
Education	19	3.2
Healthcare	18	3.0
Race Relations	18	3.0
Abortion	14	2.3
The Environment	9	1.5
COVID-19	3	0.5
Other	23	3.8

(n = 600)

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Do you approve or disapprove of the job that **Governor Ron DeSantis** is doing in each of the following areas?

	Total Approve	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Total Disapprove	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Unsure
Jobs and the Economy	**54.0**	26.8	27.2	**38.5**	13.2	25.3	7.5
Social Policy (i.e. LGBTQ issues, abortion, etc.)	**40.7**	21.5	19.2	**51.8**	12.5	39.3	7.5
Immigration	**45.3**	25.5	19.8	**46.0**	12.5	33.5	8.7
Race Relations	**40.5**	20.0	20.5	**48.2**	12.2	36.0	11.3
Climate Change	**41.6**	19.8	21.8	**38.8**	14.5	24.3	19.5
Unifying Floridians	**42.0**	21.5	20.5	**46.0**	13.3	32.7	12.0

(N= 600)

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that **Ron DeSantis** is doing as Governor of Florida?

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Approve	162	27.0
Somewhat Approve	128	21.3
Somewhat Disapprove	68	11.3
Strongly Disapprove	220	36.7
Unsure	22	3.7

(n=600)

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the **Florida Legislature** is doing on behalf of Floridians?

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Approve	92	15.3
Somewhat Approve	182	30.3
Somewhat Disapprove	106	17.7
Strongly Disapprove	152	25.3
Unsure	68	11.3

(n=600)

In general, do you think that Florida's legislature is too liberal, too conservative, or just about right?

	Frequency	Percentage
Too Liberal	41	6.8
Just About Right	242	40.3
Too Conservative	235	39.2
Unsure	82	13.7

(n=600)

Which of the following best represents your view on gerrymandering in the Florida legislature?

	Frequency	Percentage
It is extremely fair	22	3.7
It is somewhat fair	41	6.8
It has a neutral effect	110	18.3
It is somewhat unfair	109	18.2
It is extremely unfair	222	37.0
Unsure	96	16.0

(n=600)

The Florida state Constitution prohibits drawing legislative district maps with "the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or incumbent". To the best of your knowledge, do Florida's new legislative districts conform with this constitutional requirement?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	152	25.3
No	202	33.7
Unsure	246	41.0

(n=600)

Which political party do you believe has benefited the most from gerrymandering in Florida?

	Frequency	Percentage
Republicans have benefited a great deal	214	35.7
Republicans have benefited a little	76	12.7
Neither party has benefited	115	19.2
Democrats have benefited a little	36	6.0
Democrats have benefited a great deal	35	5.8
Unsure	124	20.7

(n=600)

Given what you know, do you believe that gerrymandering has led to the election of more extreme candidates in Florida?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes, a great deal	176	29.3
Yes, a little	157	26.2
No	133	22.2
Unsure	134	22.3

(n=600)

How concerned are you about gerrymandering in the Florida legislature?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Concerned	200	33.3
Somewhat Concerned	199	33.2
Not Very Concerned	150	25.0
Not at All Concerned	51	8.5

(n=600)

To the best of your knowledge, how long does the Florida legislature meet in regular session each year?

	Frequency	Percentage
1 Month	34	5.7
2 Months	114	19.0
3 Months	144	24.0
6 Months	156	26.0
11 Months (January through November)	152	25.3

(n=600)

How confident are you that **the federal government in Washington D.C.** acts in the best interest of the American people?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	37	6.2
Somewhat Confident	185	30.8
Not Very Confident	217	36.2
Not at All Confident	161	26.8

(n=600)

How confident are you that **the state government in Tallahassee** acts in the best interest of Floridians?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	70	11.7
Somewhat Confident	222	37.0
Not Very Confident	175	29.2
Not at All Confident	133	22.2

(n=600)

How confident are you that **your local County government** acts in the best interest of your community?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	60	10.0
Somewhat Confident	316	52.7
Not Very Confident	151	25.2
Not at All Confident	73	12.2

(n=600)

How confident are you that **your local City or municipal government** acts in the best interest of your community? (If you don't live in an incorporated City or Town, please choose "not applicable").

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	64	11.9
Somewhat Confident	269	50.1
Not Very Confident	125	23.3
Not at All Confident	79	14.7

(n=537; 63 respondent chose "not applicable")

Who do you trust to make decisions in your best interest?

	Frequency	Percentage
The Federal Government in Washington D.C.	149	24.8
The State Government in Tallahassee	172	28.7
Your Local County/City Governments	279	46.5

(n=600)

How confident are you in the ability of Democratic and Republican leaders in Tallahassee to work together and compromise in the best interest of Floridians?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	29	4.8
Somewhat Confident	203	33.8
Not Very Confident	241	40.2
Not at All Confident	127	21.2

(n=600)

In your opinion, which of the following best describes the State of Florida's current government?

	Frequency	Percentage
Florida's government is too liberal	54	9.0
Florida's government is neither too liberal nor too conservative	278	46.3
Florida's government is too conservative	268	44.7

(n=600)

Thinking about Florida's future, which of the following outcomes would you MOST prefer?

	Frequency	Percentage
I would prefer Republicans achieve their policy goals WITHOUT compromising with Democrats	75	12.5
I would prefer Republicans achieve most of their policy goals but compromise with Democrats along the way	143	23.8
I would prefer if most policy outcomes were a relatively equal compromise between Republicans and Democrats	255	42.5
I would prefer Democrats achieve most of their policy goals but compromise with Republicans along the way	76	12.7
I would prefer Democrats achieve their policy goals WITHOUT compromising with Republicans	51	8.5

(n=600)

Regardless of who you voted for, do you believe that Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 Presidential election?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	368	61.3
No	178	29.7
Unsure	54	9.0

(n=600)

How confident are you that **national elections in the United States** are conducted fairly?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	188	31.3
Somewhat Confident	184	30.7
Not Very Confident	143	23.8
Not at All Confident	85	14.2

(n=600)

How confident are you that **elections in Florida** are conducted fairly?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	188	31.3
Somewhat Confident	272	45.3
Not Very Confident	105	17.5
Not at All Confident	35	5.8

(n=600)

How confident are you that your vote will be counted accurately in future elections?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Confident	194	32.3
Somewhat Confident	239	39.8
Not Very Confident	130	21.7
Not at All Confident	37	6.2

(n=600)

In your opinion, is it difficult for Floridians to register to vote under our current system?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	84	14.0
No	453	75.5
Unsure	63	10.5

(n=600)

Do you believe that Floridians should be required to show a valid photo ID in order to vote?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	494	82.3
No	58	9.7
Unsure	48	8.0

(n=600)

In your opinion, is voting by mail more secure, less secure, or about the same as in-person voting?

	Frequency	Percentage
More secure than in-person voting	50	8.3
About the same as in-person voting	293	48.8
Less secure than in-person voting	257	42.8

(n=600)

In your opinion, which individuals should be allowed to vote by mail? (please select all that apply)

	Frequency	Percentage
Individuals with disabilities	367	61.2
Active-duty members of the military	347	57.8
All voters should be allowed to vote by mail	325	54.2
Americans living/working abroad	311	51.8
No one should be allowed to vote by mail	37	6.2

(n=600)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the **Democratic Party**?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Favorable	106	17.7
Somewhat Favorable	152	25.3
Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	106	17.7
Somewhat Unfavorable	90	15.0
Very Unfavorable	146	24.3

(n=600)

Which of the following best describes you view of the **Democratic Party**?

	Frequency	Percentage
The Democratic Party is too liberal	258	43.0
The Democratic Party is appropriately liberal	228	38.0
The Democratic Party is not liberal enough	34	5.7
Unsure	80	13.3

(n=600)

In your opinion, how well do each of the following traits describe **Democratic Voters**? (as % of Row Total)

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Very Well	Not at All
Patriotic	25.5	37.8	19.7	17.0
Open-Minded	28.0	30.5	22.2	19.3
Intelligent	28.2	40.3	18.5	13.0
Generous	24.2	41.7	19.2	15.0
Honest	18.8	37.2	21.7	22.3
Moral	17.8	42.8	23.0	16.3
Hard Working	26.2	41.2	17.8	14.8

(n=600)

In your opinion, how well do each of the following traits describe **Democratic Voters**? (as % of Row Total)

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Very Well	Not at All
Selfish	20.0	23.2	21.5	35.3
Lazy	15.7	21.3	35.3	27.7
Mean	16.2	19.0	34.7	30.2
Hypocritical	26.0	23.2	26.3	24.5

(n=600)

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the **Republican Party**?

	Frequency	**Percentage**
Very Favorable	93	15.5
Somewhat Favorable	148	24.7
Neither Favorable nor Unfavorable	115	19.0
Somewhat Unfavorable	110	18.3
Very Unfavorable	135	22.5

(n=600)

Which of the following best describes you view of the **Republican Party**?

	Frequency	Percentage
The Republican Party is too conservative	258	43.0
The Republican Party is appropriately conservative	226	37.7
The Republican Party is not conservative enough	64	10.7
Unsure	52	8.7

(n=600)

In your opinion, how well do each of the following traits describe **Republican Voters**? (as % of Row Total)

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Very Well	Not at All
Selfish	23.8	29.3	29.3	17.5
Lazy	7.3	16.2	47.2	29.3
Mean	21.7	28.5	31.0	18.8
Hypocritical	26.7	25.3	29.8	18.2

(n=600)

In your opinion, how well do each of the following traits describe **Republican Voters**? (as % of Row Total)

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not Very Well	Not at All
Patriotic	42.3	34.7	12.7	10.3
Open-Minded	15.0	30.0	29.8	25.2
Intelligent	22.0	48.2	17.7	12.2
Generous	15.5	34.2	31.5	18.8
Honest	17.8	38.7	26.7	16.8
Moral	18.3	37.8	27.3	16.5
Hard Working	29.0	47.5	12.7	10.8

(n=600)

Currently, the maximum unemployment benefit in Florida is $275 a week. In your opinion, should Florida keep those benefits the same, increase them, or decrease them?

	Frequency	Percentage
Increase unemployment benefits	313	52.2
Keep unemployment benefits the same	198	33.0
Decrease unemployment benefits	28	4.7
Unsure	61	10.2

(n=600)

Currently, the maximum length of time that unemployed Floridians can receive these benefits is for 12 weeks. In your opinion, should Florida keep that time limit the same, increase it, or decrease it?

	Frequency	Percentage
Increase the time limit	230	38.3
Keep the time limit the same	280	46.7
Decrease the time limit	33	5.5
Unsure	57	9.5

(n=600)

Currently, the maximum monthly welfare benefit in Florida is roughly $300. In your opinion, should Florida keep those benefits the same, increase them, or decrease them?

	Frequency	Percentage
Increase welfare benefits	236	39.3
Keep welfare benefits the same	248	41.3
Decrease welfare benefits	61	10.2
Unsure	55	9.2

(n=600)

How much do you trust the healthcare system as a whole?

	Frequency	Percentage
A Great Deal	65	10.8
A Lot	190	31.7
A Little	253	42.2
Not at All	92	15.3

(n=600)

How much do you trust your own doctor or healthcare provider?

	Frequency	Percentage
A Great Deal	203	33.8
A Lot	219	36.5
A Little	153	25.5
Not at All	25	4.2

(n=600)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statement: *The healthcare system makes decisions with my best interest in mind.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	77	12.8
Somewhat Agree	198	33.0
Neither Agree nor Disagree	152	25.3
Somewhat Disagree	113	18.8
Strongly Disagree	60	10.0

(n=600)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statement: *My doctor/healthcare provider makes decisions with my best interest in mind.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	204	34.0
Somewhat Agree	239	39.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	92	15.3
Somewhat Disagree	42	7.0
Strongly Disagree	23	3.8

(n=600)

Thinking about the issue of abortion, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *I support a 15 week ban on abortion.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	132	22.0
Somewhat Agree	99	16.5
Neither Agree nor Disagree	116	19.3
Somewhat Disagree	71	11.8
Strongly Disagree	182	30.3

(n=600)

Thinking about the issue of abortion, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *I support a 12 week ban on abortion.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	102	17.0
Somewhat Agree	76	12.7
Neither Agree nor Disagree	117	19.5
Somewhat Disagree	84	14.0
Strongly Disagree	221	36.8

(n=600)

Thinking about the issue of abortion, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *I support a 6 week ban on abortion.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	82	13.7
Somewhat Agree	56	9.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	108	18.0
Somewhat Disagree	66	11.0
Strongly Disagree	288	48.0

(n=600)

Thinking about the issue of abortion, please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *Any regulations on abortion should include exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the mother.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	407	67.8
Somewhat Agree	81	13.5
Neither Agree nor Disagree	69	11.5
Somewhat Disagree	17	2.8
Strongly Disagree	26	4.3

(n=600)

To the best of your knowledge, have your out-of-pocket healthcare costs increased, decreased, or stayed the same since Congress passed the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) in 2010?

	Frequency	Percentage
Increased	239	39.8
Stayed About the Same	220	36.7
Decreased	42	7.0
Unsure	99	16.5

(n=600)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *I believe Florida's leaders 'followed the science' when implementing our state's response to COVID-19.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	126	21.0
Somewhat Agree	164	27.3
Neither Agree nor Disagree	108	18.0
Somewhat Disagree	70	11.7
Strongly Disagree	132	22.0

(n=600)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *I believe that Florida is better off due to the state's response to COVID-19.*

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	165	27.5
Somewhat Agree	133	22.2
Neither Agree nor Disagree	137	22.8
Somewhat Disagree	78	13.0
Strongly Disagree	87	14.5

(n=600)

Did your rent increase by more than 10% in 2022?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	127	70.6
No	40	22.2
Unsure	13	7.2

(n=180; current renters only)

In the past year, have you been forced to move due to rent increases?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	44	24.4
No	136	75.6

(n=180; current renters only)

Would you like to purchase a home in the next year?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	60	33.3
Maybe	76	24.4
No	44	42.2

(n=180)

How likely is it that you will be able to purchase a home in the next year?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Likely	12	8.8
Somewhat Likely	33	24.3
Not Very Likely	65	47.8
Not at All Likely	26	19.1

(n=136; those who said "Yes" or "Maybe" to wanting to purchase a home in the next year)

Did your homeowners insurance increase by more than 10% in 2022?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	260	68.6
No	62	16.4
Unsure	57	15.0

(n=379; current homeowners)

Did you have to change providers for your homeowners insurance in 2022?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	90	23.8
No	270	71.2
Unsure	19	5.0

(n=379; current homeowners)

Is your home currently insured by Citizens Insurance?

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	57	15.0
No	300	79.2
Unsure	22	5.8

(n=379; current homeowners)

How concerned are you about the potential increases to your home insurance costs going forward?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Concerned	236	62.3
Somewhat Concerned	103	27.2
Not Very Concerned	29	7.7
Not at All Concerned	11	2.9

(n=379; current homeowners)

How satisfied are you with the state government's handling of the homeowners insurance issue over the past year?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Satisfied	18	4.8
Somewhat Satisfied	72	19.0
Not Very Satisfied	106	28.0
Not at All Satisfied	127	33.5
Unsure	56	14.8

(n=379; current homeowners)

Overall, how satisfied are you with K-12 public education in the state of Florida?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Satisfied	62	10.3
Somewhat Satisfied	171	28.5
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	191	31.8
Somewhat Dissatisfied	104	17.3
Very Dissatisfied	72	12.0

(n=600)

Thinking about K-12 public schooling, do you believe that the state's political leaders should have more influence, less influence, or about the same influence as they do now?

	Frequency	Percentage
More Influence	84	14.0
About the Same Influence as They Have Now	215	35.8
Less Influence	240	40.0
Unsure	61	10.2

(n=600)

How satisfied were you with your local school district's actions related to schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Satisfied	116	19.3
Somewhat Satisfied	200	33.3
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	123	20.5
Somewhat Dissatisfied	45	7.5
Very Dissatisfied	46	7.7
Unsure	70	11.7

(n=600)

How satisfied were you with the state of Florida's actions related to schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Satisfied	119	19.8
Somewhat Satisfied	181	30.2
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	112	18.7
Somewhat Dissatisfied	69	11.5
Very Dissatisfied	68	11.3
Unsure	51	8.5

(n=600)

Compared to current levels, do you believe that Florida should offer more school choice options (i.e. vouchers and charter schools), less school choice options, or about the same amount of school choice options as are currently offered?

	Frequency	Percentage
More School Choice Options	261	43.5
About the Same School Choice Options as Now	216	36.0
Less School Choice Options	64	10.7
Unsure	59	9.8

(n=600)

Do you support or oppose the use of public funds to pay for private school options?

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Support	92	15.3
Somewhat Support	141	23.5
Somewhat Oppose	117	19.5
Strongly Oppose	176	29.3
Unsure	74	12.3

(n=600)

Compared to current levels of standardized testing in Florida's public schools, do you believe that Florida should increase the amount of standardized testing, decrease the amount of standardized testing, or keep standardized testing about the same?

	Frequency	Percentage
Increase standardized testing	98	16.3
Keep standardized testing about the same	263	43.8
Decrease standardized testing	157	26.2
Unsure	82	13.7

(n=600)

Overall, how satisfied are you with public higher education in the state of Florida?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very Satisfied	87	14.5
Somewhat Satisfied	230	38.3
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	188	31.3
Somewhat Dissatisfied	62	10.3
Very Dissatisfied	33	5.5

(n=600)

Thinking about Florida's public colleges and universities, do you believe that the state's political leaders should have more influence, less influence or about the same influence as they do now?

	Frequency	Percentage
More Influence	79	13.2
About the Same Influence as They Have Now	223	37.2
Less Influence	235	39.2
Unsure	63	10.5

(n=600)

Compared to current levels, would you like to see state leaders focus more or focus less on each of the following? (as % of Row Total)

	A Lot More	A Little More	About the Same	A Little Less	A Lot Less	Unsure
Efforts to attract and retain good teachers	56.7	26.5	12.2	0.7	1.3	2.7
College affordability	58.0	22.3	13.3	2.2	1.3	2.8
Protecting students from discrimination in their schools	53.8	19.2	18.7	1.7	2.8	3.8
The availability of public school pre-kindergarten programs	39.8	29.0	22.7	1.8	2.0	4.7
The expansion of charter schools	20.0	18.5	30.8	9.5	10.0	11.2
The expansion of school choice vouchers	27.0	20.7	24.0	5.7	11.7	11.0

(n=600)

Survey Information

2,500 American adults were surveyed via an online web-panel (Prodege MR). The survey was fielded from February 27th through March 9th 2023, and the results are reported with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of +/- 1.96. Respondents were selected via stratified, quota sampling to ensure a representative sample. Balanced quotas for gender, age, race/ethnicity, education and party affiliation were determined based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Quotas were stratified by Census region for geographical representativeness.

Sample Comparison

	USF Survey Sample	Florida Demographics*
Gender		
Female	50.5%	51.1%
Male	48.8%	48.9%
Non-Binary/Other	0.7%	-
Age		
18-24	11.2%	10.8%
25-44	31.7%	31.2%
45-64	30.8%	32.4%
65+	26.3%	25.6%
Race		
Black/African American	17.8%	16.9%
White/Caucasian	72.0%	77.3%
Other	10.2%	5.8%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic	27.3%	26.4%
Non-Hispanic	72.7%	73.6%
Education		
Less than 4 Year Degree	69.2%	69.5%
4 Year Degree (or higher)	30.8%	30.5%
Political Affiliation (registered voters only, n=544)		
Democrat	35.5%	36.2%
Independent	27.6%	26.4%
Republican	36.4%	35.7%
Other	0.6%	1.7%
Region of the State		
Panhandle	7.3%	7.2%
Northeast	13.3%	12.4%
Central	25.7%	25.5%
West Coast	22.5%	21.9%
Southeast	31.2%	32.9%

*Gender, race, ethnicity, and region quotas based on U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP): https://www.census.gov/quickfacts /FL Age quotas based on Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR): http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/population-demographics/ data/index-floridaproducts.cfm Political Affiliation quotas based on Florida Division of Elections https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/data-statistics/voterregistration-statistics/voter-registration-reportsxlsx/voter-registration-by-party-affiliation/

About our Research Team

Stephen Neely (PhD, North Carolina State University, 2013) is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida. He is coordinator of the School's undergraduate program in *Leadership and Public Service*. His areas of specialization include survey research, quantitative data analysis, and public policy. He is a faculty researcher on the Sunshine State Survey project and has conducted survey research on behalf of local governments in the Tampa Bay region. For additional information please visit his **USF faculty page**. Dr. Neely can be contacted by email at srneely@usf.edu

Dr. J. Edwin Benton (Florida State University, 1978)**,** having come to University of South Florida (USF) in 1979, is professor of political science and public administration in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies at the University USF. He has regularly taught the state and local government and politics and Florida government and politics, and political behavior, public opinion, and elections courses, as well as a number of graduate public administration courses at USF and written over 60 articles and book chapters about county and municipal government, state-local and inter-local relations, urban government and politics, Florida government and politics, government finance, COVID-19's impact on U.S. local governments, intergovernmental relations, and American federalism and is also the author or co-author of over 40 technical reports and "white papers." In addition, he has written five books: *State-Local Relations in Florida (*1985), *Intergovernmental Relations and Public Policy* (1986), *Counties as Service Delivery Agents: Changes Roles and Expectations* (2002), Florida Government and Politics, 3rd edition (2008), *Sources of Local Government Revenue: Persisting Challenges and Emerging Opportunities* (2023) and has two forthcoming books (Florida Government and Politics, 4th edition and Elgar *Encyclopedia of Local and Regional Government*). Dr. Benton is a former Managing Editor of *State and Local Government Review* and frequently serves as a political commentator for the local, state, national, and international print and electronic media. He is also a former President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida Political Science Association and the 2009 recipient of the organization's Manning Dauer Award for his "sustained exemplary record of research, teaching, mentoring and service related to Florida politics and policy."

About the University of South Florida

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