

# Florida Governor

## THE ISSUES

### CHARLIE CRIST

DEMOCRAT



### RON DESANTIS

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT



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<b>ABORTION</b> Ban or legal?	Legal. <a href="#">Cosponsored a bill to expand abortion services.</a> Would sign an order <a href="#">“defending the right to access a safe abortion.”</a> Was “pro-life” in the 2006 race; now says <a href="#">“I’m pro-choice.”</a> New law that bans all abortions past 15 weeks without exception for rape and incest is <a href="#">“barbaric.”</a>	Mostly ban. <a href="#">“I’m pro-life. I look favorably on pro-life legislation.”</a> Signed a bill that <a href="#">bans abortion after 15 weeks</a> , with <a href="#">exception if a woman’s life is in danger, but none for rape or incest.</a> <a href="#">Signed a bill requiring parental consent of minors</a> to have an abortion. <a href="#">Praised the repeal of Roe v. Wade.</a>
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Should climate change be a top priority? Tax or limit the output of greenhouse gases, or support renewable energy?	Yes. <a href="#">“The time to act is yesterday.”</a> Wants Florida to reach <a href="#">one million solar roofs</a> with tax credits, low-cost financing, and low-income solar grants. <a href="#">Cosponsored a bill for the US to meet the Paris Agreement standards.</a> <a href="#">Voted to reduce greenhouse gases and boost clean energy.</a>	Mixed. In 2019 said he is <a href="#">neither a “climate change denier” nor a “climate change believer.”</a> <a href="#">Vetoed a bill</a> that would allow public utilities to <a href="#">impose fees on solar panel installation.</a> Signed a law <a href="#">preventing local governments from restricting or banning fossil fuel infrastructure.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	No recent position found. In 2014, <a href="#">reversed his support for private school vouchers</a> , part of the Scholarship program he signed into law in 2010, <a href="#">saying he no longer supported expanding them.</a>	Yes. Signed a bill <a href="#">expanding private school vouchers, allowing public funding of private school tuition.</a> <a href="#">Supports the Tax Credit Scholarship program.</a>
<b>EDUCATION</b> How to address the teaching of issues around racism and gender identity?	<a href="#">“To not teach what the facts are, and were in American history [including slavery,] what is that? Head in the sand education?”</a> Would <a href="#">repeal laws regulating race and LGBTQ+ education.</a> <a href="#">Opposes conversion therapy.</a> Says limits on classroom discussion of sexual orientation in the <a href="#">“Don’t Say Gay Bill”</a> are <a href="#">“hateful.”</a>	Signed bill <a href="#">prohibiting teachers from giving lessons that make students feel “guilt, anguish” based on actions “in which the person played no part.”</a> Such lessons teach kids <a href="#">“to hate our country and to hate each other.”</a> Signed <a href="#">bill that prohibits classroom discussion</a> about sexual orientation and gender identity in some grades.
<b>EDUCATION</b> Increase funding for K-12 and higher education?	Yes. Would spend \$5.5 billion to <a href="#">increase teachers’ salaries, and raise state per-student spending, now 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation.</a> <a href="#">Cosponsored a bill to give basic needs grants to college students.</a>	Yes. His budget <a href="#">raises per-student funding to \$8,143, the highest in state history.</a> It invests <a href="#">\$800 million to bring starting teacher pay to over \$48,000, and allots funding to colleges.</a>
<b>ELECTIONS</b> Did Joe Biden legitimately win the 2020 presidential election?	Yes. It is a <a href="#">“Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen.”</a> The election was <a href="#">“free and fair.”</a>	<a href="#">Won’t say if election was stolen.</a> In Nov. 2020, suggested that <a href="#">Trump supporters contact GOP legislatures who can “provide remedies.”</a> <a href="#">Supports candidates who deny the election.</a>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b> Loosen to tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. Promises to <a href="#">strengthen regulations for overflow from agricultural lands and limit back-pumping into Lake Okeechobee.</a> Supports <a href="#">backing state water regulators to protect wetlands and waterways.</a> <a href="#">Cosponsored a bill levying a fee on methane emissions.</a>	Mixed. <a href="#">Opposes oil drilling in some wetlands.</a> Backed <a href="#">a proposal to ban fracking</a> , but not all forms of drilling. <a href="#">Supports Everglades restoration.</a> <a href="#">Approved plans to build a highway through wetlands</a> meant for Everglades preservation.

ISSUES	CRIST(D)	DESANTIS(R)
<b>GUN RULES</b> Pass less or more restrictive legislation on guns?	More. Wants <a href="#">background checks for “all firearm sales.”</a> Would limit <a href="#">“handgun purchases to once per month,”</a> <a href="#">crack down on “untraceable ghost guns,”</a> and <a href="#">strengthen red flag laws.</a> Supports <a href="#">banning assault weapons.</a> Cosponsored a bill <a href="#">expanding federal firearm regulations.</a>	Less. Supports <a href="#">allowing public firearm carry without training or a permit.</a> Signed a bill to <a href="#">ban local governments from imposing</a> gun regulation. Signed a bill allowing people with concealed- weapons licenses to <a href="#">carry firearms at religious institutions that share properties with schools.</a>
<b>HEALTH CARE</b> Increase government role in health care, such as expanding Medicaid, limiting drug prices, or promoting COVID safety?	Yes. <a href="#">Would expand Medicaid,</a> <a href="#">lower prescription drug costs,</a> and <a href="#">expand COVID protection assistance for seniors.</a> Voted for bills to lower <a href="#">prescription</a> and <a href="#">Medicare drug costs.</a> <a href="#">Supports mask mandates when “scientists advise.”</a>	Mixed. Supports <a href="#">funding safety-net health care providers.</a> <a href="#">Opposed Medicaid expansion.</a> In 2020, <a href="#">ordered COVID safety measures.</a> Later <a href="#">opposed mask mandates</a> and <a href="#">shutdowns.</a> <a href="#">Encouraged vaccinations,</a> but banned <a href="#">vaccine mandates.</a>
<b>IMMIGRATION</b> How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	Says <a href="#">accepting immigrants is “our tradition as Americans.”</a> <a href="#">Supports extending Temporary Protected Status to immigrants that fled violent regimes.</a> <a href="#">DACA DREAMers should get citizenship.</a> <a href="#">Supported the American Dream and Promise Act.</a>	His budget Includes \$8 million to <a href="#">“protect against harms from illegal immigration.”</a> Would <a href="#">shut down shelters for unaccompanied immigrant children.</a> Said <a href="#">“DACA is unconstitutional and the President is duty-bound to rescind it.”</a>
<b>LABOR</b> Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. <a href="#">Cosponsored the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.</a> Supports <a href="#">teacher unions having a role in deciding pay and health care options.</a>	Unclear. Blames <a href="#">“union bosses” for making public school teacher requirements “too rigid.”</a>
<b>LGBTQ RIGHTS</b> Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. Cosponsored bills <a href="#">prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity</a> and <a href="#">protecting same-sex marriage.</a> In 2021 was named <a href="#">Vice Chair of the House LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus.</a>	Limit. Will <a href="#">restrict Medicaid insurance coverage for gender dysphoria treatments.</a> Signed a bill <a href="#">banning transgender females from participating in women’s sports</a> & an anti-discrimination order for state employees that <a href="#">excluded LGBTQ people.</a>
<b>MARIJUANA</b> Should recreational marijuana be banned or legal?	Legal. <a href="#">“I will legalize marijuana in the Sunshine State.”</a> Supports <a href="#">growing marijuana at home and expunging sentences for possession.</a> Supported a bill for <a href="#">federal marijuana decriminalization.</a>	Ban. Says <a href="#">many places that legalize marijuana end up “regretting it.”</a> Recreational marijuana has <a href="#">“a really detrimental effect”</a> on young people’s <a href="#">“well-being and maturity.”</a>
<b>MINIMUM WAGE</b> Keep or raise the state minimum? If raise, how much?	Likely raise. In U.S. House <a href="#">cosponsored a bill that would gradually raise federal minimum wage to \$15 by 2025.</a>	Keep. Opposed a <a href="#">constitutional amendment to raise state minimum to \$15 per hour by 2026.</a>
<b>POLICE AND COMMUNITY</b> How to address police use of force?	<a href="#">Opposes defunding the police.</a> Supports <a href="#">“proper training and screenings that will weed out bad actors.”</a> <a href="#">Voted for a bill to end use of chokeholds.</a> Supports <a href="#">body-worn cameras for accountability.</a>	Signed bills <a href="#">that require use-of-force training</a> and limited use of chokeholds, <a href="#">have police pay raises and new perks.</a> Also <a href="#">allow police to arrest protesters who don’t disperse after a warning.</a>
<b>STUDENT FINANCIAL AID</b> Support lowering interest on student loans or forgiving them?	Yes. <a href="#">Supports refinancing</a> and cosponsored a bill <a href="#">expanding student loan forgiveness.</a>	No to forgiving. <a href="#">“It’s unfair to force a truck driver to pay” for someone’s “PhD in gender studies.”</a> Supports <a href="#">price reduction in Florida Prepaid Plan.</a>
<b>TAXES</b> Should corporations and wealthier individuals pay less or more taxes?	More. <a href="#">Opposes tax rebates given to large corporations in Florida.</a> Worked to have <a href="#">the IRS focus on the “massive corporations and the wealthiest 1%”</a> in the Inflation Reduction Act.	Less. <a href="#">Signed bill that provided corporate tax relief.</a> Signed bill ending Disney’s special municipal status, but <a href="#">kept its tax breaks.</a>
<b>VOTING RULES</b> Support tightened restrictions on such voting rules as absentee and early voting, and voter ID?	No. <a href="#">Will “roll back” limits on mail ballots,</a> <a href="#">automatically register driver’s license applicants and make it easier for ex-felons to vote.</a> Cosponsored bill to <a href="#">expand voting options.</a>	Yes. Signed a bill <a href="#">strengthening existing voter ID laws and prohibiting mass ballot mailing,</a> parts of which <a href="#">a federal judge overturned.</a> <a href="#">Created an elections police unit</a> to stop voter fraud.

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