

Florida US Senate 2024

THE ISSUES

DEBBIE
MUCARSEL
POWELL

DEMOCRAT



RICK
SCOTT

REPUBLICAN • INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Legal. Supports the ballot measure to guarantee abortion rights in the Florida constitution. Supports federal protection of abortion rights. Bans like Florida's " are putting women's lives at risk" and strip women of "fundamental freedoms."	Ban. Supported Florida's 6-week ban . Celebrated the Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade. Opposes the Florida ballot measure to guarantee abortion rights. Voted for a national 20-week ban . Now says leave decision to states.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	Yes. "Climate change is real ... impacting Floridians, their lives, and their property." Will act to address it. Has supported building smart power grids, upgrading buildings for maximum efficiency, removing greenhouse gases from transportation and agricultural sectors, and strengthening building codes to withstand future storms.	No. As governor, rolled back climate change initiatives. State employees said his administration banned them from using the term "climate change." In 2021 said it is real; would focus on addressing impacts without killing the economy. Opposed both Biden's \$369 billion clean energy investment and rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	"We must continue in the fight for justice and accountability within our institutions." Voted to require police reforms such as more body-camera use and banning chokeholds. Address "underlying systemic racism " in policing.	Strengthen qualified immunity and legal protections for police. Opposes "proposals like defunding." Supported optional incentives to increase use of body cameras, improve training, and diminish chokeholds.
ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of the economy?	Increase. Expand child tax credit for lower-income families. Invest in job and vocational training. Opposes consolidation of grocery chains. Will work to lower property insurance costs and cap drug prices .	Decrease. "We will shrink ... the government work force by 25% in 5 years." "Reducing burdensome government regulations aids with economic growth" and increases government efficiency. Voted against \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill.
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	No. Opposes Florida's " Stop WOKE Act " that banned race-based conversations. Opposes limits on teaching about slavery; "we must include all... of our history for our children so that they can... build a better future." Supported a national anti-bullying bill .	Yes. "It is time for schools to stop pushing these woke ideologies." Supports Florida's restrictions on teaching sexuality and gender identity in schools. Students should not be taught that "some Americans are oppressors and others are oppressed."
ELECTIONS Did Joe Biden win the 2020 Presidential election?	Yes. " January 6 was the largest threat to our democracy." Trump tried to overturn "free & fair elections."	Mixed. On Jan. 6, 2021, objected to the Electoral College vote count. But in Feb 2021 : "Joe Biden won the election."
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Tighten. "Our environment is at the heart of everything." Advocated for federal funding to restore the Everglades. Introduced a bill to require using 20 percent of federal water quality clean funds for " green infrastructure ."	Mostly loosen. Voted to roll back an EPA emissions rule. Cut budgets of state environmental agencies. Helped to secure Everglades funding.

ISSUES	MUCARSEL POWELL (D)	SCOTT (R)
GUN RULES Loosen or tighten gun regulation?	Tighten. Lost her father to a shooting, so “made it my life's work to end” gun violence. Advocated increasing firearms safety. Voted to expand background checks.	Mostly loosen. Opposes “every attempt to deny our 2nd Amendment freedoms.” Opposed raising age to own semiautomatic firearms. Supports “red flag” laws.
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Increase. Healthcare is “central” to her work. Expand Affordable Care Act and include a public option. Expand coverage of pre-existing conditions. Cap insulin costs for all Americans. Limit drug price increases. No Floridian should “worry about seeking the care they need.”	Mostly decrease. Wants less government action. Sued to overturn the Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, then wanted to repeal it. Threatened to sue to avoid penalties for rejecting Medicaid expansion, which he first supported and then opposed .
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants?	Wants “major” reforms, starting with “legal pathways.” Supported 2024’s bipartisan border security bill. Voted for a path to permanent residence for DACA.	Opposes all immigration reform until “our border is secured.” Opposed a Biden order aiding undocumented spouses of US citizens. Urged Trump to not end DACA.
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Easier. Looks forward to “fighting to defend labor rights.” Voted for PRO Act to protect workers’ rights to organize unions.	Harder. Supports the National Right-to-Work Act, which would let employees in a unionized workplace not pay union dues.
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Expand. “I will always fight to protect the LGBTQ+ community.” Voted to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.	Limit. Voted against same-sex marriage protection because it didn't protect “religious liberties.” Ban transgender women and girls from female sports.
MARIJUANA Ban or legal?	Legal. Legalize recreational marijuana, but with education. Young kids shouldn’t “think that... it’s OK for everybody to use it.”	Ban. Opposes Florida legalization initiative. “I’ve never supported legalization of drugs.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Yes. “ Working Americans making minimum wage shouldn’t live in poverty or be forced to work several jobs to make ends meet.” Supported a 2019 bill to gradually raise to \$15.	No. “A federal \$15 minimum wage hurt[s] small businesses.” As governor, opposed raising the state minimum. The pressing problem is inflation caused by “Biden and the Democrats’ spending” — not wages.
SOCIAL SECURITY Cut Social Security or raise retirement age to stabilize the program?	No. As “primary caretaker ” for her elderly mother, understands “the critical role” of Medicare and Social Security. Would protect Social Security and expand Medicare access.	Unclear. His 2022 plan made government reauthorize all its programs every 5 years. But in 2023 said he would exempt Social Security, Medicare, and veterans services.
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	Yes. Supports canceling student debt. With student debt, “the consumer loses & only the financial institutions profit.” Sponsored a bill to kill interest on federal student loans.	No. “ Biden's student loan bailout will cost ALL Americans.” It’s a “socialist handout .” Schools should be “on the hook for student debt.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Raise. “When the wealthiest Americans are given extreme tax cuts... our country suffers.” About the Trump tax cuts : “We need a tax code that puts middle class and small businesses first—not tax breaks for the top one percent and corporations.”	Lower. Favors maintaining the Trump tax cuts, which reduced the corporate rate from 35 to 21 percent. Wants no tax increases without approval by two thirds of the US House and Senate. Supported making all low-income adults pay federal income tax.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Easier. Supports the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to increase enforcement of voting rights. Also voted to expand access to voter registration and voting, limit removing voters from the rolls, and require independent, nonpartisan redistricting.	Harder. Supports stricter nationwide requirements for registration, voter ID, and mail-in ballots. Same-day registration “does not allow election officials to verify” voter information’s validity and accuracy. As governor, banned campus early-voting sites.

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