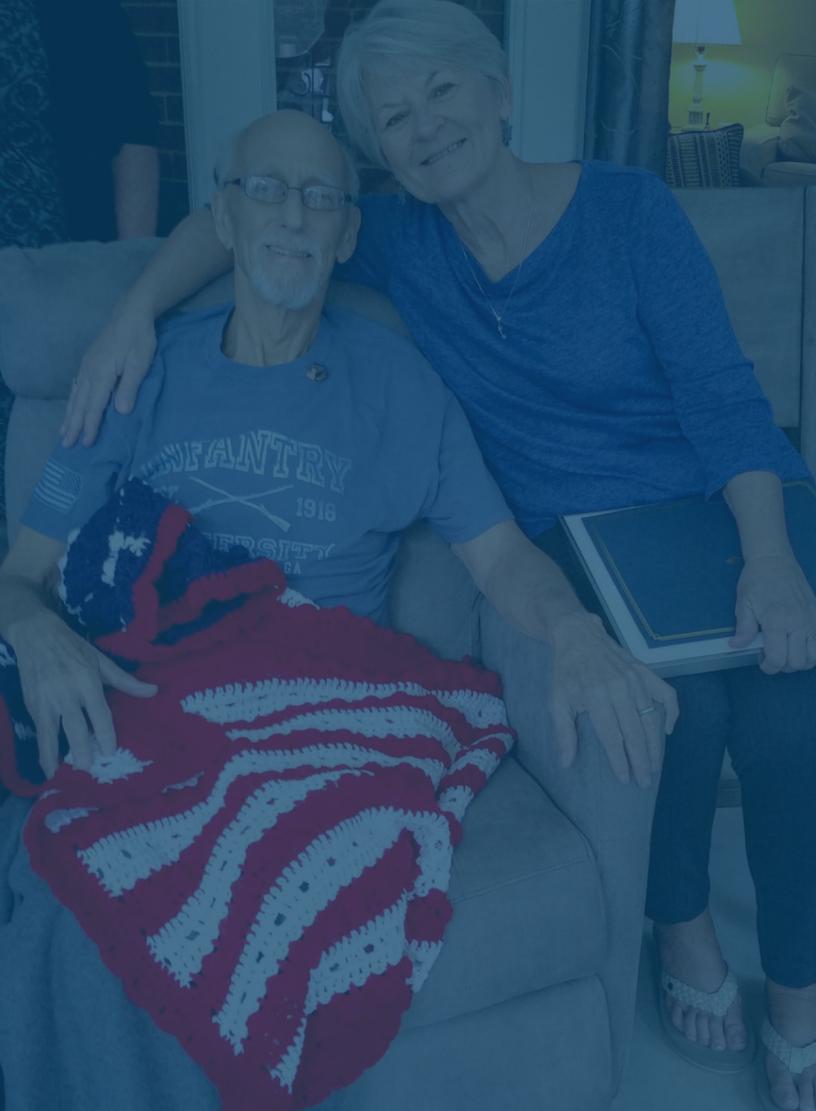




THE NATURE OF VOLUNTEERISM IN FLORIDA

Volunteering Behaviors and Beliefs in the Sunshine State



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INTRODUCTION



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ABOUT VOLUNTEER FLORIDA

In 1994, Volunteer Florida was established in Florida Statutes as one of 52 state service commissions in the nation committed to managing national service programs and fostering volunteerism. The agency also serves as Florida's lead agency for mobilizing volunteers and coordinating donations before, during, and after disasters, including managing the Florida Disaster Fund.

Volunteer Florida provides high-impact resources and opportunities that engage Floridians, strengthen organizations, transform communities and make our state a better place to live.

As the state's lead agency for national service and volunteerism, Volunteer Florida is invested in promoting a culture of volunteerism statewide.



ABOUT VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteering is an effective, enduring mainspring of American civil society. It deeply connects neighbors and is a powerful force for the creation and maintenance of thriving communities. Volunteers strengthen and broaden the work of organizations while supporting and caring for those around them. The value of service is not solely external; those who impact their world by volunteering realize invaluable personal and relational benefits.





STUDY



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ABOUT THE STUDY

Volunteer Florida conducted a unique, large-scale study assessing volunteer engagement perspectives among Floridians.

What motivates us to volunteer and what stands in the way of our involvement? Where do we volunteer and how frequently? What activities are we most committed to? What effect did the COVID-19 pandemic have on our willingness and ability to volunteer?

Answers to questions like these inform public action and strategy for organizations that achieve their strategic goals by mobilizing volunteers.

We hope that these results encourage volunteers, potential volunteers, and those who enlist volunteers in forging forward to #ServeFL.

METHODOLOGY



Volunteer Florida commissioned the University of Florida to develop, implement, and analyze a scientific, quantitative survey of a random sample of Florida residents about the nature of volunteering in Florida.

The survey, disseminated both by mail and online, targeted Florida residents who are 18 years of age or older. The survey sample was stratified across seven regions, with inclusion for all 67 counties and both urban and rural regions of the state.

Approximately 46,000 survey packets were mailed to Florida and U.S. residents, which corresponded with a final sample of 2,088 completions. This provided a margin of error of +/- 2.24 at a 95% confidence level for statewide survey results.

Data is also available by three- and seven-region geographies. This overview report, as well as full survey results for the state and regional areas is available at www.volunteerflorida.org.

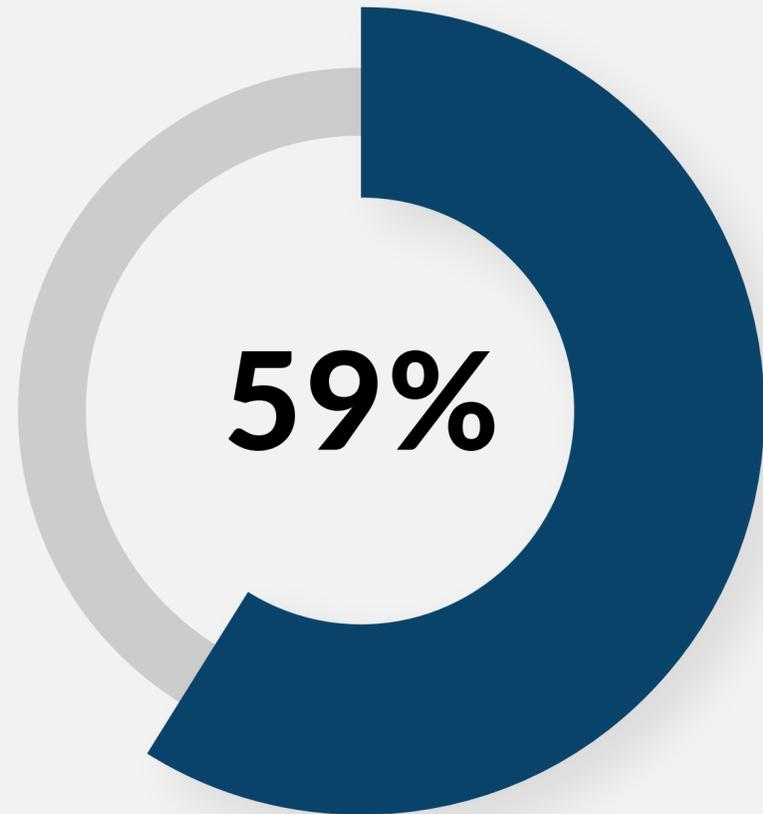


RESULTS

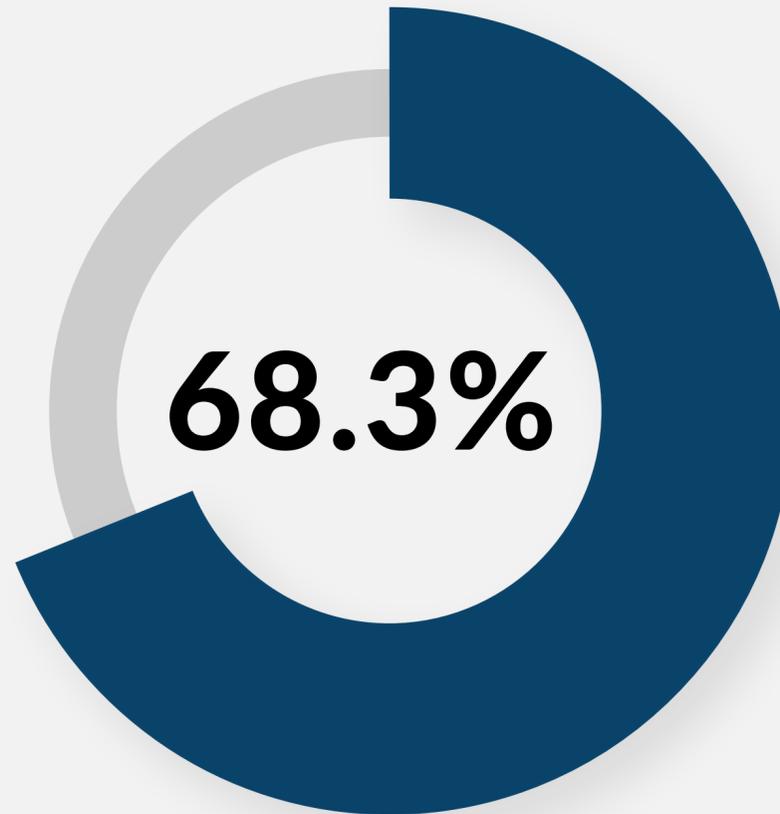


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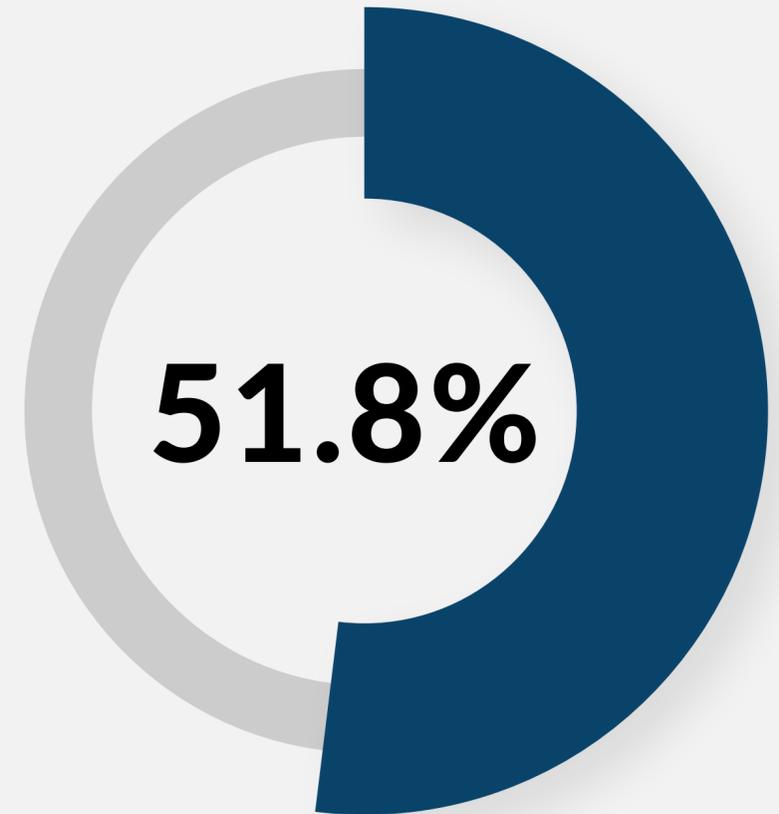
Floridians are invested in the well-being of neighbors and others in their communities.



help their neighbors at least once a month



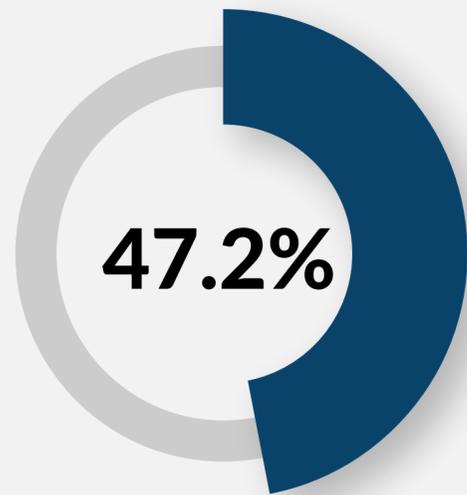
help individuals during a typical year



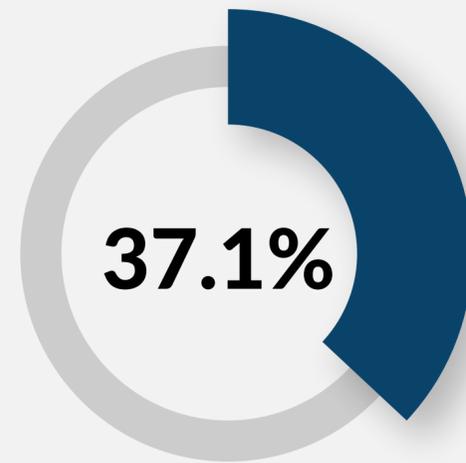
volunteer weekly for at least a quarter of the year or more

Floridians are also committed to supporting the critical missions of non-profits and government entities across the state.

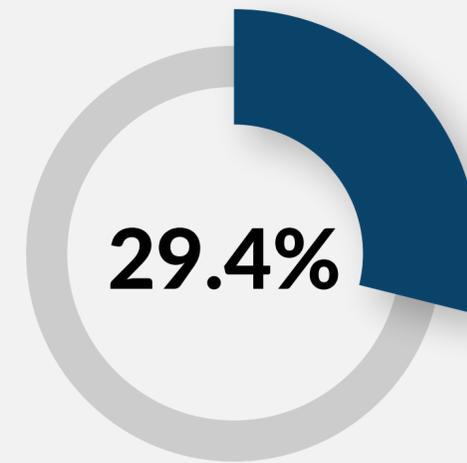
Where do Floridians volunteer?



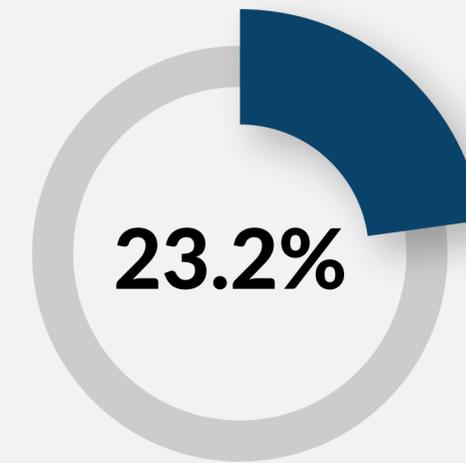
religious organizations



social or community service organizations



educational or youth service organizations



civic, political, professional, or international organizations

Of those who volunteer...



38.9%

Collect, prepare, distribute or serve food



29%

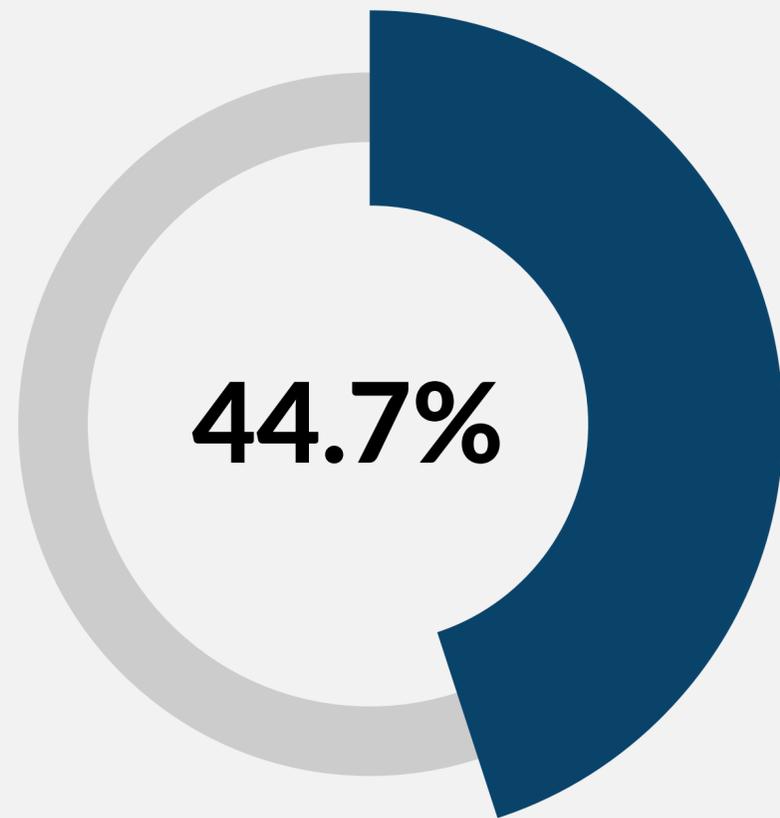
Provide professional management assistance (including serving on a board or in committees)



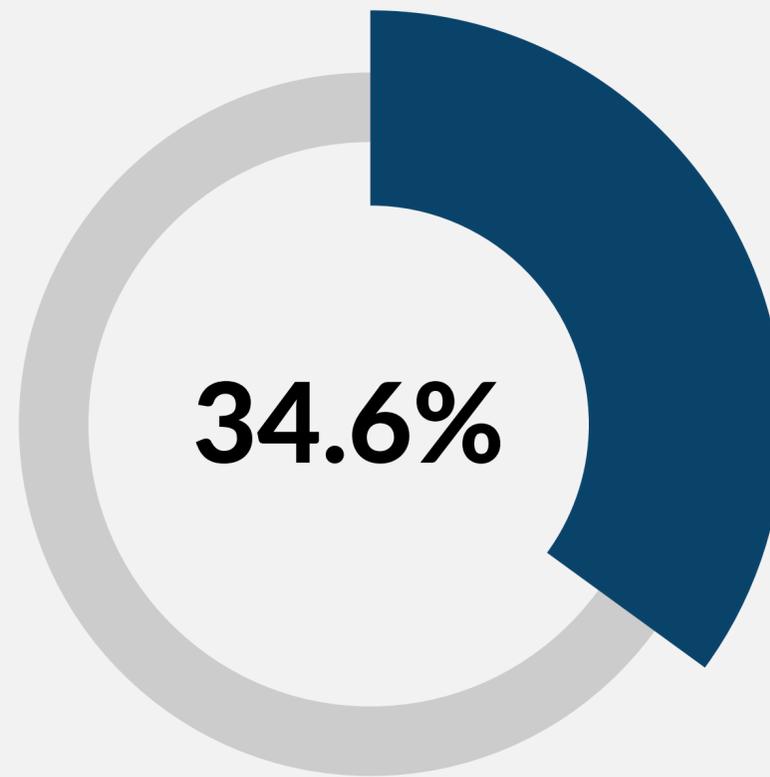
28.5%

Fundraise or sell items to raise money

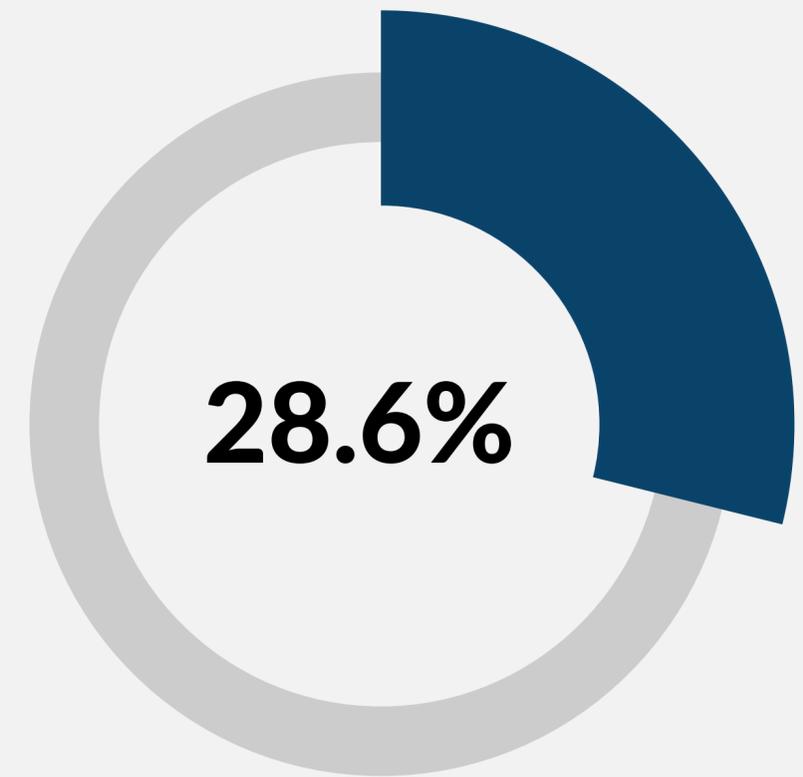
Floridians deeply value the existing volunteer involvement and opinions of family members, friends, or roommates when deciding where to serve.



join organizations initially because of their family member or friend

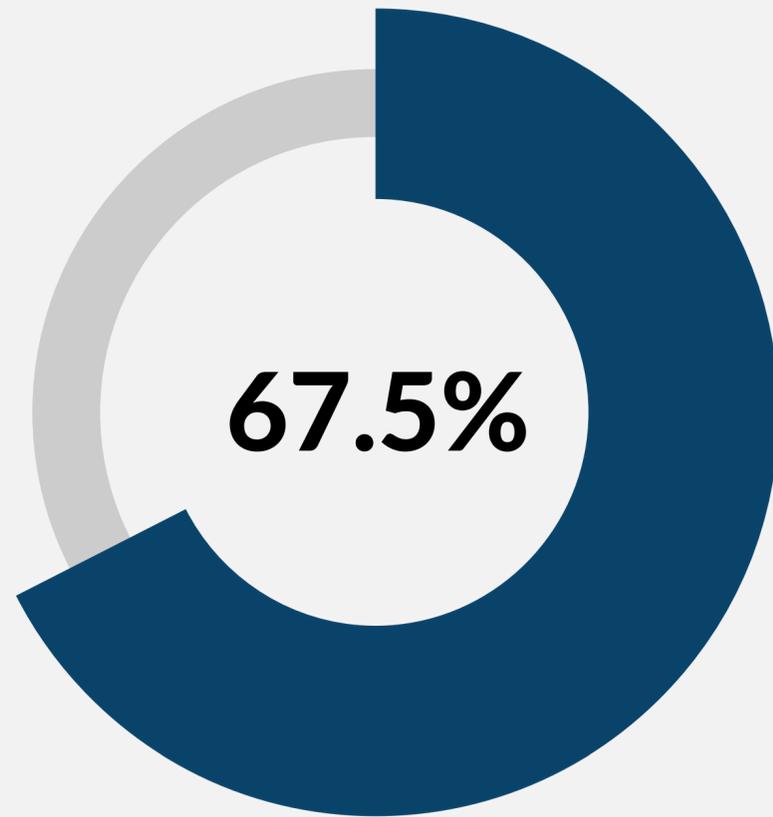


hear about volunteer opportunities through word of mouth

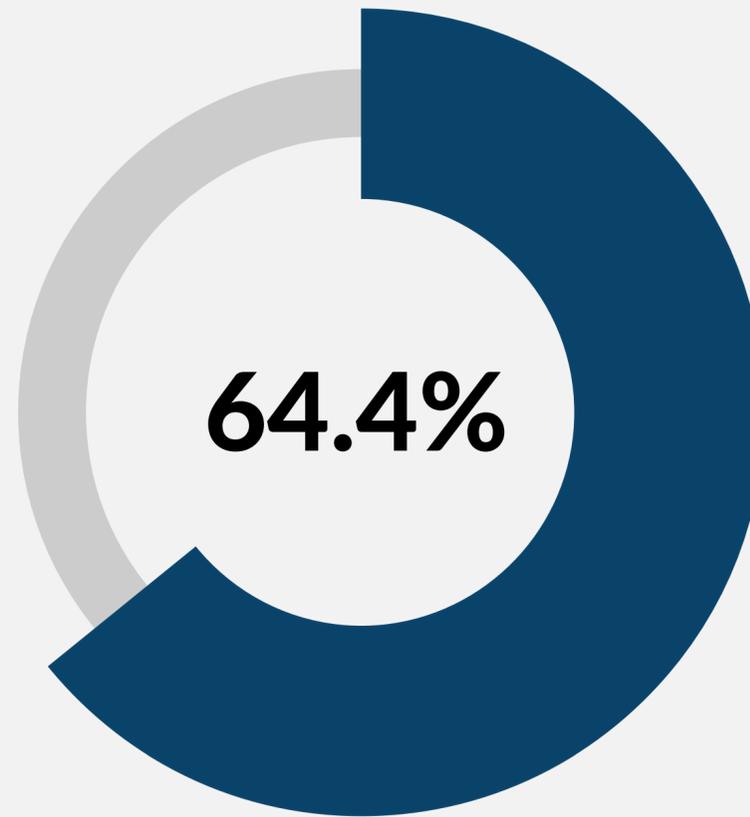


join through a meeting or activity

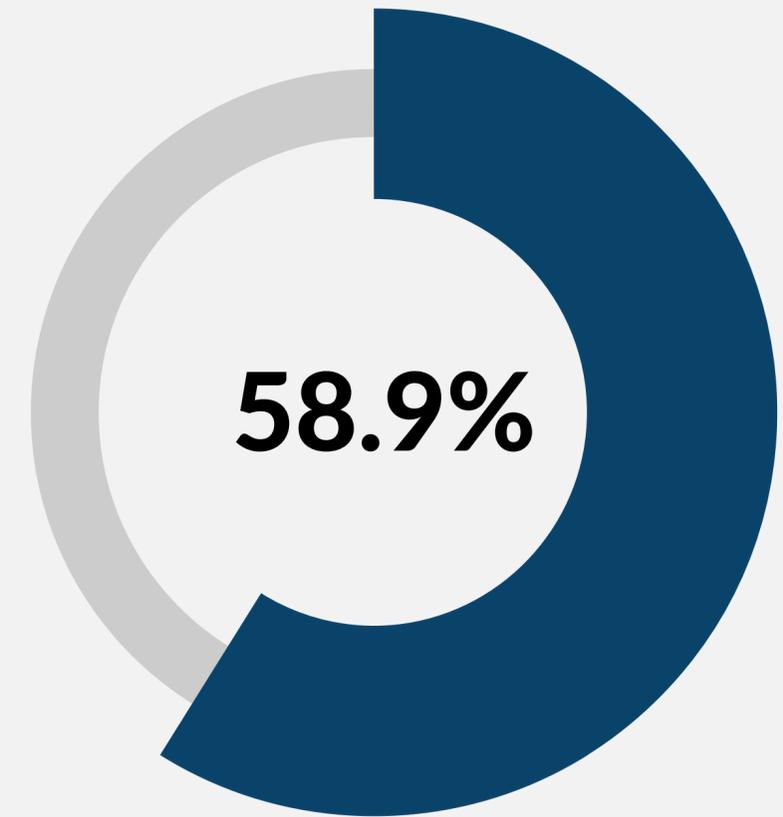
Floridians volunteer for a variety of reasons.



volunteer because it enriches their life or brings them joy

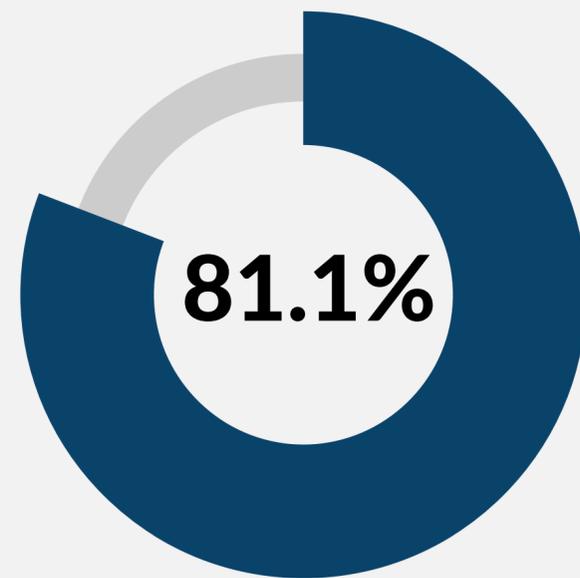


volunteer to contribute to the community

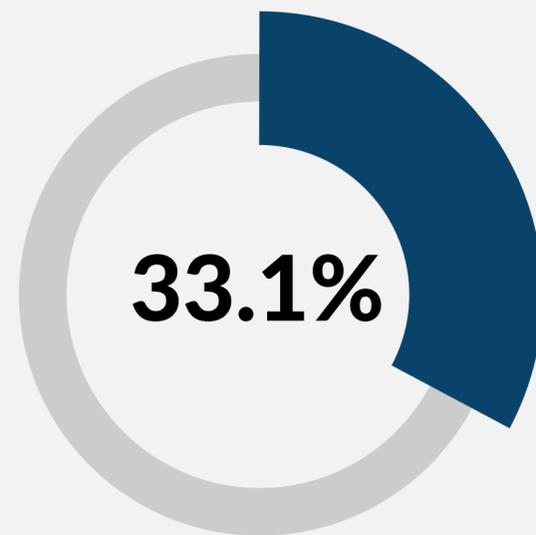


volunteer to help a cause they personally believe in

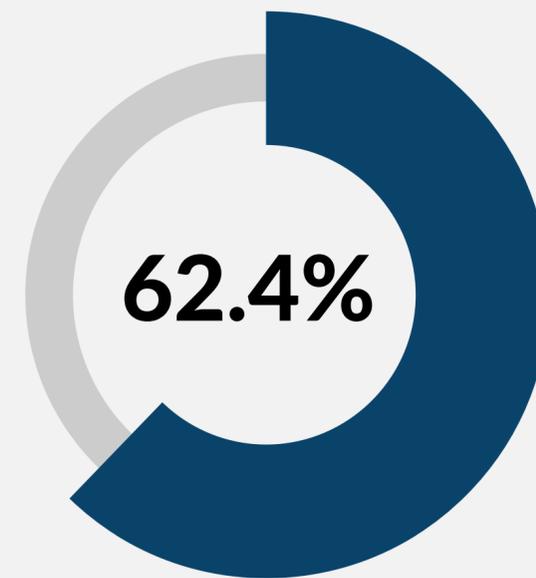
Floridians want to volunteer, but are often constrained by limited free time. Employers can transform that desire into action by offering programs, policies, or paid time off to encourage volunteerism.



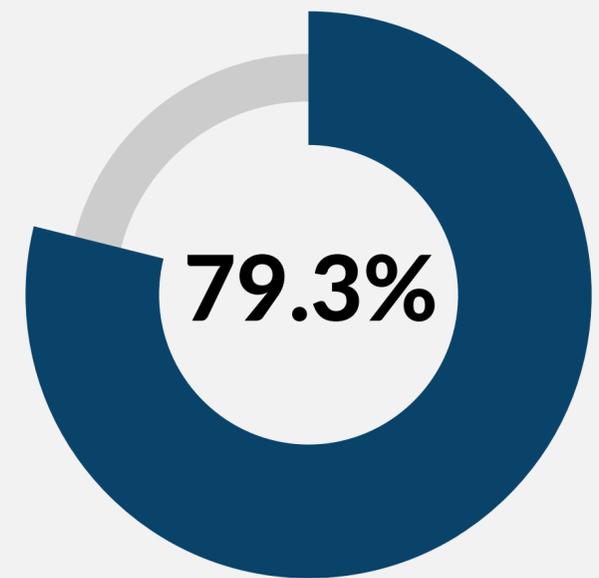
of those who have volunteered are very likely to volunteer again



state not enough free time as a barrier to volunteering



of employers did not have programs/policies to encourage volunteering



of employers did not offer paid time off for volunteering

A group of diverse volunteers and children are gathered outdoors, working on bicycles. The scene is set in a paved area with a chain-link fence in the background. Several bicycles are lined up, and the children are focused on their tasks. The overall atmosphere is one of community service and learning.

**WHERE DO WE
GO FROM HERE?**



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Three Key Takeaways



Floridians...

Share your volunteer experience and its benefits with friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Ask them to participate with you. You can positively influence their decision to serve.



Organizations...

The individuals who currently support your organization with their time and talent are your key ambassadors. Consider volunteer motivations and emphasize the benefits of supporting your mission. Develop flexible volunteer opportunities including one-time, short timeframe, or remote opportunities that will engage more individuals in your work.



Employers...

Consider the benefits of developing employee engagement programs that can increase employee well-being and contribute to your community.

MORE ABOUT US

Across the Sunshine State individuals, families and groups create lasting change by regularly volunteering. They provide for those with unmet needs, preserve the environment, foster animals, build homes, support disaster relief efforts and so much more. Community growth will continue, as Floridians and entities learn about the critical role of volunteerism and its evolving nature.

This overview report, as well as full survey results for the state and regional areas is available at www.volunteerflorida.org.



Volunteer Florida supports capacity-building initiatives, offers grant opportunities and disseminates resources to foster volunteerism in the state. For more information, browse www.volunteerflorida.org.

Volunteer Opportunities: Government entities and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations interested in recruiting volunteers can register for Volunteer Connect, the state's official volunteer opportunities platform. Individuals interested in serving can browse Volunteer Connect for possible ways to serve. Browse www.volunteerflorida.org for more information.



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