Key Findings of Ferguson Research Poll on Attitudes About Healthy Food Access in Four Florida Legislative Districts

- These surveys show solid majority support for the healthy corner stores initiative in all districts.

- Roughly seven in 10 voters in all districts favor the concept of the initiative – an approach in which states and communities provide training, equipment and incentives to small food retailers to stock and sell more healthy foods and beverages.

- Voters in these studies are concerned that 400,000 children in Florida live in communities where they do not have access to healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables due to a lack of grocery stores.

- In both pre- and post-tests, majorities in all districts favor a specific $1,000,000 proposal to provide financial assistance to 200 small food retailers who make a commitment to increase the availability and sales of healthy foods in underserved areas.

- Despite their support for the corner store initiative, voters in all but HD 105 (where 60% say the measure would be effective) have a somewhat hazy view on whether it will be effective in improving access to healthy foods in communities without grocery stores. Although pluralities say the approach will be effective, substantial numbers say either that it will not be effective or that it depends.

- Similarly, voters in most districts are divided as to whether this will be a good use of taxpayer dollars. Again, the exception is HD 105, where a solid majority says it would be a good use of tax dollars.

- Part of this hesitation may be related to voters’ views toward the role of government. That is, voters in these surveys have mixed responses regarding whether government should do more to solve the problems facing the state – both in general and on the specific question of whether Florida's state government should do more to improve access to neighborhood stores where people can buy healthy foods.