

For More Information:
Kirsten Borman
850-521-1273
kborman@flchamber.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Florida Chamber Poll: Floridians Support Increasing Property Insurance Options
Voters Support Bill Passed This Session; Crist Job Approval Remains High

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (June 8, 2009) — Today, the Florida Chamber of Commerce released a post-session poll showing that 60 percent of Florida voters believe Governor Crist should sign HB 1171, which increases consumer options for property insurance, while only 24 percent disagree. This legislation was supported by the Florida Chamber of Commerce and gives Florida's consumers the choice of purchasing property insurance through a solvent insurance carrier rather than being forced to purchase through the state-run insurer.

Additionally, the poll shows that Governor Crist continues to have high marks from Florida voters, with a 70 percent job approval rating. 58 percent of Republican respondents indicated their support for Crist in the U.S. Senate race, compared to 17 percent for former Florida House Speaker Marco Rubio.

HB 1171 received strong bi-partisan support this session, passing the Florida Senate by a vote of 27 to 9 and the Florida House 105 to 13; however it must be approved by Governor Crist before it can become law. The bill reduces the risk of hurricane loss to Florida's taxpayers and lowers the potential for hidden hurricane taxes on other policies purchased by Floridians.

"Clearly Florida's voters not only support increasing consumer's property insurance options in the marketplace, they believe Governor Crist should sign it in order to ease concerns about the current insurance market," said Marian Johnson, vice president for political affairs at the Florida Chamber of Commerce. "This poll shows Florida voters are paying close attention to this issue as we move into the 2010 elections."

The statewide telephone poll of 800 registered Florida voters was conducted May 27-29 by Public Opinion Strategies. The poll had a margin of error of +/- 3.46 percent.

Polling Results:

- **60 percent** believe Governor Crist should sign HB 1171; **24 percent** disagree.
- **62 percent** believe consumers should be allowed to choose their property insurance provider "even if the prices are not fully regulated by the state" rather than to be limited to only purchasing insurance from a provider whose prices are fully regulated.
- **60 percent** of Florida voters are either "very" or "somewhat" worried that their insurance company may not be able to pay their claim if the state is hit with more hurricanes this summer, like in 2004 and 2005.
- **70 percent** approve of Governor Crist job approval, **24 percent** disapprove.

- **36 percent** believe Florida is going in the right direction, compared with **53 percent** who believe the state is heading off track.

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Established in 1916 as Florida's first statewide business advocacy organization, the Florida Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest federation of employers, chambers of commerce and associations, representing more than 139,000 employers. The Chamber works within all branches of government to affect those changes set forth in the annual Florida Business Agenda and those that are seen as critical to the continued improvement of Florida's business environment. Visit www.FloridaChamber.com.