



# FLORIDA REPORT

An Analysis of the Jewish Electorate for the Jewish Electorate Institute by the American Jewish Population Project

At the request of the non-partisan Jewish Electorate Institute, researchers at the American Jewish Population Project at Brandeis University's Steinhardt Social Research Institute conducted an analysis of hundreds of national surveys of US adults to describe the Jewish electorate in each of the 435 districts of the 116th US Congress and the District of Columbia. Surveys include the American National Election Studies, the General Social Survey, Pew Political and social surveys, the Gallup Daily Tracking poll, and the Gallup Poll Social Series. Data from over 1.4 million US adults were statistically combined to provide, for each district, estimates of the number of adults who self-identify as Jewish and a breakdown of those individuals by age, education, race/ethnicity, political party self-identification, and political ideology. The following report presents a portrait of the Jewish electorate in Florida and its 27 congressional districts.<sup>1</sup>

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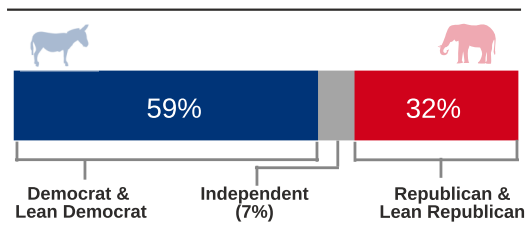
There are ~665,000 Jewish adults in Florida, comprising 3.9% of the Florida electorate.<sup>2</sup> Florida was won by Trump in 2016 (49% vs. 47.8%) and again in 2020 (51.2% vs. 47.9%). The state has the third largest Jewish electorate nationally and carries the fourth highest number of electoral votes (29) behind New York, California, and Texas.

## OVERVIEW: THE FLORIDA JEWISH ELECTORATE

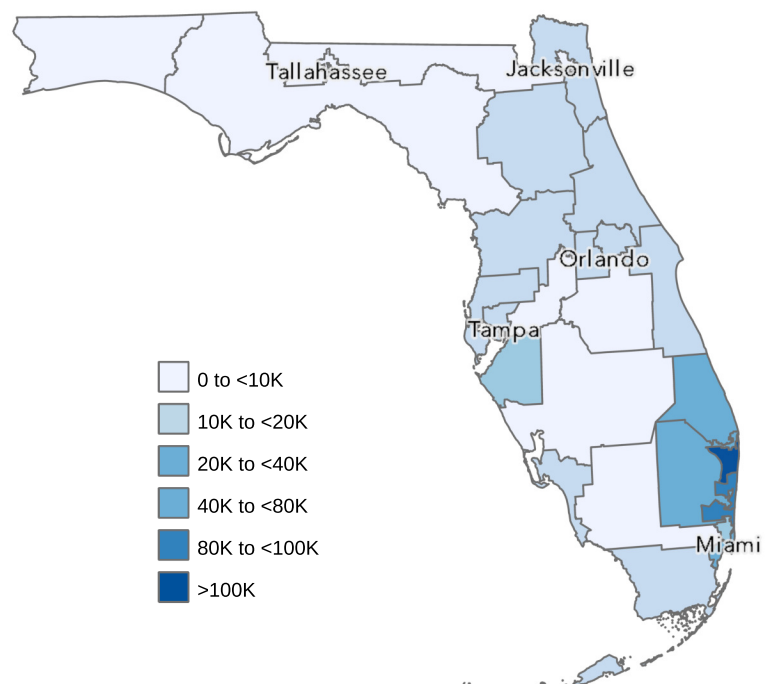
The majority (~73%) of Jewish adults in Florida resides in seven congressional districts on the southeastern coast that include the metropolitan areas around Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Palm Beach.

Over half (59%) of Florida's Jewish electorate, consistent with the Jewish electorate nationally, identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party.<sup>3</sup>

### JEWISH ADULTS

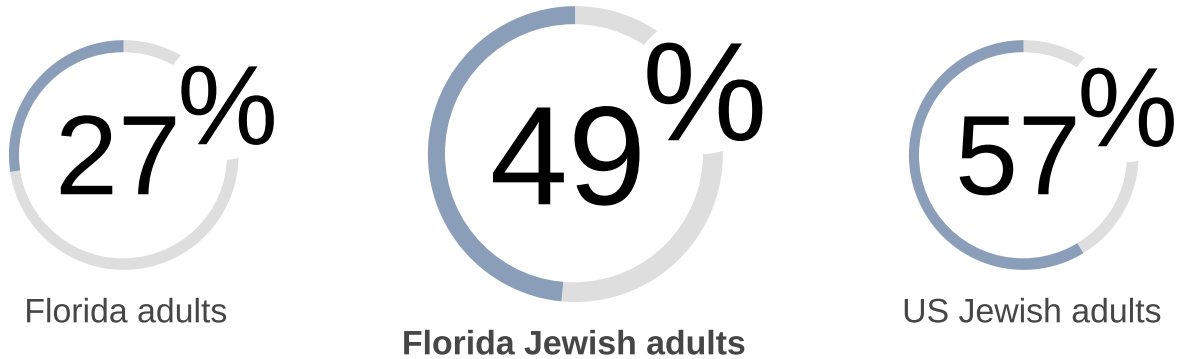


Total does not sum to 100% due to omitted "Other" category.



## STATE-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHICS

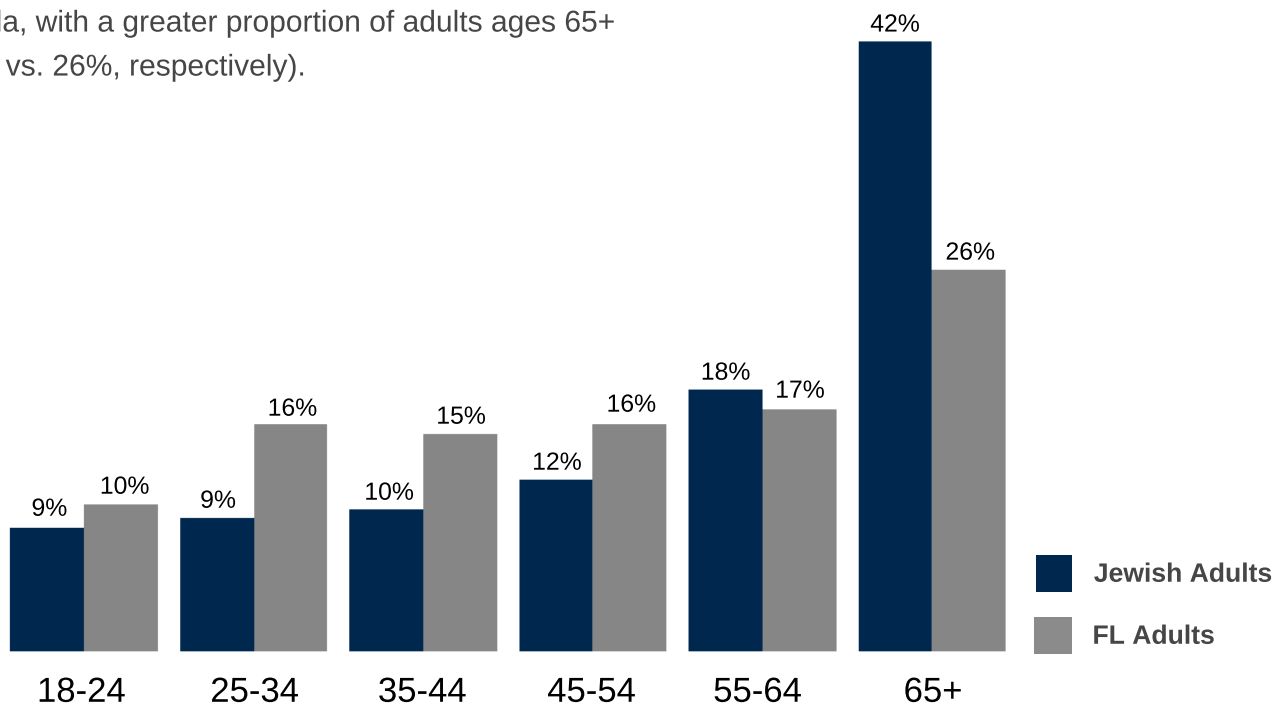
### Adults with a College Degree



Nearly half of Jewish adults in Florida are college educated. Compared to the general adult population of the state, Florida's Jewish electorate is more likely to be college educated (49% vs. 27%), though they are less likely to have a college degree compared to Jewish adults nationally (57%).

### Age

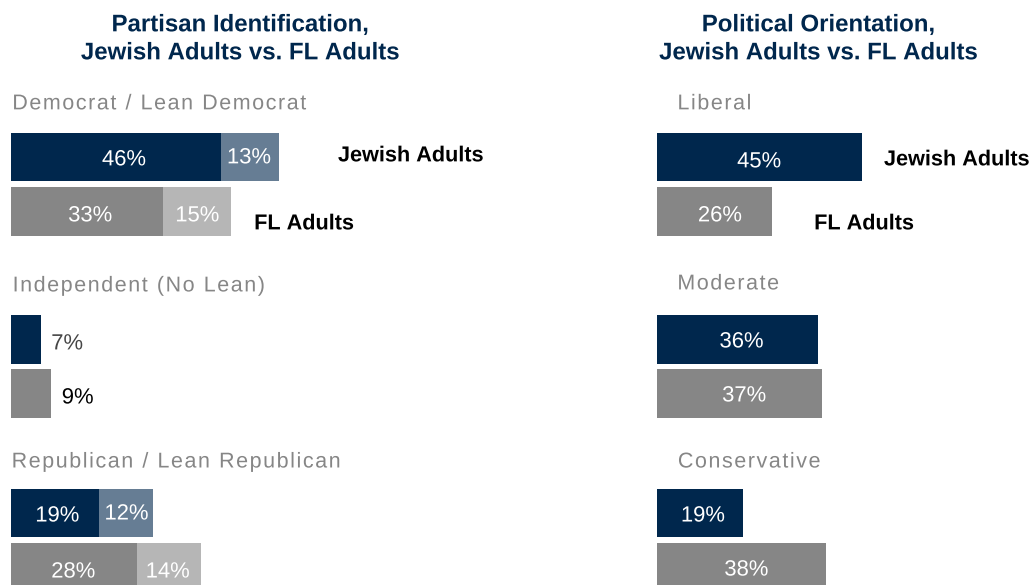
The Jewish electorate is older than all adults in Florida, with a greater proportion of adults ages 65+ (42% vs. 26%, respectively).



## STATE-LEVEL POLITICS

Jewish adults in Florida are more likely than all Florida adults to identify as Democrats (59% vs. 48%, respectively). Of the 59% of Jewish adults who identify as Democrats, 46% identified as Democrat when asked if they identify with a political party. An additional 13% identify as Independents who lean toward the Democratic Party. Jewish adults are also less likely to identify as or lean Republican (31%) and as Independent (7%) than all Florida adults (42% and 9%, respectively).

When asked about political ideology, Jewish adults in Florida are far more likely to identify as liberal (39%) than all adults in the state (25%). Jewish adults are also far less likely to identify as conservative (24%) than all adults (38%). Both groups, Jewish adults and the general Florida population, identify as moderate in approximately equal proportions (38% and 37%, respectively).



## Age of Independents

Within Florida's Jewish electorate, those in younger age groups are more likely to identify as Independent compared with older adults. Jewish adults ages 18-24 are about 50% more likely to identify as Independent than Jewish adults ages 65 or older (43% vs. 28%, respectively).

% Independent among Florida Jewish Adults, by Age Group

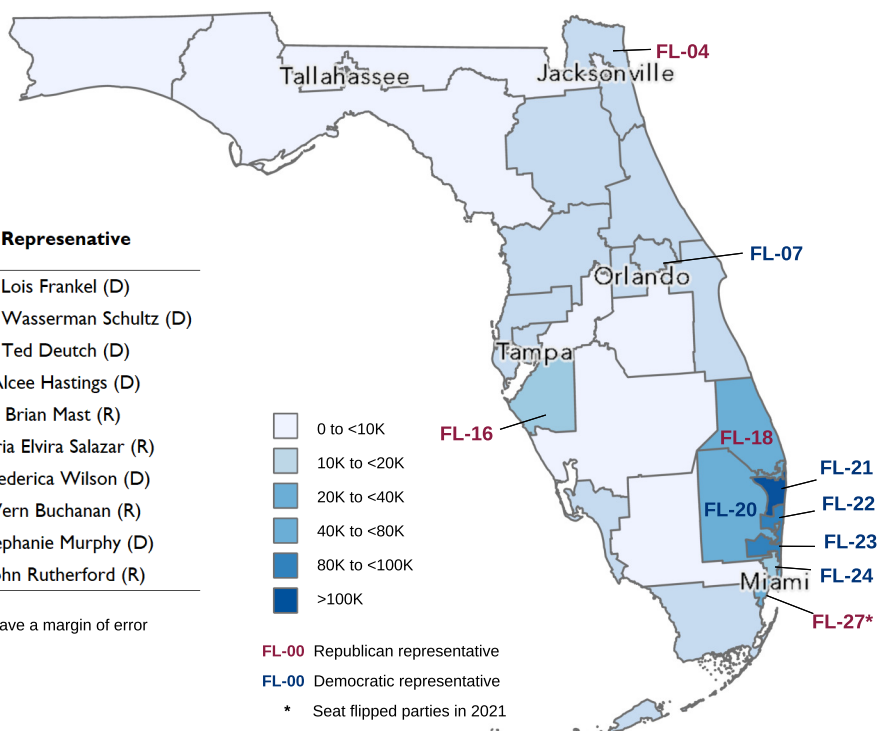


## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

### Top 10 Districts

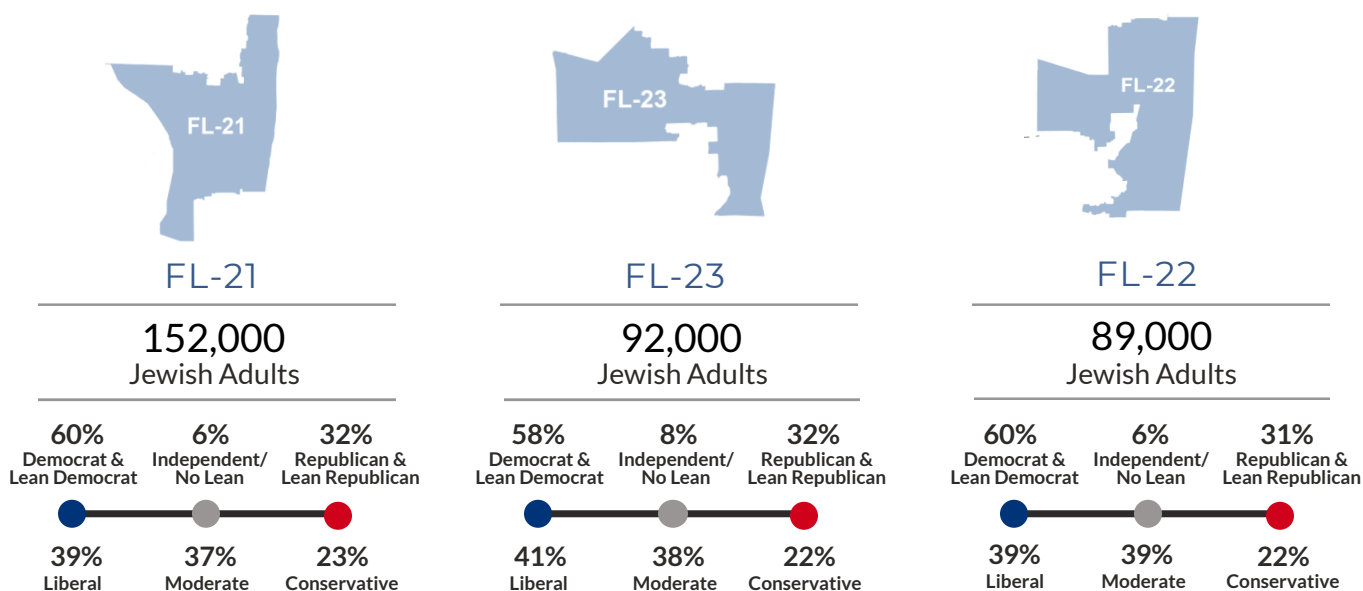
Congressional District	Pct. Jewish	Jewish Adults*	Representative
FL-21	24.3	152,000	Lois Frankel (D)
FL-23	14.8	92,000	Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D)
FL-22	15.7	89,000	Ted Deutch (D)
FL-20	5.9	41,000	Alcee Hastings (D)
FL-18	5.9	41,000	Brian Mast (R)
FL-27	6.1	41,000	Maria Elvira Salazar (R)
FL-24	5.6	29,000	Frederica Wilson (D)
FL-16	3.6	24,000	Vern Buchanan (R)
FL-7	3.2	20,000	Stephanie Murphy (D)
FL-4	2.9	19,000	John Rutherford (R)

\* Estimates are based on a synthesis of sample surveys and may have a margin of error between +/- 1,000 to 5,000, depending on the estimate.



Of Florida's 27 congressional districts, the ten with significant Jewish adult populations account for 82% of the state's Jewish electorate. Mostly concentrated around Florida's southeastern coast, these districts include metropolitan areas across the state, including West Palm Beach, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Sarasota, and Orlando.

Among these top ten districts, three (FL-21, FL-23, and FL-22) each have more than 75,000 Jewish adults, together comprising half (50%) of Florida's Jewish electorate.





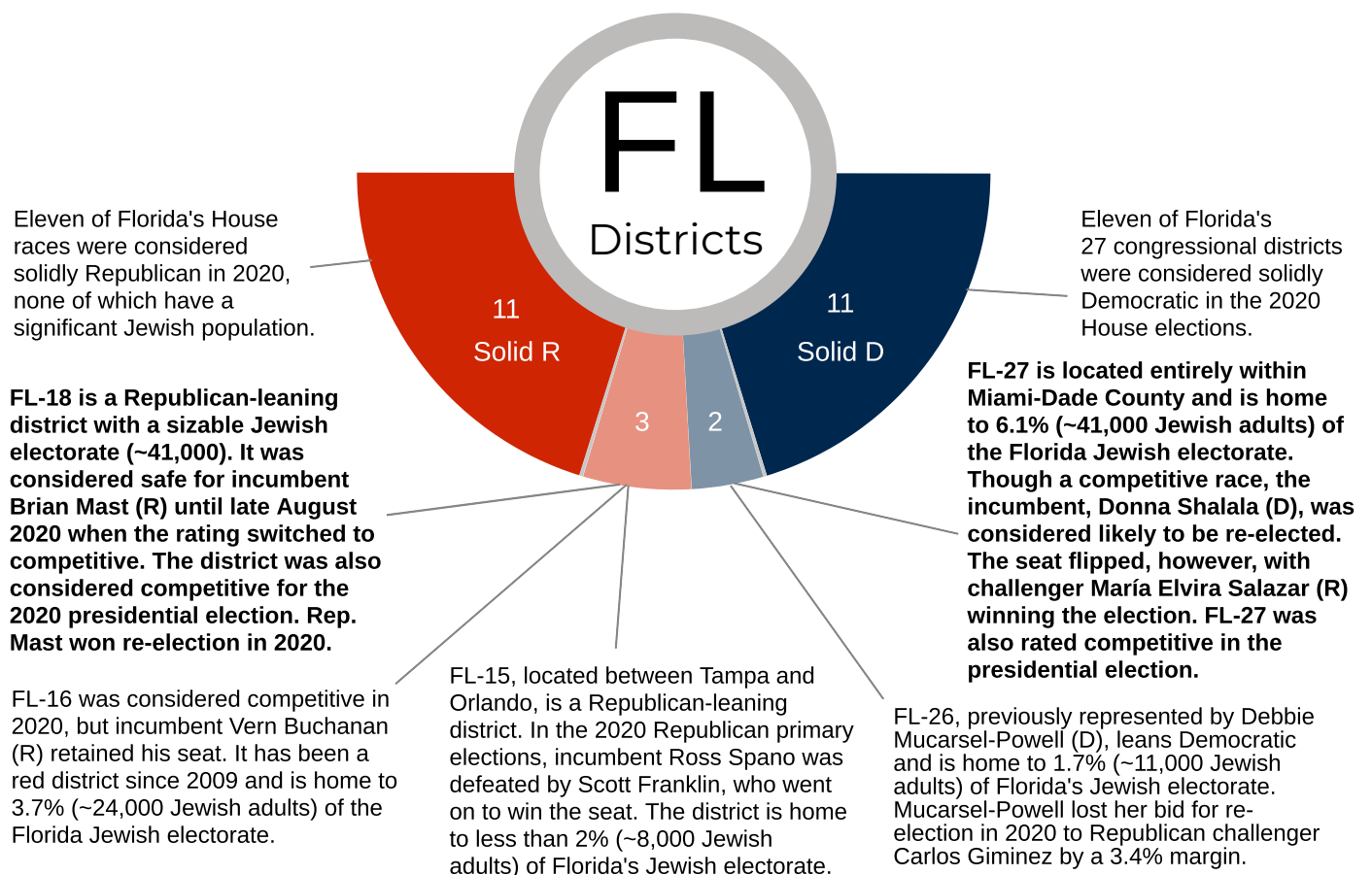
## Competitive Districts

The majority of Florida's congressional districts—22 out of 27—were considered safe for incumbent representatives leading up to the 2020 House elections. Of these, 11 were considered safe for Republican candidates and 11 for Democratic candidates. The remaining districts, three Republican leaning and two Democratic leaning, were considered competitive in November 2020.<sup>4</sup> All five competitive House races were won by Republicans in November 2020.

Only six of Florida's 27 districts were rated as competitive in the presidential election. Of these, just two—FL-27 and FL-18—have significant Jewish populations.

### Florida Competitive House Races

Five of Florida's 27 House races were considered competitive, and all five were won by Republicans in 2020.



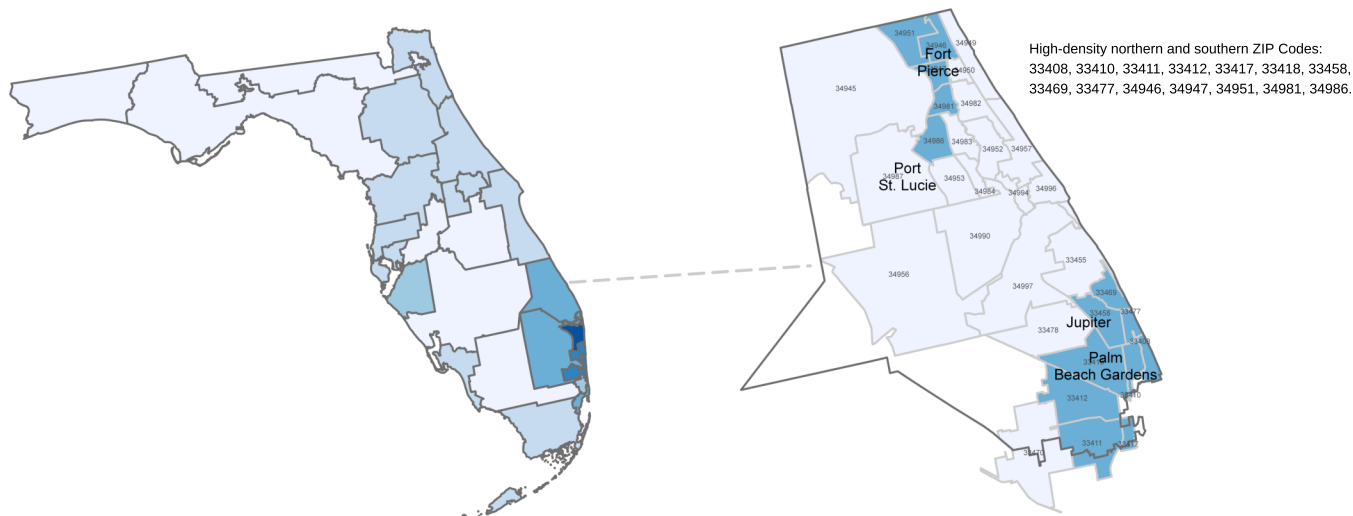
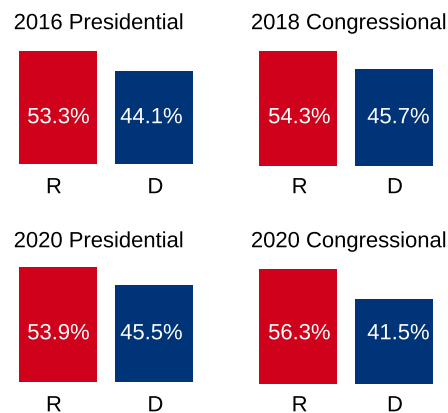
## FL-18 District Profile

FL-18 has the fifth largest Jewish adult population in the state. Previously rated as a safe for incumbent Brian Mast (R), the rating switched to competitive in late August 2020. The district was also rated as competitive for the 2020 presidential election. In both 2020 general elections, the Republican candidates won majorities of the district's votes.

FL-18 spans St. Lucie, Martin, and northern Palm Beach Counties and contains ~41,000 Jewish adults, representing 6.1% of the overall voting-age population. A majority of the FL-18 Jewish electorate identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (55%), and a plurality identifies as politically moderate (40%).

As in much of South Florida, FL-18 skews older, with nearly half of Jewish adults ages 65 and older (47%). A high Jewish population density cluster is located in the mainland areas of Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce in the north, and Juno Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, and Jupiter in the south. Although 46% of the district's adults live in these areas, 80% of Jewish adults reside there.

### Election Results: FL-18

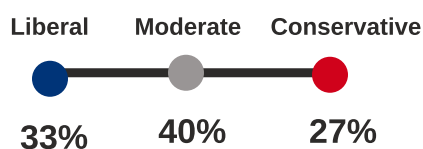


5.9%  
of the voting-age population is  
Jewish

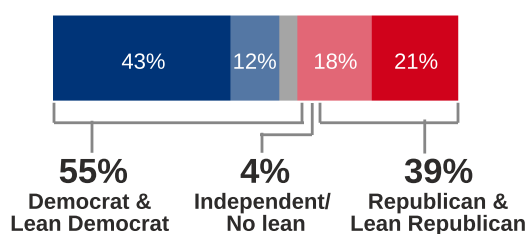
41,000  
Jewish Adults

80%  
of the Jewish electorate lives in  
the high-density areas in the  
north and south of the district

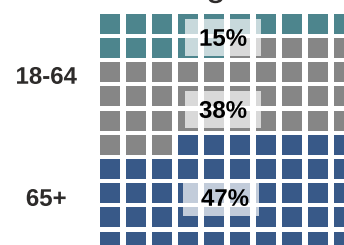
### Political Ideology



### Partisan Identification



### Age

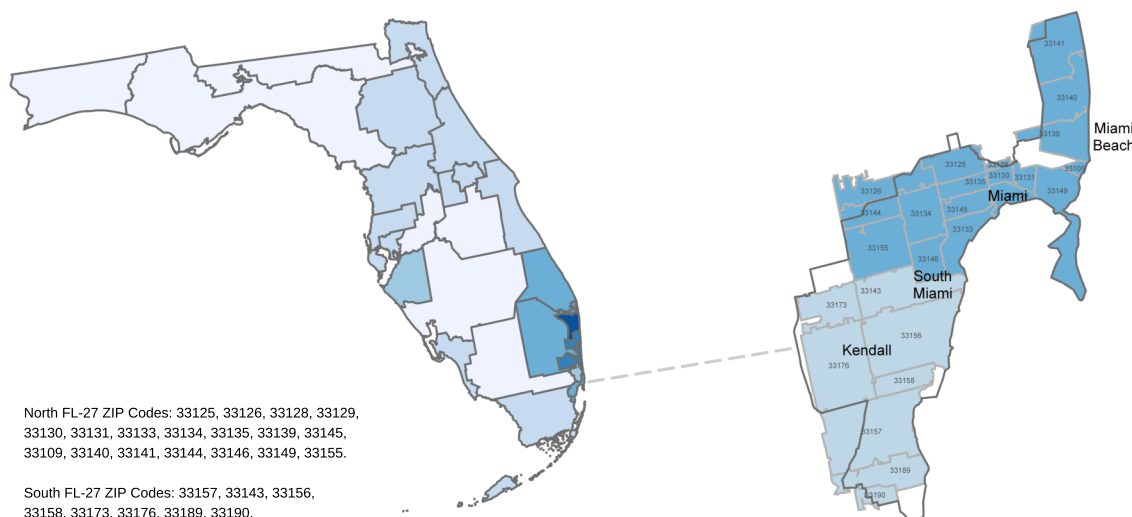
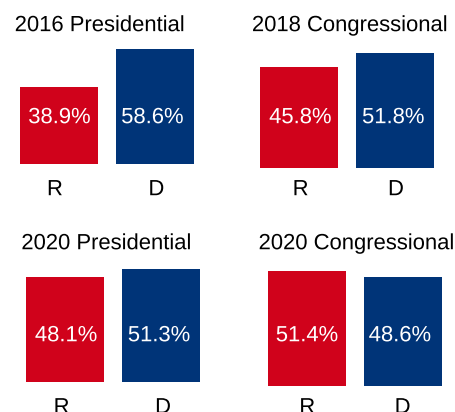


## FL-27 District Profile

Located within Miami-Dade County, FL-27 is home to a significant Jewish adult population (~41,000), accounting for 4.8% of the district's adult population. FL-27 went for Clinton by a sizable margin in 2016 (+19.8%), and a slimmer margin for Donna Shalala (D) in 2018 (+6%). Though leaning Democratic, this district was considered competitive in the November 2020 House and presidential races. Biden won a majority of the vote in this district (+3.2%), but Republican María Elvira Salazar unseated Rep. Shalala (+2.8%).

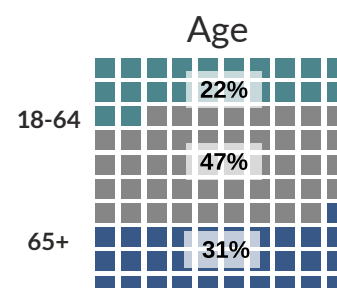
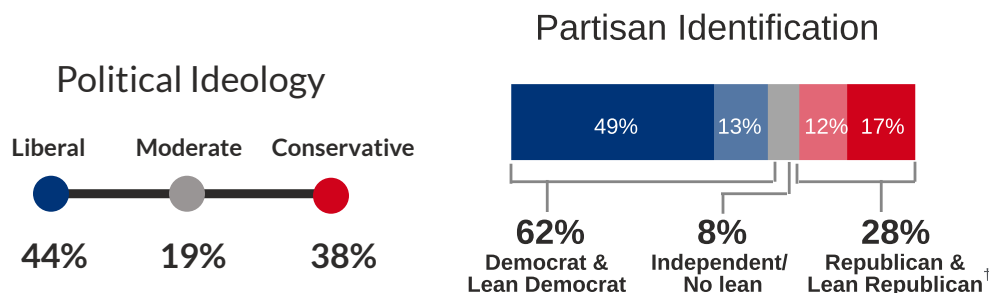
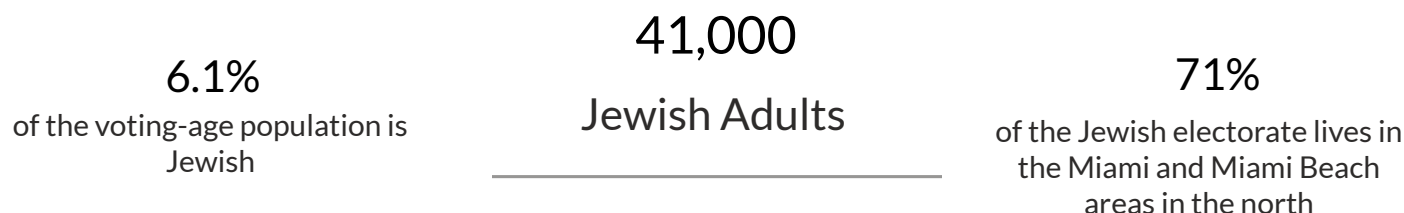
A more densely populated area includes downtown Miami and Miami Beach in the north. A second, less dense area includes ZIP Codes in South Miami and Kendall in the south. About 70% of the district's voting-age adults, including those who identify as Jewish, reside in the northern area. The Jewish adult population in FL-27 is not as old as the Jewish adult population in Florida overall, particularly in the more densely populated northern area.

### Election Results: FL-27



The more densely populated areas of downtown Miami and Miami Beach are home to ~71% of the district's Jewish adults

South Miami and Kendall are home to ~29% of the district's Jewish adults



† Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the "lean" political estimate is greater than 30%.



## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Methodology: Individual-level data from all surveys were combined using Bayesian multilevel modeling with poststratification. Poststratification included geographic distributions of respondents by ZIP Codes within congressional districts, and demographic characteristics of age, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, population density, as well as interactions of age by educational attainment, population density by age, and population density by educational attainment. Modeling is based to Jewish adults who self-identify as Jewish when asked about their religion. Estimates of "Total Jewish Adults" are obtained by adding to the model-based estimate, independent estimates of the percentage of Jewish adults who do not identify religiously as Jewish. This percentage can range from a low of 10% to a high of 30% depending on the region.

<sup>2</sup> State-level Jewish adult totals are estimated from AJPP 2020 models and adjustments for Jewish adults who do not identify religiously as Jewish.

<sup>3</sup> Partisan lean of Independents was estimated using a design-based pooled analysis method in which each survey's original survey weights were adjusted for survey specific designs and sample sizes. This method is not as sensitive to estimation of rare populations as the Bayesian methods used for the main Jewish population estimates but provides an initial ballpark estimate of the groups of interest. Follow-up studies will compare these estimates to those derived from more fully developed Bayesian model-based estimates.

<sup>4</sup> Congressional district competitive scores from Cook Political Report House Race Ratings (Nov 2, 2020) and FiveThirtyEight's Partisan Lean (Oct 19, 2020); data accessed January 2021.