Final push for Republicans on eve of Florida's primary

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PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. -- Mitt Romney sang to supporters at a rally in Florida Monday night. One of several last stops before Tuesday's Republican primary.

The latest polls give Romney a double-digit lead over Newt Gingrich. A Suffolk University poll even suggests that lead is as wide as 20 points. A week ago, it was a dead heat.

"I know the speaker is not real happy. Speaker Gingrich. He's not feeling very excited these days. I know, it's sad," Romney said to a crowd at a rally.

Gingrich campaigned all across the state, with a host of conservative friends including former candidate Herman Cain, and Michael Reagan, son of the former president. Gingrich says he has the best chance at defeating President Obama.

"We nominated a moderate in 1996 and he lost. We nominated a moderate in 2008 and he lost. Mitt Romney is more liberal than either of those candidates," said Gingrich.

Gingrich has been outspent 5 to 1 by Romney in Florida. Still, his message of consistent conservatism is finding supporters even without million-dollar ads.

"I think if we nominate him, he won't turn into something else," said Clearwater resident Roger Schneider.

Gingrich and Romney have each won one state. A win in Florida would crown one of them the true frontrunner, and send them into Saturday's Nevada caucuses with a lot of momentum.

He may not be a front runner here in Florida, but Ron Paul supporters are not discouraged. The group held a rally at a bar in Lake Worth Monday night to cheer on their candidate and get supporters ready to head out to the polls.

"We'll have all sorts of material there to make sure voters see that Ron Paul is well supported in Palm Beach County and people will be doing it across the state," said Ron Paul rally organizer Francisco Rodriguez.

"It is an important state. A big state. A swing state. So if you can do well in Florida, it bodes well doing well in other states and in the general election," said FAU political science professor Kevin Wagner.
Regardless of who wins Florida, Republicans plan to come together at the Embassy Suites in Boca Raton Tuesday night for a watch party sponsored by the Boca Raton Republicans.