
**New FIU Metropolitan Center and Univision
District 25 Poll Shows Mario Diaz-Balart Leading
Joe Garcia.**

Miami (October 15, 2008) - Survey results of Congressional District 25 released today by FIU's Metropolitan Center and Univision 23 show Republican incumbent Mario Diaz-Balart with a 9 point lead over Democratic contender Joe Garcia (46% to 37%). While a noteworthy 17% of voters remain undecided. Mario Diaz-Balart's strengths are amongst Cubans, Republicans and voters 45 years or older.

Amongst Cubans Diaz-Balart leads with 74% of voters over Garcia's 16%; Diaz-Balart also shows a significant lead amongst Republican voters with 83% of voters. Amongst those 45 years or older Mario Diaz-Balart also holds a clear lead with 50% of voters against 25% for Garcia.

Joe Garcia's strengths are amongst Anglos, Blacks and non-Cuban Hispanics. Garcia has a 19 point lead over Diaz-Balart amongst Anglo voters (49% to 30 %). And amongst Blacks he leads with 72% of voters. Garcia also holds a 17 point lead over Mario Diaz-Balart (47% to 30%) amongst non-Cuban Hispanics.

On national issues, 60% of those polled identified jobs and the economy as the number 1 issue today, distantly followed by the war on terror and national security with 12%.

Concerning the \$700 billion Rescue Plan, a majority of voters (46%) supported the plan, while 39% opposed it. The support for the plan was higher amongst Republicans than Democrats (50% to 42%) and amongst Hispanics (with 51% supporting the plan) in contrast to Black and White voters who generally opposed it (46% and 53% respectively).

On the national election front, John McCain leads Barack Obama by a small margin of 3 percentage points (46% to 43%), with 11% of voters remaining undecided. Support for McCain was higher amongst Cubans with 72% of voters, while non-Cuban Hispanics, Anglos and Blacks generally favored Obama. McCain also led among women voters (47% to 42%) and voters 45 years or older (49%). While Obama held a minor lead among men (46% to 44%) and a substantial lead amongst 18-44 year old voters with 61% of support.

This is the second of four trilingual polls conducted by Florida International University's Metropolitan Center exclusively for Univision 23. The polls register the preferences of voters in predominantly Hispanic districts in the state of Florida: Districts 18, 21 and 25.

As well as a statewide presidential poll that will track voter intention for the coming November 2008 elections. The polls were conducted in English, Spanish and Creole. 44% of those polled were polled in Spanish.

The poll was designed to reflect the ethnic composition of registered voters in District 25. It has a 3 to 4 percent margin of error. Additional poll results are available at the Metropolitan Center's website <http://metropolitan.fiu.edu>

The **Metropolitan Center at Florida International University** is engaged in the study of the demographics, economics and politics of South Florida. The overall goal of the Center, as an "applied research" institute, is to provide decision-makers with the best possible information to forge solutions to the problems confronting South Florida's urban areas. The Center provides research, training, and technical assistance to governmental and nonprofit institutions in South Florida. The Center provides usable knowledge to inform decision-makers on economic development, land use, housing and public opinion. It also provides organizational management planning and development to strengthen local area organizations' ability to serve their client basis.

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