Eighty-six percent of Floridians are concerned about the toxic algae blooms plaguing the state’s east and west coasts, according to a university poll released Wednesday.

Among the 800 registered voters polled July 20-21, 53 percent said they are "very concerned" and 33 percent said they are "somewhat concerned," the Florida Atlantic University Business and Economics Polling Initiative said in a news release.

Floridians' top issues remain immigration (29 percent), health care (26 percent), economy (13 percent) and gun control (10 percent). For Democrats, it's health care (34 percent); for Republicans, it's immigration (43 percent); and for Independents, it's a close call between health care (24 percent) and immigration (23 percent).
FAU poll says 86 percent of Floridians are concerned about toxic algae.


In the U.S. Senate race, the poll found:

- Incumbent U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Democrat, trails Republican challenger Gov. Rick Scott, 40 to 44 percent, with 17 percent still undecided
- Nelson's approval rating also trails Scott's, at 32 percent versus 50 percent
- Both had the same disapproval rating of 32 percent.

In the Florida governor's race, the poll found:

- 23 percent of Republicans and 31 percent of Democrats are undecided
- In the Republican primary, Ron DeSantis pulled ahead of Adam Putnam, 36 to 27 percent, after being up by only one point in May's poll.
- In the Democratic primary, Gwen Graham pulled ahead of Philip Levine, 20 to 16 percent, after trailing him by only one point in May's poll.
- Potential votes for the other Democrats were Jeff Greene (14 percent), Chris King (9 percent) and Andrew Gillum (7 percent).

Donald Trump's disapproval rating was 47 percent while his approval rating was 41 percent, down two points from May's poll, when it was the highest since taking office, according to the poll. Still, his support seems to be good for Republican candidates.

"President Trump's backing of Congressman DeSantis appears to have pushed the congressman past the early favorite Adam Putnam in the Republican primary," said Kevin Wagner, professor of political science at FAU and a research fellow of the initiative. "While the president can help Congressman DeSantis in the primary, Mr. Trump's underwater approval ratings may be a drag in the general election."

The survey's margin of error is 3.4 percent overall, 5.9 percent for the Democratic primary and 6 percent for the Republican primary.

Donald Trump Jr., right, greets Florida gubernatorial candidate U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis at a campaign rally Wednesday, July 18, 2018, in Orlando, Fla. (Photo: John Raoux, AP)