



OCKLAWAHA RESTORATION
BENCHMARK POLL

FINAL RESULTS

Overview Methodology: **Survey Research**

Telephone survey research

December 2021 /January 2022

List Origin: The voter file from Putnam and Marion Counties (likely voters only) matched with residential and cell phone listings

Screen: registered to vote in subject counties and districts, likely voters and household resident screen

Controls: data collection monitored; tabulation and analysis performed in-house by Barcelo&Company staff.

Total responses: n=604

The margin of error for the entire sample is +4.0% (with a 95% confidence factor)

The margin of error for sub-samples is greater.

Interviews were connected via landlines and cell phones.

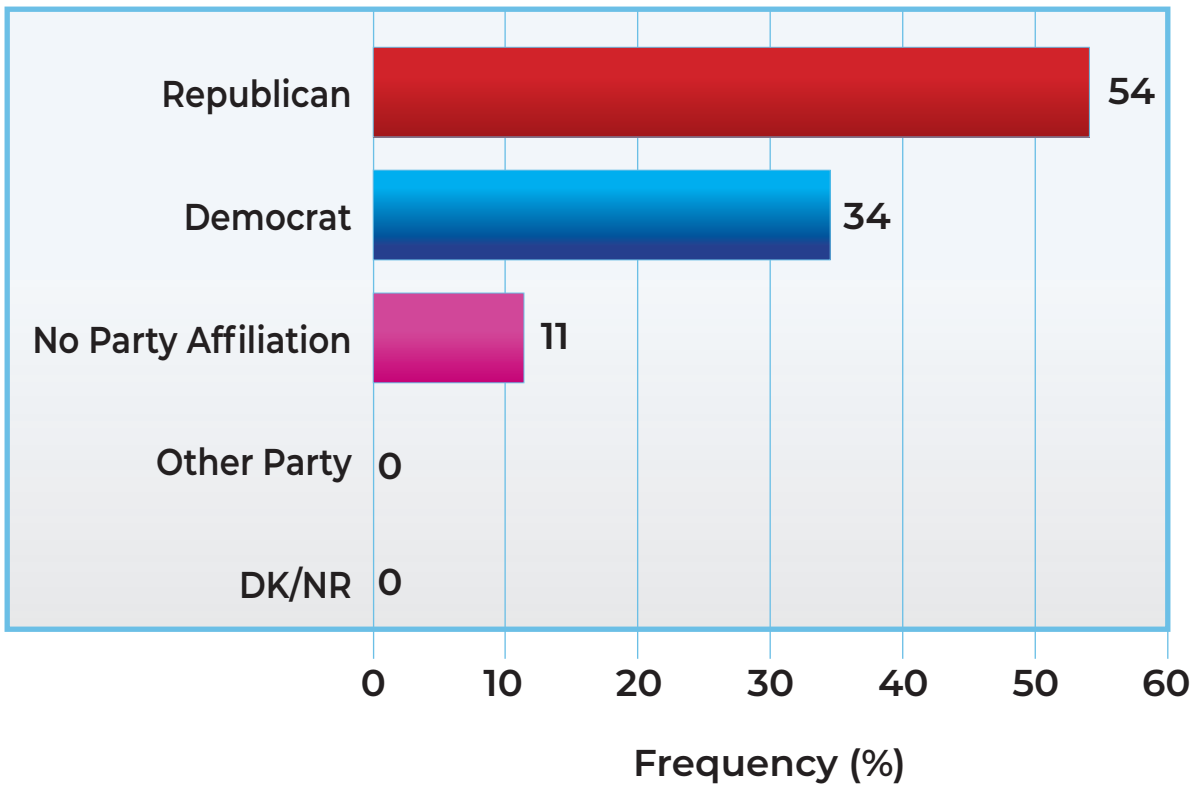
As Principal of Barcelo & Company, Inc. Bruce Barcelo has a more than thirty-five year record in providing public opinion research, qualitative research, and political polling in Florida, nationally, and internationally in Eastern Europe, the Republic of Georgia, Afghanistan, and Haiti. His clients have included the US Chamber of Commerce, multinational corporations, hundreds of elected officials and political committees, and over sixty referendum clients at the state and county level.

His professional affiliations have included, American Association of Political Consultants, the Association for Public Opinion Research, the World Association for Public Opinion Research, the American Statistical Association, and the Academy of Political Science. He is an honors graduate of Dartmouth College.

Key Findings

- 1** The Agree/Disagree series shows a solid understanding of challenges facing the Ocklawaha and St. Johns rivers, their tributaries and springs.
- 2** The initial Support Test shows 77% general approval of restoring the flow of the Ocklawaha River. Strong approval is at 31% and milder approval at 46%. Those against was only 6% with only 1% strongly against. Those with no opinion were 17%.
- 3** Responses to the More/Less Likely series of restoration benefits ranged from 84% on aging locks and dams to 76% on the expansion of recreational opportunities and tourism.
- 4** After the message statements were presented in the More/Less Likely series, the general approval of restoring the flow of the Ocklawaha River rose from 77% to 81%. Strong approval at 44% and milder approval at 37% . Those against decreased from 6% to 4% with 1% continuing to be strongly against. Those with no opinion decreased from 17% to 14%.

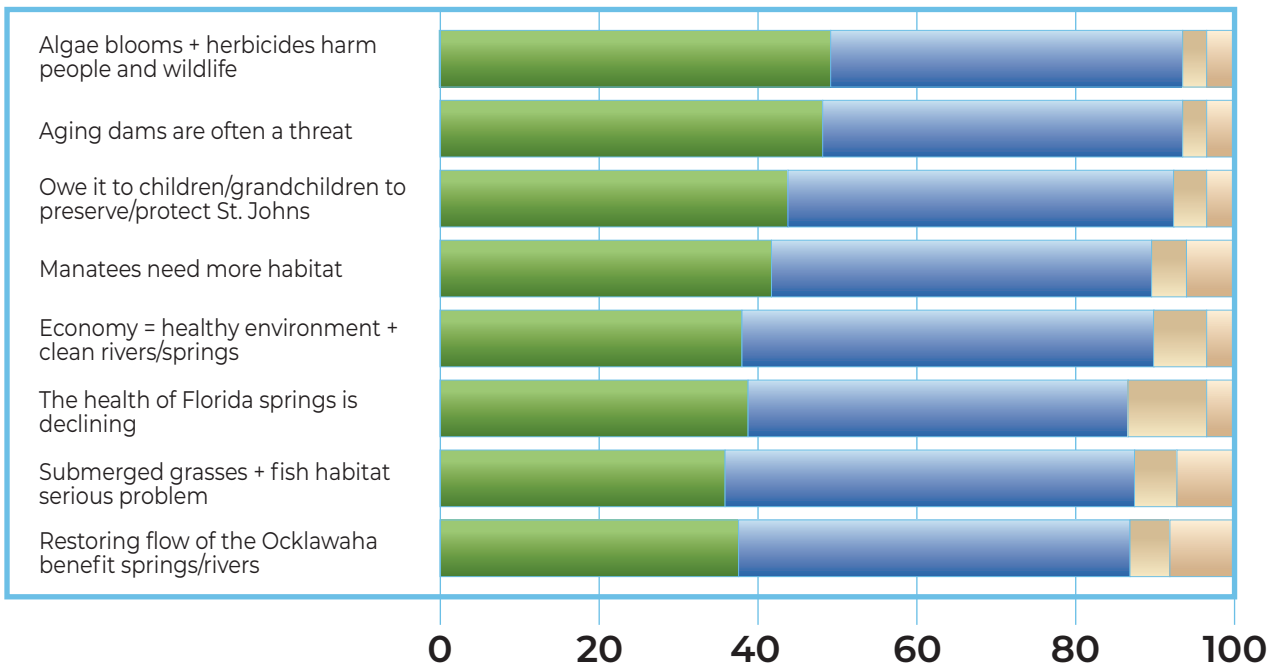
In the official election records, are you registered to vote as a Republican, a Democrat, No party affiliation, or with some other party?



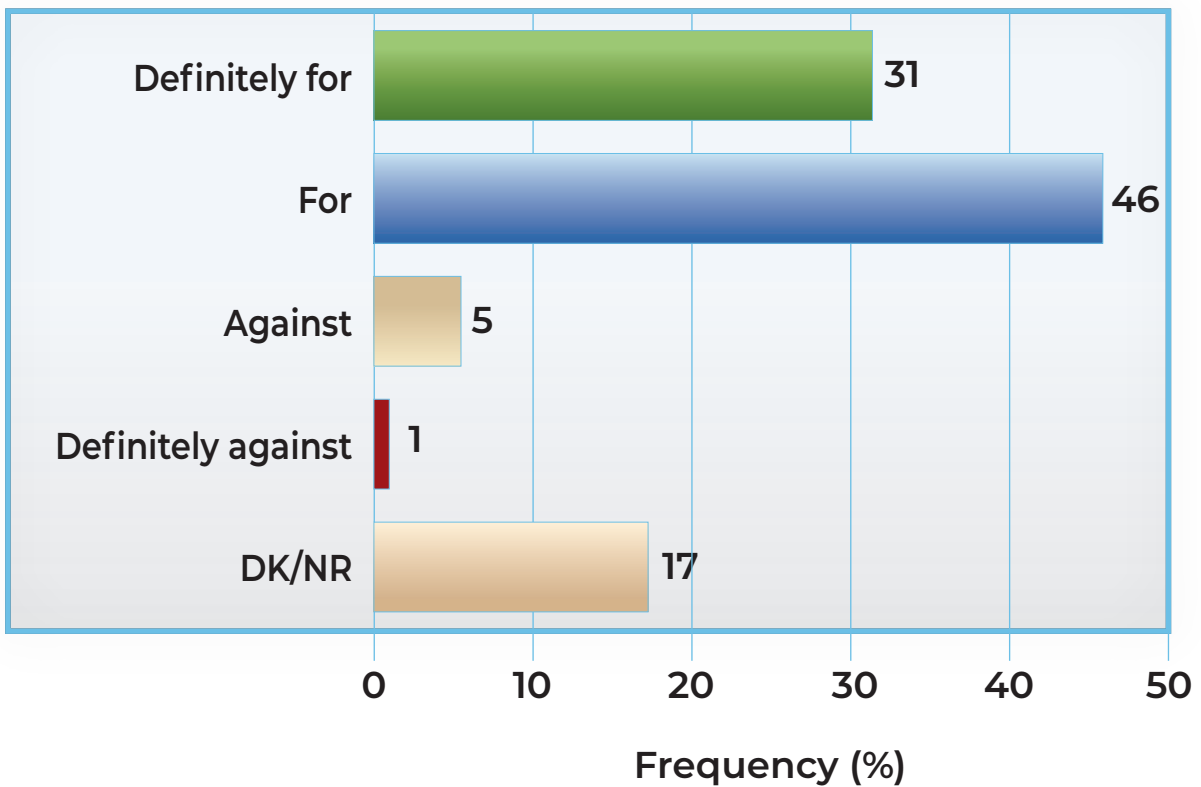
Agree/Disagree Series

For each statement, please tell me whether you agree or disagree, and then whether you feel strongly.

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DK/NR
Algae blooms + herbicides harm people and wildlife	50%	45%	2%	0%	3%
Aging dams are often a threat	49%	45%	3%	0%	3%
Owe it to children/grandchildren to preserve/protect St. Johns	44%	49%	4%	0%	3%
Manatees need more habitat	42%	48%	5%	0%	5%
Economy = healthy environment + clean rivers/springs	38%	52%	5%	1%	4%
The health of Florida springs is declining	39%	48%	6%	0%	7%
Submerged grasses + fish habitat serious problem	36%	51%	5%	0%	7%
Restoring flow of the Ocklawaha benefit springs/rivers	38%	50%	5%	0%	8%



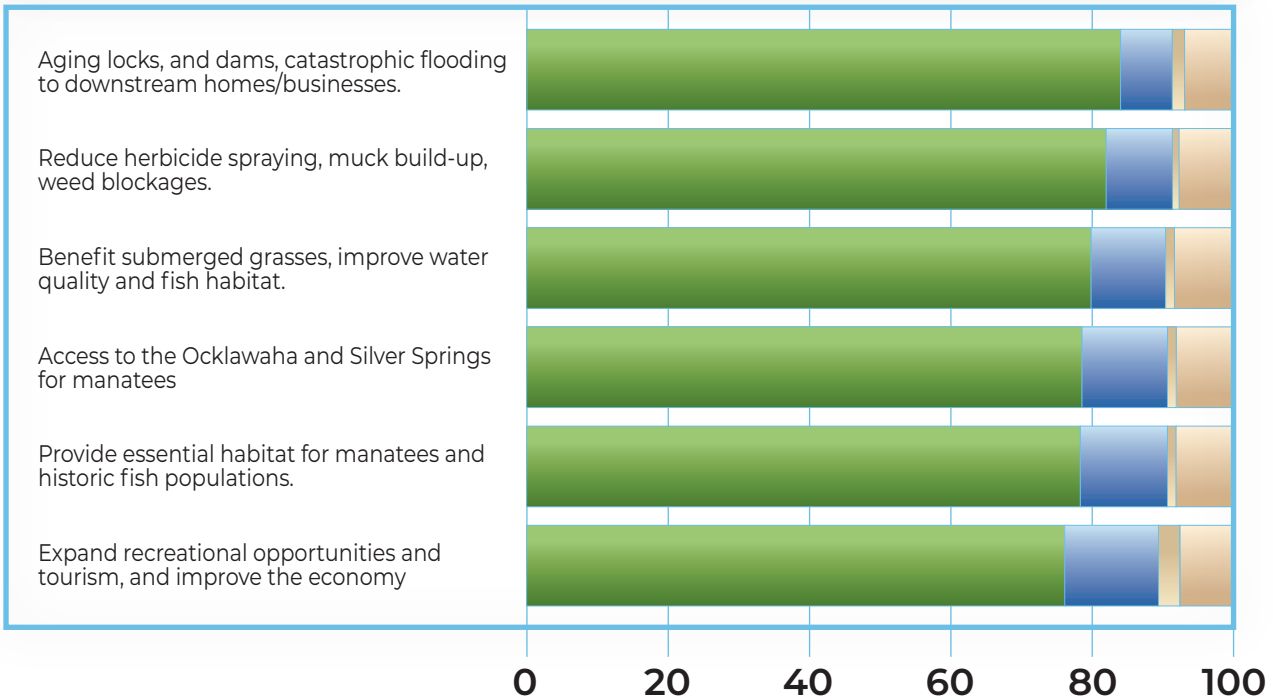
There may be an effort in the 2022 legislative session to restore the natural flow of the Ocklawaha River and improve the health of the St. Johns River by breaching a section of the Rodman Dam. The funding might come from newly enacted federal infrastructure funds and emergency management funds for aging dams around the country. In your view, should the Florida Legislature vote to seek restoration of the flow of the river?



More/Less Likely Series

Please tell me whether the following statements- each of which is true- makes you more or less likely to support restoration of the flow of the Ocklawaha River

	MORE LIKELY	WOULDN'T MATTER	LESS LIKELY	DK/NR
Aging locks, and dams, catastrophic flooding to downstream homes/businesses.	84%	7%	2%	6%
Reduce herbicide spraying, muck build-up, weed blockages.	82%	9%	1%	7%
Benefit submerged grasses, improve water quality and fish habitat.	80%	11%	1%	8%
Access to the Ocklawaha and Silver Springs for manatees	79%	13%	1%	8%
Provide essential habitat for manatees and historic fish populations.	78%	13%	1%	8%
Expand recreational opportunities and tourism, and improve the economy	76%	13%	3%	7%



Early and Late Support Tests

