

Memorandum



FROM: Bruce Barcelo
SUBJECT: Putnam County Sample
DATE: March 2, 2022

METHODOLOGY

Attached is a summary report on public opinion polling conducted this year in Putnam County, Florida. The poll comprises data from 486 discrete respondents ($n=486$) and has a margin of error of $\pm 4.4\%$ with a 95% confidence factor. The survey sample was limited to respondents who are registered to vote in Putnam County, are likely voters, and residents of the respondent household. The survey was stratified geographically, demographically, and by historical voter turnout.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Respondents demonstrate a solid understanding of challenges facing the Ocklawaha and St. Johns River, and their tributaries and springs.
2. Respondents also show consistent agreement (90%) with statements describing the environmental condition of the river and the impacts of (a) current conditions and (b) possible policy options.
3. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (74%) favor restoring the natural flow of the Ocklawaha River by breaching a portion of the Rodman Dam in order to benefit Silver Springs, the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers.
4. Only 7% of likely voters oppose breaching the dam and restoring the natural flow.
5. Support is broadly positive regardless of party registration: 75% for Republicans, 73% for Democrats, and 80% for Independent/NPA voters.

CONCLUSIONS

1. There is a broad-based, consistent awareness of the current environmental conditions of the river and the policy option of restoring the natural flow of the Ocklawaha. This underscores the importance of the restoration option among the active voter population in Putnam County.

This issue is a broad and urgent priority for voters in Putnam County.

2. Governmental and civic leaders should weigh carefully the urgency of the need to address the current conditions exacerbating the environmental conditions of the river and its implications on safety and quality of life in Putnam County.