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Florida Voters Agree With Decision to Charge Zimmerman

Raleigh, N.C. – A plurality of Florida voters agree with the decision to charge George Zimmerman with second-degree murder in the Trayvon Martin shooting, a new poll from Public Policy Polling finds. 49% of voters agree with the decision to charge Zimmerman, 25% disagree and 26% aren't sure. Voters aren't sure whether he is guilty, though – 31% believe he's guilty, 26% think he's not guilty and 43% aren't sure. Most voters don't believe the shooting was motivated by racism – 45% say it wasn't, 32% say it was and 23% aren't sure. 46% of voters say Zimmerman can receive a fair trial, 37% believe he will not and 17% aren't sure. Despite the controversy over the shooting, more Florida voters than not still support the “Stand Your Ground” law that allows citizens to use lethal force in the face of a perceived violent threat without having to retreat first. 42% support the law, 32% oppose it and 26% aren't sure.

A closer look reveals splits along racial and political lines. Democrats (72-13), independents (49-24) and all racial groups support the decision to charge Zimmerman, while Republicans oppose charging him (25-39). Democrats (49-12), independents (31-23), Hispanics (48-19) and African-Americans (73-9) believe he is guilty, while Republicans (13-41) and whites (21-30) do not. Hispanics (44-36), African-Americans (68-11), and Democrats (47-26) believe the killing was motivated by racism while whites (24-51) and Republicans (14-66) do not, and independents are split (38-39). Republicans (60-13) and whites (47-28) support the Stand Your Ground law while Democrats (24-50) and African-Americans (18-51) oppose it.

Florida voters hate Fidel Castro, with just 4% having a favorable opinion of him and 86% unfavorable. While 39% of voters say Ozzie Guillen's recent comments about Castro were inappropriate, 52% still aren't sure and Guillen's favorability ratings sits at 7% favorable and 26% unfavorable with 67% not sure, suggesting the issue hasn't broken through with everyday voters. A plurality of voters with an opinion on Guillen's suspension say the punishment was “just right” rather than too harsh or lenient. Florida voters aren't too into their baseball, with 15% identifying themselves as a Miami Marlins fan, 19% as a Tampa Bay Rays fan and 67% saying they aren't a fan of either team.

PPP surveyed 700 Florida voters from April 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.7%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization.



Florida Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Fidel Castro?

Favorable..... 4%
Unfavorable 86%
Not sure 10%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ozzie Guillen?

Favorable..... 7%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 67%

Q3 Do you think Ozzie Guillen's recent comments about Fidel Castro were appropriate or inappropriate, or are you not familiar with what Guillen said about Castro?

Appropriate 8%
Inappropriate..... 39%
Not sure 52%

Q4 (Asked only of those who had an opinion on Q3:) Which of the following best describes your opinion on the appropriate punishment for Ozzie Guillen in regards to his recent comments about Fidel Castro: the suspension he received was just right, he should have been suspended for longer, he should have been fired, or he shouldn't have received any suspension at all?

The suspension was just right..... 30%
He should have been suspended longer..... 17%
He should have been fired..... 22%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all 27%
Not sure 5%

Q5 Are you a Miami Marlins fan, a Tampa Bay Rays fan, or are you not a fan of either team?

Marlins..... 15%
Rays 19%
Neither team 67%

Q6 Do you support or oppose Florida's 'Stand Your Ground' law?

Support..... 42%
Oppose 32%
Not sure 26%

Q7 Do you agree or disagree with the decision to charge George Zimmerman with second-degree murder in the Trayvon Martin case?

Agree..... 49%
Disagree 25%
Not sure 26%

Q8 Do you think that George Zimmerman is guilty of second-degree murder, or not?

He is guilty 31%
He is not..... 26%
Not sure 43%

Q9 Do you think that the killing of Trayvon Martin was motivated by racism, or not?

It was motivated by racism..... 32%
It was not 45%
Not sure 23%





Q10 Do you think that George Zimmerman will be able to receive a fair trial in this case, or not?

He will be able to receive a fair trial 46%
He will not 37%
Not sure 17%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain 47%
Barack Obama 47%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 10%
Somewhat liberal 19%
Moderate 32%
Somewhat conservative 22%
Very conservative 16%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man 45%

Q14 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 41%
Republican 41%
Independent/Other 18%

Q15 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic 13%
White 71%
African-American 11%
Other 5%

Q16 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29 12%
30 to 45 24%
46 to 65 31%
Older than 65 33%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Castro Favorability				
Favorable	4%	2%	6%	-
Unfavorable	86%	94%	81%	66%
Not sure	10%	4%	13%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Guillen Favorability				
Favorable	7%	6%	8%	2%
Unfavorable	26%	30%	22%	25%
Not sure	67%	64%	70%	73%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Guillen Comments Appropriate/inappropriate				
Appropriate	8%	7%	9%	13%
Inappropriate	39%	45%	35%	31%
Not sure	52%	48%	56%	56%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Best Punishment for Guillen				
The suspension was just right	30%	33%	29%	9%
He should have been suspended longer	17%	18%	16%	20%
He should have been fired	22%	29%	12%	40%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all	27%	16%	38%	31%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Marlins or Rays Fan?				
Marlins	15%	13%	16%	13%
Rays	19%	23%	15%	16%
Neither team	67%	64%	69%	71%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Support/Oppose Stand Your Ground				
Support	42%	64%	24%	24%
Oppose	32%	13%	50%	21%
Not sure	26%	23%	26%	55%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Agree/Disagree w/ Murder 2 Charge for Zimmerman				
Agree	49%	29%	69%	43%
Disagree	25%	38%	15%	13%
Not sure	26%	33%	17%	44%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Is Zimmerman Guilty?				
He is guilty	31%	15%	47%	30%
He is not	26%	39%	13%	18%
Not sure	43%	46%	39%	52%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Martin Killing Motivated by Racism ?				
It was motivated by racism	32%	16%	48%	31%
It was not	45%	66%	25%	36%
Not sure	23%	18%	27%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Can Zimmerman Get a Fair Trial?				
He will be able to receive a fair trial	46%	32%	60%	41%
He will not	37%	51%	24%	27%
Not sure	17%	17%	16%	32%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Castro Favorability						
Favorable	4%	8%	7%	4%	3%	1%
Unfavorable	86%	74%	80%	85%	93%	93%
Not sure	10%	18%	14%	11%	4%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Guillen Favorability						
Favorable	7%	15%	8%	9%	4%	1%
Unfavorable	26%	22%	22%	25%	26%	35%
Not sure	67%	64%	70%	66%	69%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Guillen Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate						
Appropriate	8%	20%	10%	8%	6%	2%
Inappropriate	39%	24%	35%	36%	51%	45%
Not sure	52%	56%	55%	56%	43%	53%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Best Punishment for Guillen						
The suspension was just right	30%	41%	35%	29%	28%	22%
He should have been suspended longer	17%	15%	15%	16%	22%	13%
He should have been fired	22%	5%	4%	17%	35%	40%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all	27%	39%	43%	34%	11%	14%
Not sure	5%	-	4%	4%	4%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Marlins or Rays Fan?						
Marlins	15%	17%	21%	15%	10%	10%
Rays	19%	9%	13%	17%	30%	21%
Neither team	67%	73%	65%	68%	60%	69%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Support/Oppose Stand Your Ground						
Support	42%	20%	21%	38%	59%	67%
Oppose	32%	52%	51%	38%	17%	3%
Not sure	26%	28%	28%	24%	24%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Agree/Disagree w/ Murder 2 Charge for Zimmerman						
Agree	49%	66%	76%	56%	21%	31%
Disagree	25%	23%	10%	20%	39%	38%
Not sure	26%	10%	14%	24%	41%	31%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Is Zimmerman Guilty?						
He is guilty	31%	76%	46%	31%	10%	17%
He is not	26%	10%	11%	22%	40%	40%
Not sure	43%	14%	43%	47%	50%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Martin Killing Motivated by Racism?						
It was motivated by racism	32%	65%	48%	36%	12%	15%
It was not	45%	20%	23%	38%	63%	73%
Not sure	23%	15%	30%	26%	25%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Can Zimmerman Get a Fair Trial?						
He will be able to receive a fair trial	46%	61%	57%	55%	29%	29%
He will not	37%	17%	26%	31%	51%	54%
Not sure	17%	21%	16%	14%	20%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Castro Favorability			
Favorable	4%	3%	5%
Unfavorable	86%	87%	85%
Not sure	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Guillen Favorability			
Favorable	7%	2%	13%
Unfavorable	26%	21%	31%
Not sure	67%	77%	56%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Guillen Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate			
Appropriate	8%	6%	11%
Inappropriate	39%	34%	46%
Not sure	52%	61%	43%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Best Punishment for Guillen			
The suspension was just right	30%	34%	26%
He should have been suspended longer	17%	13%	20%
He should have been fired	22%	22%	22%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all	27%	24%	29%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Marlins or Rays Fan?			
Marlins	15%	18%	11%
Rays	19%	15%	23%
Neither team	67%	67%	66%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Support/Oppose Stand Your Ground			
Support	42%	33%	53%
Oppose	32%	32%	31%
Not sure	26%	35%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Agree/Disagree w/ Murder 2 Charge for Zimmerman			
Agree	49%	55%	42%
Disagree	25%	19%	33%
Not sure	26%	26%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Is Zimmerman Guilty?			
He is guilty	31%	39%	23%
He is not	26%	18%	34%
Not sure	43%	43%	43%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Martin Killing Motivated by Racism?			
It was motivated by racism	32%	41%	22%
It was not	45%	35%	55%
Not sure	23%	23%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Can Zimmerman Get a Fair Trial?			
He will be able to receive a fair trial	46%	47%	45%
He will not	37%	32%	42%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Castro Favorability				
Favorable	4%	4%	3%	7%
Unfavorable	86%	83%	93%	79%
Not sure	10%	13%	5%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Guillen Favorability				
Favorable	7%	9%	4%	10%
Unfavorable	26%	21%	31%	26%
Not sure	67%	71%	65%	64%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Guillen Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate				
Appropriate	8%	10%	5%	11%
Inappropriate	39%	36%	45%	36%
Not sure	52%	54%	50%	54%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Best Punishment for Guillen				
The suspension was just right	30%	33%	28%	27%
He should have been suspended longer	17%	16%	20%	9%
He should have been fired	22%	12%	34%	17%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all	27%	34%	13%	42%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Marlins or Rays Fan?				
Marlins	15%	21%	10%	11%
Rays	19%	13%	26%	16%
Neither team	67%	66%	64%	73%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Support/Oppose Stand Your Ground				
Support	42%	24%	60%	45%
Oppose	32%	50%	13%	31%
Not sure	26%	26%	27%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Agree/Disagree w/ Murder 2 Charge for Zimmerman				
Agree	49%	72%	25%	49%
Disagree	25%	13%	39%	24%
Not sure	26%	15%	36%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Is Zimmerman Guilty?				
He is guilty	31%	49%	13%	31%
He is not	26%	12%	41%	23%
Not sure	43%	39%	46%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Martin Killing Motivated by Racism?				
It was motivated by racism	32%	47%	14%	38%
It was not	45%	26%	66%	39%
Not sure	23%	27%	20%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Can Zimmerman Get a Fair Trial?				
He will be able to receive a fair trial	46%	57%	29%	57%
He will not	37%	24%	53%	30%
Not sure	17%	18%	17%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Castro Favorability					
Favorable	4%	9%	3%	4%	3%
Unfavorable	86%	82%	90%	69%	78%
Not sure	10%	9%	7%	26%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Guillen Favorability					
Favorable	7%	8%	8%	2%	2%
Unfavorable	26%	39%	24%	25%	23%
Not sure	67%	53%	68%	73%	75%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Guillen Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate					
Appropriate	8%	20%	6%	8%	8%
Inappropriate	39%	45%	41%	21%	46%
Not sure	52%	35%	53%	71%	47%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Best Punishment for Guillen					
The suspension was just right	30%	23%	33%	26%	16%
He should have been suspended longer	17%	16%	16%	15%	27%
He should have been fired	22%	18%	23%	29%	12%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all	27%	37%	25%	26%	20%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%	3%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Marlins or Rays Fan?					
Marlins	15%	30%	12%	17%	12%
Rays	19%	18%	21%	9%	15%
Neither team	67%	52%	67%	75%	73%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Support/Oppose Stand Your Ground					
Support	42%	37%	47%	18%	35%
Oppose	32%	40%	28%	51%	31%
Not sure	26%	23%	25%	32%	34%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Agree/Disagree w/ Murder 2 Charge for Zimmerman					
Agree	49%	59%	42%	84%	58%
Disagree	25%	23%	28%	11%	30%
Not sure	26%	18%	31%	5%	12%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Is Zimmerman Guilty?					
He is guilty	31%	48%	21%	73%	45%
He is not	26%	19%	30%	9%	17%
Not sure	43%	33%	49%	19%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Martin Killing Motivated by Racism?					
It was motivated by racism	32%	44%	24%	68%	42%
It was not	45%	36%	51%	11%	51%
Not sure	23%	20%	25%	21%	7%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Can Zimmerman Get a Fair Trial?					
He will be able to receive a fair trial	46%	55%	42%	65%	34%
He will not	37%	29%	41%	19%	39%
Not sure	17%	16%	17%	16%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Castro Favorability					
Favorable	4%	8%	3%	3%	4%
Unfavorable	86%	77%	86%	89%	87%
Not sure	10%	15%	11%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Guillen Favorability					
Favorable	7%	15%	10%	4%	5%
Unfavorable	26%	27%	28%	26%	23%
Not sure	67%	58%	62%	70%	71%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Guillen Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate					
Appropriate	8%	15%	10%	6%	6%
Inappropriate	39%	35%	33%	41%	43%
Not sure	52%	50%	57%	52%	50%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Best Punishment for Guillen					
The suspension was just right	30%	23%	21%	38%	30%
He should have been suspended longer	17%	15%	10%	14%	23%
He should have been fired	22%	23%	17%	24%	23%
He shouldn't have been suspended at all	27%	38%	41%	20%	20%
Not sure	5%	-	10%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Marlins or Rays Fan?					
Marlins	15%	23%	15%	12%	13%
Rays	19%	19%	17%	19%	20%
Neither team	67%	58%	68%	69%	66%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Support/Oppose Stand Your Ground					
Support	42%	42%	45%	47%	36%
Oppose	32%	38%	34%	26%	33%
Not sure	26%	19%	22%	27%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Agree/Disagree w/ Murder 2 Charge for Zimmerman					
Agree	49%	68%	58%	45%	40%
Disagree	25%	16%	26%	29%	25%
Not sure	26%	16%	15%	26%	35%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Is Zimmerman Guilty?					
He is guilty	31%	58%	38%	23%	25%
He is not	26%	13%	29%	27%	26%
Not sure	43%	29%	32%	50%	48%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Martin Killing Motivated by Racism?					
It was motivated by racism	32%	63%	37%	24%	27%
It was not	45%	25%	40%	52%	48%
Not sure	23%	13%	23%	24%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Can Zimmerman Get a Fair Trial?					
He will be able to receive a fair trial	46%	54%	44%	47%	44%
He will not	37%	29%	44%	37%	34%
Not sure	17%	17%	13%	16%	22%

