

Breakthrough Research

SURVEY FINDINGS

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SachsMEDIA

METHODOLOGY

Sachs Media surveyed 1,100 Florida voters, December 5-7, 2025, via random sample of the Florida Voter File. Aggregate margin of error +/- 3.0% at the 95% confidence level. Results are representative by age, race, gender, political affiliation, and region.

1

Lead with local control when framing housing policy.

A clear majority of Floridians prefer maintaining local review and authority, even when it slows housing approvals. Messaging that emphasizes Efforts that appear to override local governments risk immediate resistance unless paired with strong safeguards.

2

State-level permitting deadlines offer a rare point of agreement.

While Floridians resist limiting local authority on permit decisions, they strongly support a state rule requiring local governments to act within a defined timeframe. Policymakers can support faster housing development by focusing on accountability and predictability in permitting timelines.

3

Floridians want local decisions made on a state clock.

Voters aren't choosing between local control and faster approvals. They want both: local substantive authority over housing decisions, made within clear, enforceable timelines set by the state. Policies that frame the state as setting fair process guardrails, not dictating outcomes, align closely with public expectations.

KEY FINDINGS

Floridians want local engagement in housing decisions

- Respondents were told: “Some proposals would make it faster to approve new housing by limiting local reviews and appeals. Other proposals would keep more local control, even if it means the approval for new housing takes longer.”
- Given these tradeoffs, 23% say they’d prefer faster approvals, with less local control, while 63% would prefer more local control, even if it takes longer. The remaining 13% are unsure.
- The preference for faster approvals, with less local control is held by:
 - 38% of Republicans, 16% of Democrats, and 14% of nonpartisans
 - 25% of men, and 22% of women
 - 29% of those under age 45, and 19% of those ages 45 and older

Floridians strongly support a state rule requiring local governments to make faster permitting decisions

- Respondents were asked whether they’d support or oppose a state rule requiring cities and counties to approve or deny building permits within a set number of days.
- 7 in 10 (72%) say they strongly (38%) or somewhat (34%) such a rule, and 14% strongly (5%) or somewhat (9%) oppose this. The remaining 14% are unsure.
- Support for this state rule is expressed by:
 - 85% of Republicans, 71% of nonpartisans, and 60% of Democrats
 - 76% of men, and 68% of women
 - 78% of those ages 45 and older, and 65% of those under age 45

DATA TABLES

Some proposals would make it faster to approve new housing by limiting local reviews and appeals. Other proposals would keep more local control, even if it means the approval for new housing takes longer. Which do you prefer?

	ALL	PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	F	M	<45	45+
Faster approvals, with less local control	23%	16%	14%	38%	22%	25%	29%	19%
More local control, even if it takes longer	63%	71%	71%	50%	62%	64%	57%	69%
Not sure	13%	14%	16%	12%	16%	11%	14%	12%

Would you support or oppose a state rule requiring cities and counties to approve or deny building permits within a set number of days?

	ALL	PARTY			GENDER		AGE	
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	F	M	<45	45+
SUPPORT (NET)	72%	60%	71%	85%	68%	76%	65%	78%
<i>'Strongly support</i>	38%	32%	32%	48%	34%	41%	28%	47%
<i>'Somewhat support</i>	34%	29%	39%	38%	33%	34%	36%	32%
Somewhat oppose	9%	9%	13%	7%	11%	7%	9%	9%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Not sure	14%	26%	11%	5%	17%	13%	23%	8%