

METHODS

Sachs Media surveyed 500 Florida voters via a random sample of the Florida voter file, January 13-25, 2023, with a margin of error of +/- 4.3% at the 95% confidence level. Results are representative of Florida voters in terms of age, race, gender, political affiliation, and region of the state.

KEY FINDINGS

While 9 in 10 Florida voters are aware that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, far fewer are aware of the other four rights enshrined in the Amendment – and only 36% are able to name all five:

- 91% - can name freedom of speech
- 61% - can name freedom of religion
- 55% - can name freedom of the press
- 50% - can name the right to peaceably assemble
- 46% - can name the right to petition the government

In today’s sharply divided political climate, Florida voters express high concern about threats regarding each of these rights. Specifically, more than 8 in 10 (81%) are concerned about freedom of speech, and the same portion (81%) say they’re concerned about the ability to access public government information, including records and meetings. Another 78% are concerned about freedom of the press, 77% about the right of people to petition the government, 76% about the right of people to peaceably assemble, and 66% about freedom of religion.

Some differences by party appear in responses regarding level of concern. For example, 88% of Republicans express concern about freedom of speech or government restrictions on what people can express, compared with 76% of Democrats. At the same time, 80% of Democrats are concerned about the right of people to peaceably assemble or gather in protest, higher than the 75% of Republicans who share this concern. Larger percentages of Republicans also express concerns regarding freedom of religion and access to government records. Similar portions of Republicans (78%) and Democrats (80%) express concern over freedom of the press.

DATA TABLES

Which of the following do you associate with the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution? Select all that apply							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
Freedom of speech	91%	91%	89%	93%	91%	92%	91%
Freedom of religion	61%	58%	64%	62%	60%	61%	61%
Freedom of the press	55%	56%	47%	59%	53%	52%	61%
Right for people to peaceably assemble	50%	49%	44%	54%	43%	53%	54%
Right for people to petition the government	46%	43%	42%	50%	45%	47%	46%
Not sure / don't know	2%	0%	6%	2%	2%	3%	2%
KNOWS ALL 5	36%	36%	29%	40%	36%	36%	36%

In today's sharply divided political climate, how concerned are you about threats to each of these freedoms or rights:					
	CONCERNED (NET)	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not concerned at all
Ability to access public government information, including records and meetings	81%	54%	27%	16%	3%
Freedom of speech (the government can't restrict what people express)	81%	58%	23%	14%	5%
Freedom of the press (the government can't control journalism)	78%	53%	25%	14%	7%
Right for people to petition the government (people can air their grievances)	77%	49%	29%	17%	5%
Right for people to peaceably assemble (people can gather to protest)	76%	49%	27%	18%	6%
Freedom of religion (government can't force or deny a person's religion)	66%	44%	22%	23%	11%

SUMMARY: % CONCERNED WITH ... by party				
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP
Speech	81%	76%	75%	88%
Press	78%	80%	74%	78%
Assemble	76%	80%	70%	75%
Petition	77%	72%	77%	83%
Religion	66%	58%	64%	75%
Records and meetings	81%	78%	75%	87%

Freedom of speech (the government can't restrict what people express)							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
CONCERNED (NET)	81%	76%	75%	88%	76%	83%	83%
<i>'Very concerned</i>	58%	49%	52%	69%	53%	61%	59%
<i>'Somewhat concerned</i>	23%	28%	23%	18%	24%	22%	23%
Not too concerned	14%	15%	18%	10%	15%	15%	12%
Not concerned at all	5%	8%	7%	2%	9%	3%	5%

Freedom of the press (the government can't control journalism)							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
CONCERNED (NET)	78%	80%	74%	78%	71%	83%	79%
<i>'Very concerned</i>	53%	43%	50%	64%	46%	54%	58%
<i>'Somewhat concerned</i>	25%	37%	24%	14%	25%	30%	21%
Not too concerned	14%	13%	18%	14%	22%	10%	12%
Not concerned at all	7%	7%	7%	8%	7%	6%	9%

Right for people to peaceably assemble (people can gather to protest)							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
CONCERNED (NET)	76%	80%	70%	75%	79%	77%	72%
<i>'Very concerned</i>	49%	46%	46%	53%	49%	52%	45%
<i>'Somewhat concerned</i>	27%	34%	24%	22%	30%	25%	26%
Not too concerned	18%	14%	24%	20%	13%	20%	21%
Not concerned at all	6%	7%	6%	5%	7%	3%	7%

Right for people to petition the government (people can air their grievances)							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
CONCERNED (NET)	77%	72%	77%	83%	77%	84%	71%
<i>'Very concerned</i>	49%	39%	47%	59%	46%	51%	49%
<i>'Somewhat concerned</i>	29%	33%	30%	24%	31%	33%	23%
Not too concerned	17%	22%	17%	13%	18%	14%	20%
Not concerned at all	5%	6%	6%	4%	5%	2%	9%

Freedom of religion (government can't force or deny a person's religion)							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
CONCERNED (NET)	66%	58%	64%	75%	62%	68%	68%
<i>'Very concerned</i>	44%	35%	43%	54%	40%	44%	49%
<i>'Somewhat concerned</i>	22%	23%	21%	21%	22%	25%	19%
Not too concerned	23%	28%	26%	16%	30%	22%	18%
Not concerned at all	11%	14%	10%	8%	8%	10%	14%

Ability to access public government information, including records and meetings							
	ALL	PARTY			AGE		
	ALL	DEM	NPA	REP	18-44	45-64	65+
CONCERNED (NET)	81%	78%	75%	87%	78%	86%	78%
<i>'Very concerned</i>	54%	46%	52%	63%	50%	57%	55%
<i>'Somewhat concerned</i>	27%	32%	23%	24%	28%	29%	23%
Not too concerned	16%	19%	19%	12%	21%	12%	16%
Not concerned at all	3%	3%	6%	2%	1%	2%	5%