



MHDNews | Florida General Election Unofficial Results

November 5, 2024, 10:00pm

- ✓ **Trump Wins Florida**
- ✓ **Rick Scott Keeps U.S. Senate Seat**
- ✓ **Congresswoman Luna Holds Republican Seat**
- ✓ **Florida Senate Republican Super-Majority Holds**
- ✓ **Florida House Republican Super-Majority Grows**

First of all, on a personal note, the big winner of the night is Mary Katherine Westmark. She is the sister-in-law of our longtime office administrator, Lindy Westmark, and won a seat on the Sopchoppy City Council. Now onto other business.

The busy 2024 election cycle ended tonight with few surprises. Voter turnout during presidential election years is typically higher than in the midterm elections, and the trend continued for this cycle.

Heading into election night, over 2.9 million Vote by Mail ballots were returned in Florida. Democrats returned 41.6% of the ballots, followed by 34.7% by Republicans, and 21.4% by voters with no party affiliation. Further, nearly 5.4 million Floridians took advantage of early voting. Republicans comprised 47.5% of early voters, while Democrats and those with no party affiliation comprised 28.2% and 21.6%, respectively.

Historically, Florida Democrats led Republicans in voter registrations; however, that dynamic changed over the past two election cycles. By election night, Republicans had 1.07 million more registered voters than Democrats, solidifying that Florida is no longer a swing state. Florida's Governor and Cabinet members are Republicans, and Republicans hold a supermajority in the state House and Senate.

As of 10:00 pm, most results were tallied and winners in most Florida races were declared. Below are highlights of the general election results. You may access the latest results reported by the Florida Department of State [here](#).

U.S. President

Former President Donald Trump easily carried his home state of Florida, winning by more than ten percentage points. Notably, Trump won Miami-Dade County, the first Republican Presidential candidate to do so since 1988. At this writing, Trump and Harris are tracking closely in the electoral college count.

Florida U.S. Senate & Congressional Delegation

All 28 of Florida's U.S. Representatives and the U.S. Senate seat held by Senator Rick Scott were on the 2024 ballot. Before election night, the partisan makeup in the Florida Congressional Delegation was

20 Republicans to eight Democrats. Republican Senator Rick Scott (R) handily won a second term against former Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell.

The only targeted Congressional race in Florida was District 13, held by Republican Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna. Congresswoman Luna defeated Democrat Whitney Fox to retain the seat. The one open seat - District 8 in Central Florida vacated by longtime Republican Congressman Bill Posey - was won by former Republican Senate President Mike Haridopolos.

Florida Senate

Before election night, the Senate had a partisan makeup of 28 Republicans and 12 Democrats. That ratio did not change. There were nine open seats (five Republican and four Democratic) for the 2024 election. Listed below are the winners of those open seats:

District	Senator	Counties Represented
1	Former Senate President Don Gaetz (R)	Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa
7	Rep. Tom Leek (R)	Flager, Putnam, St. Johns, Volusia
9	Rep. Stan McClain (R)	Alachua, Levy, Marion
13	Rep. Keith Truenow (R)	Lake, Orange
17	Former Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D)	Orange
19	Rep. Randy Fine (R)	Brevard
24	Former Rep. Mack Bernard (D)	Palm Beach
25	Rep. Kristin Arrington (D)	Orange, Osceola
35	Barbara Sharief (D)	Broward

The most contentious race was between Republican Senator and former FSU football player Corey Simon and Democrat civil rights attorney Daryl Parks. The seat encompasses many counties in North Florida, including Leon County, where the State Capitol is located. Ultimately, Senator Simon retained the seat by a comfortable margin.

Florida House

Republicans held a super-majority (two-thirds of the voting members) in the House heading into election night, with 84 Republicans to 36 Democrats. After the votes were counted, the supermajority was maintained. Republicans appear to have taken two Democrat seats, and one seat appears to be headed for a recount, with the Democrat currently leading.

Below are the results of the **battleground races** where the incumbent House member appears to have been defeated:

District	Incumbent Representative & Party Affiliation	General Election Winner & Party Affiliation	Counties Represented
35	Rep. Tom Keen (D)	Erika Booth (R)	Orange, Osceola
45	Rep. Carolina Amesty (R)*	Leonard Spencer(D)	Orange, Osceola
93	Rep. Katherine Waldron (D)*	Anne Gerwig (R)	Palm Beach

**The result is not final.*

There were 23 open seats - 19 held by Republicans and four held by Democrats. No open seats changed parties. Below are the winners of the **open seats** who will debut in the 2025 Legislative Session:

District	Representative	Counties Represented
18	Kim Kendall (R)	St. Johns
19	Sam Greco (R)	Flagler, St. Johns
20	Judson Sapp (R)	Clay, Marion, Putnam, St. Johns
22	Chad Johnson (R)	Alachua, Marion
23	J.J. Grow (R)	Citrus, Marion
26	Nan Cobb (R)	Lake
27	Richard Gentry (R)	Lake, Marion, Volusia
28	Bill Partington (R)	Volusia
32	Senator Debbie Mayfield (R)	Brevard
33	Monique Miller (R)	Brevard
46	Jose Alvarez (D)	Osceola
48	Jon Albert (R)	Polk
49	Jennifer Jonsson (R)	Polk
70	Michael Owen (R)	Hillsborough, Manatee
72	Bill Conerly (R)	Manatee
75	Danny Nix (R)	Charlotte, Sarasota
76	Vanessa Oliver (R)	Charlotte, Lee, DeSoto
81	Yvette Benarroch (R)	Collier
89	Debra Tendrich (D)	Palm Beach
94	Meg Weinberger (R)	Palm Beach
98	Mitch Rosenwald (D)	Broward
107	Artiste Wallace (D)	Miami-Dade
115	Omar Blanco (R)	Miami-Dade

Constitutional Amendments

Floridians cast their vote on six proposed constitutional amendments. Amendments 3 and 4 were citizen-led initiatives, while the Legislature proposed the other four. All proposed amendments must garner at least 60% approval from the voters to be added to the Florida Constitution. Ultimately, two amendments met that threshold.

Title	Description	Result
Amendment 1	Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards	Not Approved
Amendment 2	Right to Fish and Hunt	Approved
Amendment 3	Adult Personal Use of Marijuana	Not Approved
Amendment 4	Limit Government Interference with Abortion	Not Approved
Amendment 5	Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions	Approved
Amendment 6	Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirements	Not Approved

Looking Ahead

Attention now turns to the preparations for the 2025 Legislative Session. Incumbents and newly elected members travel to the State Capitol for the Organizational Session on November 19th. Elected members will formally take the oath of office and receive office assignments. Further, the House and Senate members will officially elect the new presiding officer of their respective chamber.

The newly installed Senate President and House Speaker typically release committee chairs and member appointments in December or early January. In preparation for the 2025 Session, interim committee meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- December 2 – 6, 2024 (House of Representatives only)
- December 9 – 13, 2024 (Senate only)
- January 13 – 17, 2025 (House and Senate)
- January 21 – 24, 2025 (House and Senate; meetings begin on Tuesday due to MLK Holiday)
- February 3 – 7, 2025 (House and Senate)
- February 10 – 14, 2025 (House and Senate)
- February 17 – 21, 2025 (House and Senate)

The 2025 Legislative session begins on Tuesday, March 4th, and is scheduled to end on Friday, May 2nd.

Metz, Husband & Daughton, P.A.

A full-service law firm representing and advising clients in the areas of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Federal and State Litigation, Administrative Law, Public Contracting, General Business and Corporate Law, and Affordable Housing Development.

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