



Public Opinion Strategies recently conducted a statewide poll in Florida of 800 likely voters. The poll was conducted March 30-31, 2008 and has a margin of error of $\pm 3.76\%$ in 95 out of 100 cases.

KEY FINDINGS:

Florida voters don't believe that it's "fair" to cut state funding for nursing homes while being required to meet previously mandated staffing requirements.

Florida voters were read a brief description of the 2001 staffing mandates and this year's \$278 million cut in state funding. After hearing about the issue, 56% of Florida voters say that it's NOT fair to ask nursing homes to meet the current mandates, while only 36% say that it is fair. Voters across the ideological spectrum - conservatives, moderates, and liberals - all agree that this is not fair to nursing homes.

As a result, fully two-thirds of voters believe the state has broken its promise to nursing homes in the state.

A wide majority (68%) of Florida voters believe that "the state of Florida has broken its promise to nursing homes in the state by not providing the funding that was committed in 2001."

Voters believe it's the nursing home residents who will suffer.

When asked who the nursing home cuts will mostly impact, 62% of Florida voters said "nursing home residents" while only 12% said "nursing home employees," and only 11% said "nursing home owners." Further, the vast majority (85%) agree that "those who will suffer from these state budget cuts are not the nursing homes but the patients in these nursing homes."

Even though money is tight in the state, Florida voters believe the state cannot let seniors down.

Florida voters overwhelmingly (86%) agree that "Money is tight in Florida, but we cannot let our seniors down. The Governor and state legislature need to make sure that nursing homes receive the necessary funding to maintain the level of care they provide." And, most Florida voters (61%) also agree that "even though the legislature is facing difficult choices, they should maintain funding for Florida's nursing homes, even if they have to cut elsewhere."



Voters across party lines agree that the state “has a responsibility” to provide necessary funding for nursing homes.

More than three-in-four (76%) voters agree that “the state has a responsibility to ensure that it finds the necessary funding to maintain the level of care provided to the residents of nursing homes.” This sentiment is shared among Republicans (67% agree), Independents (75%) and Democrats (85%) alike.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Florida voters realize that nursing home residents will be the ones hurt most by state funding cuts. They think it’s not fair to ask nursing homes to meet the mandated staffing requirements while facing \$278 million in funding cuts, and they believe the state broke the promise it made to nursing homes in 2001.

Voters want the state legislature to fulfill their responsibility and maintain funding for nursing home residents. Even in times of difficult budget decisions, voters believe that nursing homes should receive their necessary funding, even if cuts need to be made elsewhere.