

Penta Policy Insiders

Florida Insights Review Series

Infrastructure

Executive Summary

We are excited to share our findings from this year's Florida Insights Review. From April to September 2022, we surveyed and spoke with over 250 state and local policymakers in Florida to understand their policy priorities and how the private and public sectors can collaborate to move forward on important issues.

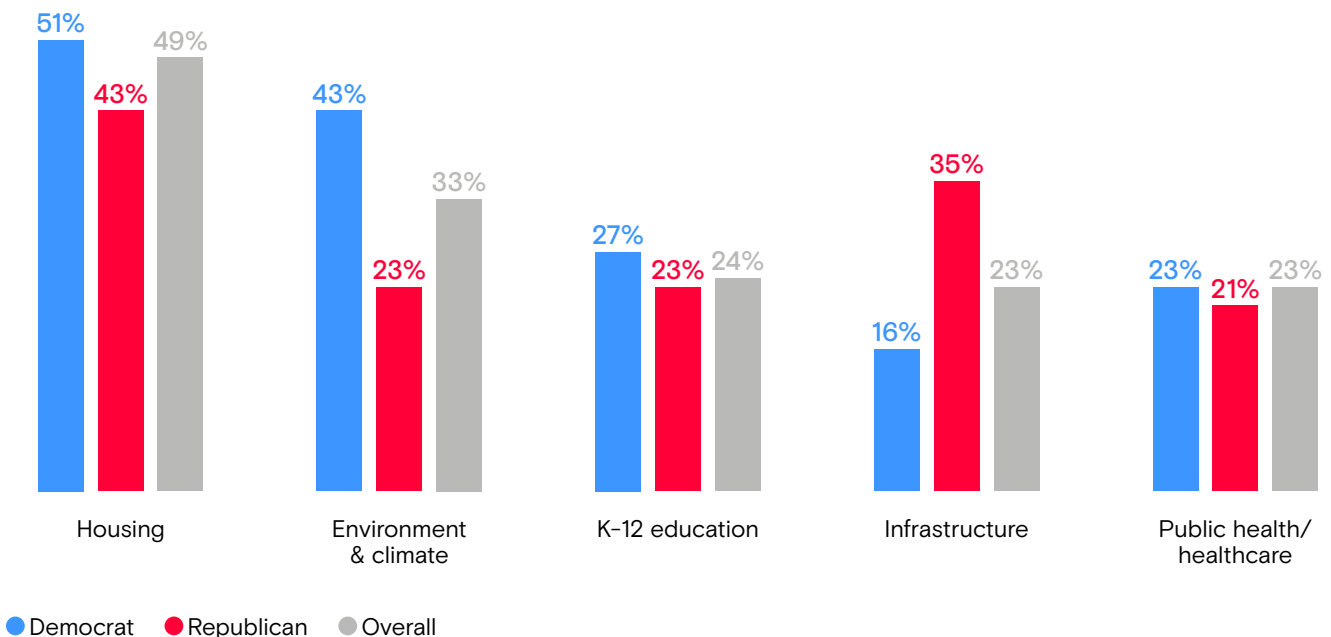
Last year was particularly noteworthy for the state of Florida, which was at the center of national discourse when its business community and political leadership found themselves misaligned over issues relating to corporate engagement on social issues, highlighted by the Parental Rights in Education legislation. Our research in Florida indicates that policymaker perceptions of corporate engagement on social issues vary significantly by party, with Republicans more critical of corporate engagement on these issues.

In fact, 40% of Republican policymakers believe that companies should avoid engaging on social issues, altogether. Those Republican policymakers that welcome private sector engagement tend to suggest that such engagement should be directly related to business functions and avoid overstepping into political issues.

In terms of policy priorities, both Democrats and Republicans report that the state's housing issues are top of mind, while education and healthcare remain in the top five priorities of Florida policymakers.

This report is the fifth in a series that examines Florida policymakers' top policy priorities of 2022. This review examines Infrastructure in the state.

Top policy priorities in Florida

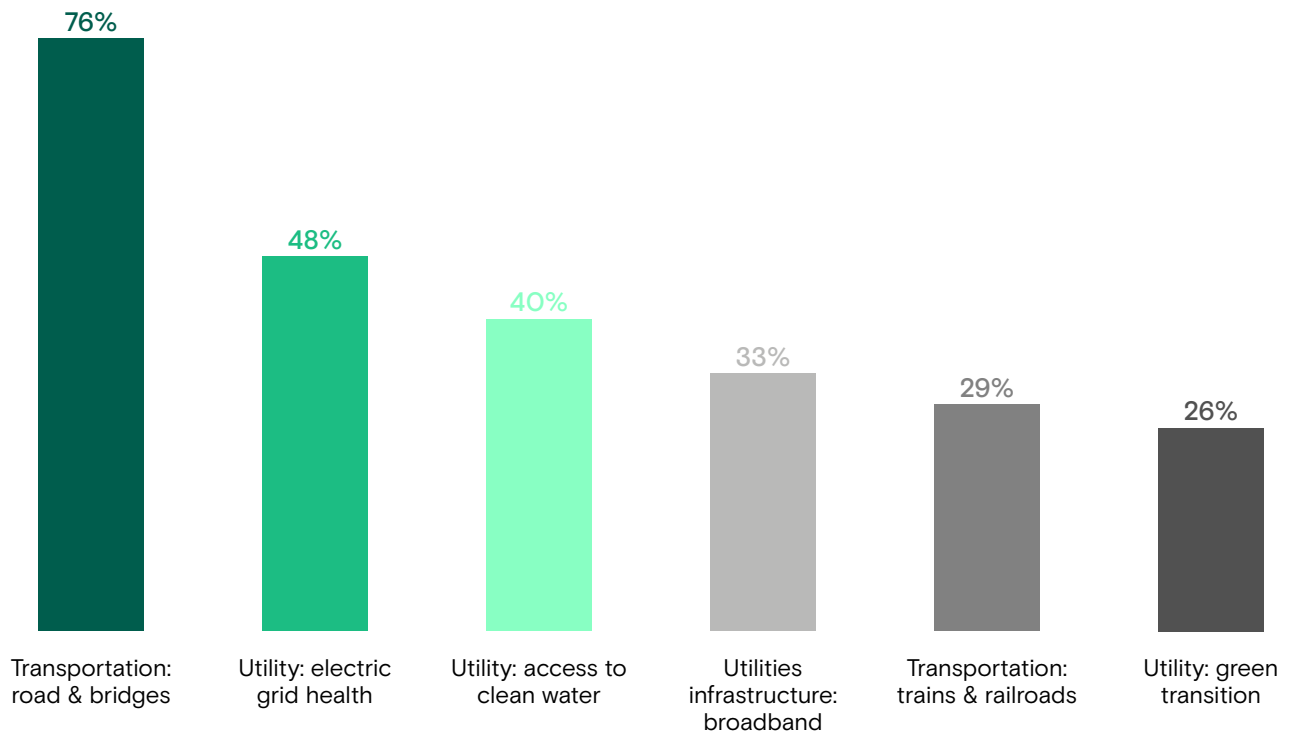


Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a top priority for **almost a quarter** of Florida policymakers. Decision-makers in the state want to improve infrastructure while protecting the state's rich ecology. Indeed, 76 percent of policymakers agree that improving the state's roads and bridges is a pressing priority. The transition to electric vehicles is also top of mind for decision-makers, with leaders on both sides of the aisle concerned about integrating electric cars amidst Florida's aging infrastructure.

Top infrastructure priorities

Multiple selections permitted



Policymakers detail several priorities when it comes to the state's infrastructure including improving roads and bridges, strengthening the electric grid, and building better access to clean water.



I think infrastructure issues should be at the front. And while that normally means roads and things like that, in this context it means being able to respond to the continued influx of population that Florida experiences and frankly, the gigantic boom we're in which means all of the kinds of government services, **not just roads and schools but water. Also, we need to think about health care infrastructure, not just hospitals but professionals to do the work and safety net service needs, particularly, mental health.**

Staff Director, Florida House of Representatives, R



We need to think about how we maintain our infrastructure.

Director, Executive, D

Issue spotlight: Electric vehicle infrastructure

The infrastructure surrounding the transition to electric vehicles is a focal challenge for Florida policymakers, as they are concerned about a shift to electric vehicle technology, particularly for rural communities in the state who lack the infrastructure needed to support the shift. They also want to see increased involvement from the private sector when it comes to expanding electric vehicle infrastructure.



I think the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure is probably going to have to be public-private. I think the companies are going to have to step up to help expand the technology. But the government will probably have a legitimate role to play in trying to establish infrastructure, just like they do with roads and other things.

Government Relations Director, Executive, R



I still don't think we have the infrastructure here to support a transition to electric vehicles... we simply do not have the resources to power this many cars, produce those batteries, and set up charging stations. So I think that is still very much in its infancy. I don't know what direction that's going to go.

Representative, Florida House of Representatives, R



The rural areas have people who cannot afford an electric vehicle... And so it's an economic issue, but it's also an infrastructure issue where there are not enough charging stations.

Legislative Analyst, Florida State Senate, D

Conclusion

Policymakers across the state detail several policy challenges with regard to the state's infrastructure, ranging from the implementation of technology to support the transition to electric vehicles, to revamping roads and bridges. Decision-makers support increased public-private collaboration specifically when it comes to the transition to electric cars.

About Penta Policy Insiders

Penta Policy Insiders provides direct feedback from policymakers to government relations professionals, improving advocates' ability to understand, validate, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their engagement.

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