

The background of the slide is a 3D-rendered grid of numbers. The numbers are white and appear to be floating above a light blue grid. The numbers are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and perspective, with some numbers appearing larger and more prominent than others. The overall color scheme is a cool blue and white.

# To Pay or Not to Pay: Citizen Perspectives

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# 2021 Florida Policy Survey



**N = 600 Floridians**

Stratified (region of the state)  
quota sample (age, gender,  
race, ethnicity, party affiliation)



**Web-Based Panel**

Prodege MR



**July 15 – 25, 2021**

Margin of Error +/- 4

# Sample of Respondents

	USF Survey Sample	Florida Demographics
<b>Female</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>51.1%</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>47.3%</b>	<b>48.9%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>18-24</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>31.2%</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>34.2%</b>	<b>32.4%</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>
<b>Black/African American</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	<b>72.3%</b>	<b>77.3%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>American Indian/Alaska Native</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>27.2%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>73.6%</b>
<b>Democrat</b>	<b>36.0%</b>	<b>36.2%</b>
<b>Independent</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
<b>Republican</b>	<b>36.6%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>



# To Pay or Not to Pay?

In recent years, several local governments in the state of Florida have suffered cyber-attacks known as "ransomware". These attacks can disable online systems such as public utilities and emergency communication platforms, until a "ransom" is paid to the cyber-attackers.

Some experts believe that paying these ransoms is necessary in order to ensure the continuity of public services, while others believe that paying them may encourage future cyber-attacks.

In your opinion, should local governments in Florida be allowed to pay ransomware attackers if they suffer a cyber-attack?

# Citizen Perspectives

**Table 1.**

**Citizen Perspectives on Ransomware Payments (n=600)**

	Frequency	Percent
The state of Florida should outlaw ransomware payments by local governments to deter future attacks	339	56.5
It should be up to local jurisdictions if they want to pay-off ransomware attackers	127	21.2
Unsure	134	22.3

Source: 2021, USF Policy Survey

# Citizen Perspectives (by Party ID)

◆ The state of Florida should outlaw ransomware payments by local governments to deter future attacks:

- ◆ Democrats - 49.7%
- ◆ Independents - 56.4%
- ◆ Republicans - 65.2%

\* $\chi^2 = 21.682$ ;  $\phi = 0.190$ ;  $p \leq 0.01$

# Citizen Perspectives (by Age)

◇ The state of Florida should outlaw ransomware payments by local governments to deter future attacks:

◇ 18-24	-	43.1%
◇ 25-44	-	44.6%
◇ 45-64	-	59.5%
◇ 65 +	-	70.6%

\* $\chi^2 = 38.049$ ;  $\phi = 0.252$ ;  $p \leq 0.001$



# Citizen Perspectives (by Gender)

◆ The state of Florida should outlaw ransomware payments by local governments to deter future attacks:

◆ Males - 60.2%

◆ Females - 53.1%

\* $\chi^2 = 14.641$ ;  $\phi = 0.156$ ;  $p \leq 0.01$



# Tradeoffs and Considerations

- ◆ Costs of System Recovery vs. Costs of Ransom
- ◆ Essential vs. Non-Essential Systems/Services
- ◆ Long vs. Short-Term Implications

# Questions and Follow-Up Materials

- ◆ EMAIL: [srneely@usf.edu](mailto:srneely@usf.edu)
- ◆ SURVEY RESULTS: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/public-affairs/documents/news-items/spa-florida-policy-survey-results-2021.pdf>
- ◆ ROUTE 50 ARTICLE: <https://www.route-fifty.com/tech-data/2021/09/pay-or-not-pay-what-citizens-think-local-governments-should-do-when-responding-ransomware-attacks/185723/>