



**Florida's Freedom
Starts Here.**



WHY OUR NATION IS IN POLITICAL TURMOIL AND HOW WE CAN MOVE FORWARD

Presentation to
BLUE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

Presented by Michelle Jennings, Precinct Committeewoman and Robin Dion, Chair, St. Johns County Democratic Party

<https://stjohnsdemocrats.org>



THE FILIBUSTER EXPLAINED



Presentation Overview

- The Media Landscape: Fake News and “The Big Lie”
- Challenges to our System of Government
- Key Tenets of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party
- The 2022 Mid-Term Election in Florida
- Voting in Florida

The Media Landscape

Voters are more easily disinformed than ever before

All the “Media Guardrails” disappeared as of 2011



The Evolution of Regulating the News Media 1947-2011: The Fairness Doctrine

The Fairness Doctrine of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), introduced in **1949**, was a policy that *required the holders of broadcast licenses, which was the only media platform, both to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that fairly reflected differing viewpoints.*

In **1985**, however, the **FCC** *decided that the doctrine had a “chilling effect” upon freedom of speech.* At about that time, representatives of cable and satellite television networks challenged the applicability of the doctrine to their industries.

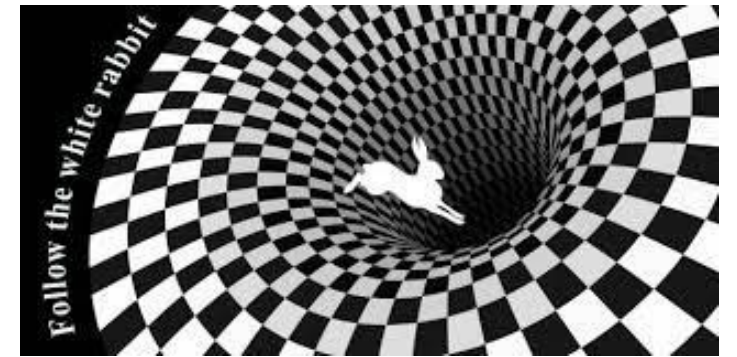
In **1987** the **FCC** *formally repealed the fairness doctrine* but maintained both the *editorial and personal-attack provisions, which remained in effect* until **2000**. More than 80 media rules retained language that implemented the doctrine until they were *finally repealed by the commission* in **2011**.

Media Bias / Fake News: Be a Discerning News Consumer

With the proliferation of streaming, web, podcasts, cable and social media, the media options for news consumers are endless...but what can be trusted to be **REAL NEWS**?

- Channels can have **Media Bias**: Extreme **right** and Extreme **left**
- Channels can be **reliable** sources of news OR **propaganda**

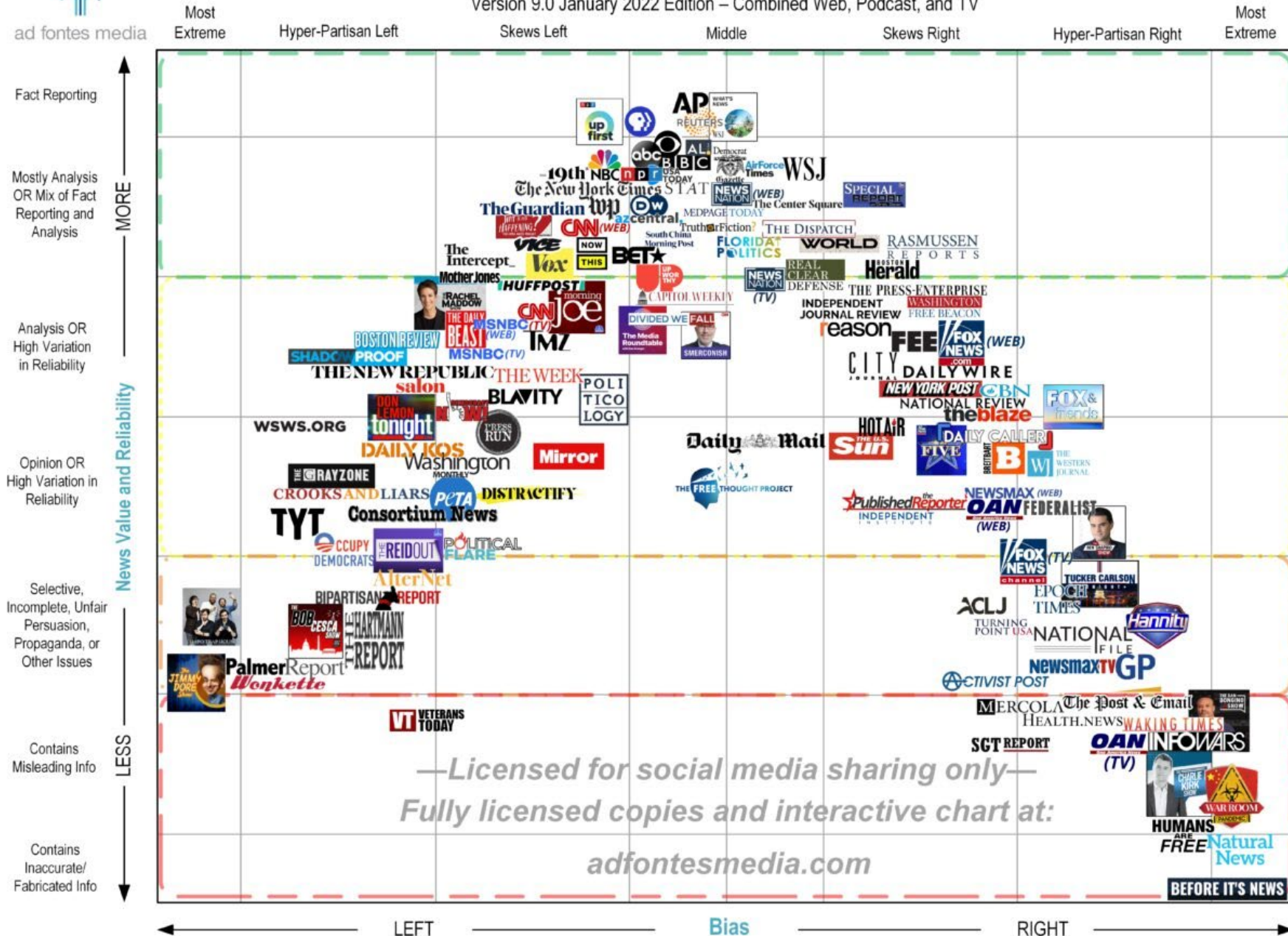
People “*self select*” their news sources. Cookies track online consumer behavior and reinforce that behavior by serving up similar content. It is easy to go down a rabbit hole of mis-information if you are not a discerning news consumer.





The Media Bias Chart ®

Version 9.0 January 2022 Edition – Combined Web, Podcast, and TV



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Fully licensed copies and interactive chart at:

adfontesmedia.com

News Reliability in Relation to Media Bias

Hyper-Partisan Left/
Selective or Incomplete Story

DAILY KOS

 **CCUPY DEMOCRATS**

BIPARTISAN REPORT

PalmerReport

 **CROOKS
AND
LIARS**

Most Reliable / Least Bias

n p r

AP

**CBS
NEWS**



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WSJ


PBS

**The
Washington
Post**

Bloomberg

The New York Times

Hyper-Partisan Right/
Selective or Incomplete Story

THE
**DAILY
WIRE**

**FOX
NEWS
channel**


OAN
One America News Network

**DAILY
CALLER**

INFOWARS

NEWS PUNCH
WHERE MAINSTREAM FEARS TO TREAD

The “Big Lie” & the January 6th Select Committee Hearings

There is a portion of the US population that still believes Trump won the 2020 Election, in part by being fed and believing “fake news”

The January 6th Select Committee has produced evidence indicating that “Team Trump” attempted a deliberate and planned criminal conspiracy to stop the peaceful transfer of power

The Attorney General, Merrick Garland, along with the Department of Justice has convened a Grand Jury

The Grand Jury will determine if Trump and others will be prosecuted for felony crimes, including treason, conspiracy, and sedition.

Challenges to Our System of Government

The Electoral College

A Non-Representative Supreme Court

Increased use of the Filibuster

Gerrymandered Districts

Three Co-Equal Branches of the Federal Government

Executive Branch

- President, Vice President & Cabinet
- Federal Agencies (such as Depts. of Justice, Commerce, Education, Health & Human Services, Defense)



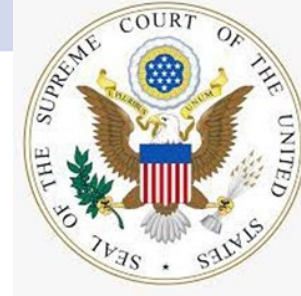
Legislative Branch

- The Senate: 2 elected Senators per State
- The House of Representatives: Weighted to the population of each State



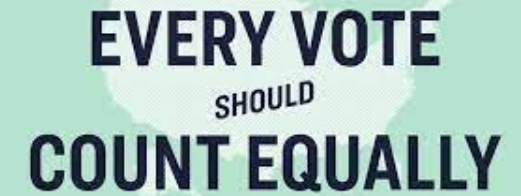
Judicial Branch

- The U.S. Supreme Court and Lower Federal Courts



The Electoral College Elects the President

- When we vote for President, we vote for the electors of a candidate who then vote in the Electoral College.
- The electors generally cast their votes for the winner of the popular vote in their respective states. However, there are several states where this is not required by law.
- Only **29** States and the District of Columbia have legal control over how their electors vote in the Electoral College. *As of **2020**, there are **17** States that do not legally require their electors to vote in accordance with the state's popular vote.*
- In the United States, **270** electoral votes of the **538** electors are currently required to win the presidential election. $270/538 = 51\%$
- *There is an ongoing movement to replace the Electoral College with the Popular Vote.*



EVERY VOTE
SHOULD
COUNT EQUALLY



ONE PERSON
ONE VOTE
ABOLISH
THE
ELECTORAL
COLLEGE



Give the
VOTE
back to
the
PEOPLE

Abolish
the
Electoral
College

How was Roe v. Wade Overturned? Republican Presidents Stacked the Supreme Court with Conservatives



- The Supreme Court is a **Lifetime** Appointment, Nominated by the President and confirmed by Congress. **Once a Supreme Court Justice, their decisions become the law of the Land.**
- Five Supreme Court Justices appointed during Republican Administrations **overturned Roe vs Wade** on June 24th, 2022. A woman's right to control her reproductive destiny had been the law of the land since **1973**.
- All five of those Judges told Congress in their Congressional confirmation hearings that Roe vs Wade was settled Law, so **they lied to Congress in their Congressional hearings.**
- An NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll released May 2022 found that **64% of Americans opposed overturning Roe**. A June 2022 Gallup Poll shows that **support for legal abortion** under any or most circumstances jumped among Democrats and is now **82%**.
- The Constitution (Article III, Section 1) **gives Congress the authority to change the size of the Supreme Court**. Congress has used that authority **seven times before**.
- To restore balance and integrity to a broken institution, some senators have proposed that Congress **expand the Supreme Court by four or more seats.**

The Filibuster



States elect two U.S. Senators of any party, regardless of the state's population size. Right now, in this Senate, there are 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans.

There is an **arbitrary Senate rule** in place called **the Filibuster**, a parliamentary procedure in which one or more members of a legislative body prolong debate on proposed legislation for the purpose of delaying or entirely preventing a decision. 60 votes are needed to end debate (break the filibuster) and proceed to a vote.

With the Filibuster in place, only select legislation, like the budget, can be passed with simple majority rule. Thus, Democrats need all 50 Senators to vote "YES" on legislation on a split vote. The Vice President, Kamala Harris, then has a vote, which then makes it a "simple majority."

Joe Manchin (West Virginia) and Krysten Sinema (Arizona) refused to support waiving the filibuster in attempts to pass progressive legislation, such as Biden's "Build Back Better" bill.

A call to eliminate the Filibuster is gaining traction

(<https://indivisible.org/resource/congress-101-filibuster>)

Gerrymandering

The number of elected House of Representatives members is determined by the population of each State based on Census Data calculated every 10 years (2020 is the most recent Census). Each House Representative represents a “District” in that State. **Gerrymandering** refers to how the redistricting lines are drawn geographically in **each State** by the party in power.

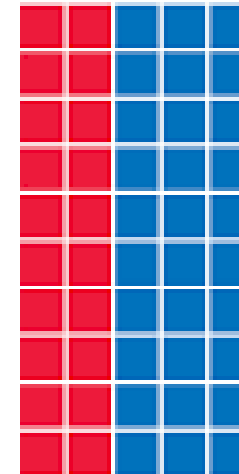
Ron DeSantis, Florida Governor, **rejected the 2022 redistricting map** proposed by the FL legislature and replaced it with 20 districts that favor Republicans and just 8 that tilt toward Democrats -- **eliminating districts with heavy concentrations of African American voters and representatives.**

As a result, the Black communities in Jacksonville, Orlando and Tallahassee no longer have a Congressional voice because DeSantis’s new map includes surrounding rural areas that dilute their voice with White Republican voters.

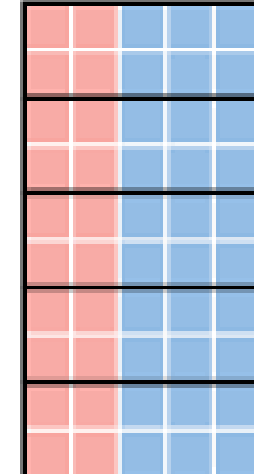
Although only 36.2% of all voters in FL are registered as Republicans, gerrymandering has secured 71% of the congressional seats for the REP party

For more info about the gerrymandering problem, see <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/redistricting-and-fair-maps>

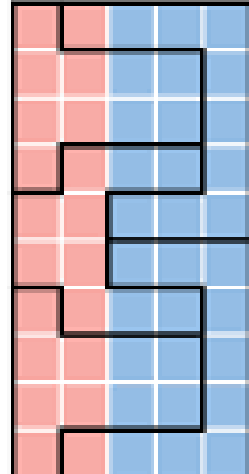
HOW TO STEAL AN ELECTION



100 PRECINCTS
60% BLUE
40% RED



5 DISTRICTS
5 BLUE
0 RED
BLUE WINS

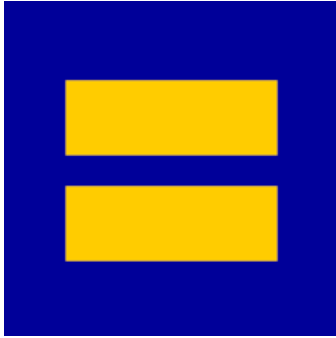


5 DISTRICTS
3 RED
2 BLUE
RED WINS



Key Tenets of the Democratic and Republican Parties

And the Problem of Big Money in Politics



BIRTH CONTROL
ON
YOUR TERMS



Key Tenets of the Democratic Party Part 1

- **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** We stand together for equality and to ensure basic human rights for us all.
 - Eliminate racial, gender, sexual orientation and geographic health inequities
 - Protecting a woman's right to choose (Roe v Wade)
 - Enacting commonsense gun safety laws
 - Supporting legalization of marijuana
 - Making higher education accessible and affordable for all
- **ECONOMIC JUSTICE:** We stand together to unite a nation divided by wealth inequality and greed.
 - Raising wages and protecting workers' rights
 - Securing Universal Health Care through a public option
 - Bringing down drug prices and taking on the pharmaceutical industry
 - Reforming the Tax Code to benefit working families
 - Tackling runaway corporate concentration
 - Guaranteeing a secure and dignified retirement through the protection of Social Security and Medicare





Key Tenets of the Democratic Party Part 2

- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:** We stand together to protect our planet and the land, air, and water that sustain us.
 - Reversing climate change and lowering the amount of carbon in the atmosphere
 - Investing in science and research
 - Large majorities of Democrats think the U.S. should play a leading role in limiting climate change (81%) and consider it to be a critical threat (82%).
- **DEMOCRATIC JUSTICE:** We stand together to fight corruption and return power to the people.
 - Protecting free voting rights for everyone
 - Reforming the broken campaign finance system
 - Protecting civil rights
 - Achieving racial justice



LET
✓
PEOPLE
VOTE

*Source: The Chicago Council of Human Affairs

SOME OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

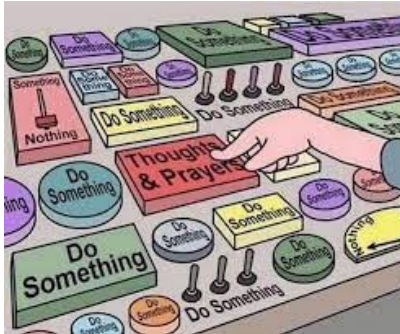
- ✓ Inflation Reduction Act
- ✓ American Rescue Plan
- ✓ PACT Act for veterans and their families
- ✓ Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
- ✓ Confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson
- ✓ Ratified the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland to join NATO
- ✓ CHIPS and Science Act
- ✓ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- ✓ Executive Orders protecting reproductive rights
- ✓ 9.5 million jobs added since taking office
- ✓ Rallied our allies in support of Ukraine
- ✓ More people with health insurance than ever

BIDEN'S STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS INITIATIVE

Millions of federal student loan borrowers will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in loan forgiveness.

To qualify, borrowers must earn under \$125,000 per year.





Key Tenets of the Republican Party Part 1

- **SOCIAL**
 - Oppose a woman's right to choose, restrictions on abortions and birth control
 - Support for broad-reaching gun rights, little support for even minimal restrictions
 - Opposition to marijuana legalization
 - Elimination of the safety net: Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid
- **ECONOMIC**
 - Support free market capitalism with few or no guardrails
 - Deregulation of corporations
 - Restriction/elimination of labor unions
 - Restrictions on immigration





Key Tenets of Republican Party

Part 2

- **ENVIRONMENT**
 - Only 31 percent of Republicans support a leading US role on limiting climate change, and just 16 percent consider it a critical threat.*
 - Republicans have a vague and non-committal climate change platform
 - Some are climate change deniers and receive huge sums of money from oil and gas companies
- **VOTING RIGHTS AND DEVOLUTION OF POWER**
 - Opposed The John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which set a national standard for free and fair elections
 - Support individual State rights to determine voting and reproductive rights, not a national standard.

Source: The Chicago Council of Human Affairs



The majority of top recipients of oil and gas money in Congress in 2022 are Republican

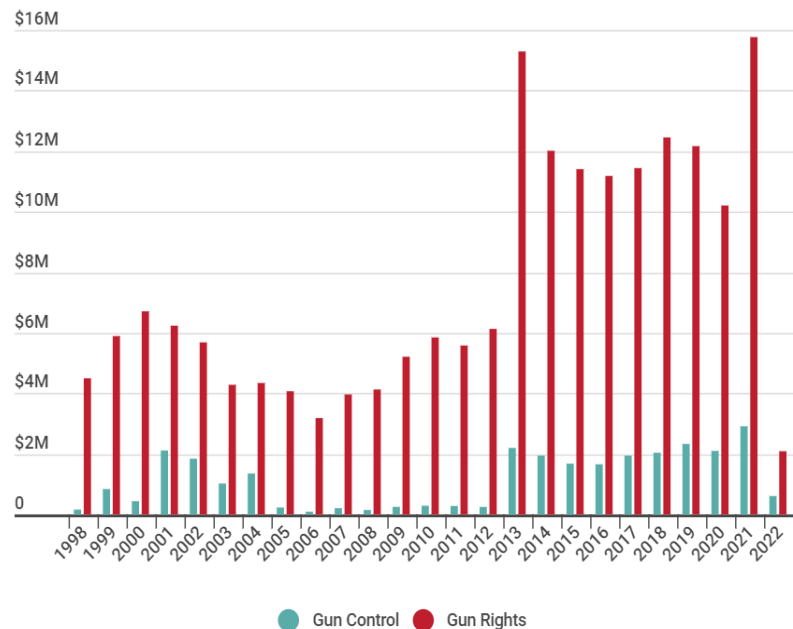
Rank	Candidate	Office	Amount	Rank	Candidate	Office	Amount
1	Manchin, Joe (D-WV)	Senate	\$735,245	11	Fletcher, Lizzie (D-TX)	House	\$192,665
2	McCarthy, Kevin (R-CA)	House	\$414,824	12	Scalise, Steve (R-LA)	House	\$186,026
3	Lankford, James (R-OK)	Senate	\$277,128	13	Herrell, Yvette (R-NM)	House	\$183,335
4	Kennedy, John (R-LA)	Senate	\$276,336	14	Gonzales, Tony (R-TX)	House	\$177,493
5	Pfluger, August (R-TX)	House	\$276,281	15	Crenshaw, Dan (R-TX)	House	\$172,693
6	Murkowski, Lisa (R-AK)	Senate	\$263,358	16	Rubio, Marco (R-FL)	Senate	\$163,552
7	Sinema, Kyrsten (D-AZ)	Senate	\$232,185	17	Rodgers, Cathy (R-WA)	House	\$158,961
8	Hunt, Wesley (R-TX)	none	\$228,027	18	Hoeven, John (R-ND)	Senate	\$143,860
9	Scott, Tim (R-SC)	Senate	\$201,920	19	Crapo, Mike (R-ID)	Senate	\$139,965
10	Cuellar, Henry (D-TX)	House	\$198,650	20	Mullin, Mark (R-OK)	House	\$133,770

Source: OpenSecrets: info@crp.org

Based on contributions from PACs and individuals giving \$200 or more in 2022, reported by FCC.

Most Americans want gun safety legislation, but gun rights groups spend millions lobbying Congress

Gun rights groups spent record \$15.8 million on lobbying in 2021




Source: OpenSecrets analysis of lobbying disclosures through March 31, 2022.

A majority of U.S. adults say it's more important to control gun violence (59%) than to protect gun rights (35%).

The 59%-to-35% margin is the widest in favor of controlling gun violence recorded in a decade.

Source: NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll, June 2022

The Top Senators that have received the most money from the NRA over their Congressional lifetimes are ALL Republican, and FL Senator Marco Rubio is ranked #5.



Senator	NRA Spending
Mitt Romney (UT)	\$13,647,676
Richard Burr (NC)	\$6,987,380
Roy Blunt (MO)	\$4,555,722
Thom Tillis (NC)	\$4,429,333*
Marco Rubio (FL)	\$3,303,355
Joni Ernst (IA)	\$3,129,723*
Rob Portman (OH)	\$3,063,327
Todd C. Young (IN)	\$2,897,582
Bill Cassidy (LA)	\$2,870,574*
Tom Cotton (AR)	\$1,971,214*
Pat Toomey (PA)	\$1,475,448
Josh Hawley (MO)	\$1,391,548
Marsha Blackburn (TN)	\$1,306,130*
Mitch McConnell (KY)	\$1,283,515*
Ronald Harold "Ron" Johnson (WI)	\$1,269,486*
Mike Braun (IN)	\$1,249,967

Source: OpenSecrets.org

Florida's 2022 Mid-Term Election

State and County Level Races

DeSantis and Republican Legislature's Policy Priorities

Florida's State-Level Races: November Election

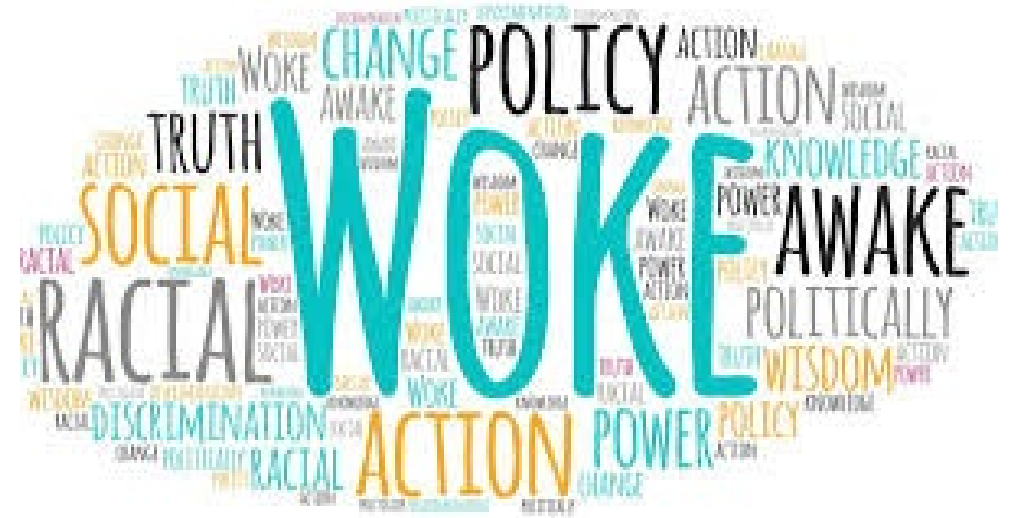
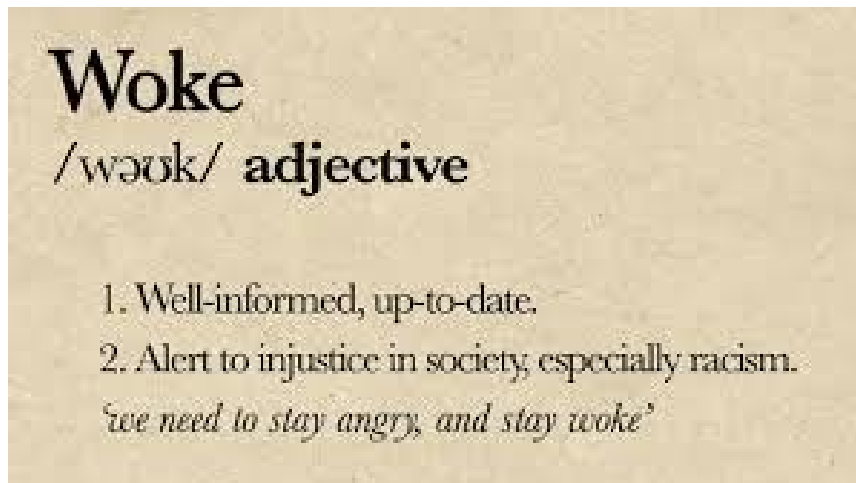
- **Governor:** Incumbent is Ron DeSantis / Republican
- Democratic Challenger is **CHARLE CRIST**
- **US Senator:** Incumbent is Marco Rubio / Republican
- Democratic Challenger is **VAL DEMINGS**
- **Attorney General:** Incumbent is Ashley Moody / Republican
- Democratic Challenger is **ARAMIS AYALA**
- **Commissioner of Agriculture:** Incumbent Nikki Fried ran for Governor against Ron DeSantis
- Democratic Challenger: **NAOMI BLEMUR**
- **Chief Financial Officer:** Incumbent is Jimmy Patronis / Republican
- Democratic Challenger: **ADAM HATTERSLEY**
- **State Senator District 7:** Republican incumbent Travis Hutson faces two write-in candidates in Nov
- **State Representative, District 18:** Republican incumbent Cyndi Stevenson is unopposed
- **State Representative, District 19:** Incumbent is Paul Renner, Democratic Challenger is **ADAM MORLEY**
- **State Representative, District 20:** Republican incumbent Bobby Payne, REP challenger Luis Miguel

Local Elections Directly Affect Residents' Daily Lives

- **School Board**
- **County Commission**
- **City of St. Augustine**
- **City of St. Augustine Beach**
- **St. Johns County Airport Authority**
- **Anastasia Mosquito Control District**
- **Soil and Water Conservation District**
- **St. Augustine Port Waterway & Beach District**
- **Ponte Vedra Municipal Services District**
- **Community Development Districts**

Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican Legislature's Culture War on Florida

“Stop WOKE Act” The Florida legislature approved a bill this year that limits how workplaces and schools teach about **race**. Supported by Gov. DeSantis, the measure prohibits trainings that he says might cause someone to feel uncomfortable about the past collective actions of their race.



THE DEMOCRATIC POSITION: *“History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if offends you, you are less likely to repeat it. It’s not yours to erase or destroy.”*



Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican Legislature's Culture War on Florida

"Don't Say Gay" Law

Ron DeSantis signed into law a bill that forbids instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade

This policy has drawn intense national scrutiny from critics who argue it marginalizes LGBTQ people.

Many young students have LGBTQ parents and should not be shamed.



DeSantis Seeks Rebuke and Revenge



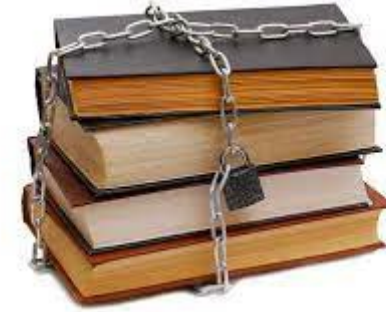
DeSantis signed a bill dissolving Walt Disney World's special district status, as retribution for the company's decision to speak out against his bigoted "Don't Say Gay" law.

The Law would have abolished Disney's self-governing jurisdiction, the Reedy Creek Improvement District, which allows it to run its own city in and around the theme park. Without this District, Orange and Osceola counties will be required to pay for services like firefighting, which Disney currently covers, and would have to pay off Reedy Creek's roughly \$1 billion in outstanding bond debt.

Disney is fighting back, noting that the law cannot go into effect unless and until Reedy Creek's debts are first paid off.

DeSantis's act of revenge will not only punish a private company for condemning his anti-LGBTQ+ law, it will also punish Florida residents whose property taxes will go through the roof.

Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican Legislature's Culture War on Florida



Book Banning is happening in Florida: HB 1467 gave parents and members of the public increased access to the process of selecting and removing school library books and instructional materials.

So far, more than 200 Florida school districts have banned books. The majority of banned books touch on **race** (How to Be an Antiracist by Ibrahim Kendi, The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison), **sexuality** (Forever by Judy Blume, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley), and **sexual orientation and gender identity** (Two Boys Kissing by David Levithan, Gender Queer: A Memoir by Maia Kobabe).

A Florida Department of Education review of 132 new math books led to the banning of more than 40% of them due to what the state calls “prohibited topics” including critical race theory and social-emotional learning (Newsweek 4/22/22).

Abortion Restriction Bill

Enacted by DeSantis and the FL Legislature

Gov. DeSantis signed a bill this year that makes abortion **illegal after 15 weeks** of pregnancy. It had previously been 24 weeks in Florida.

The law allows **no exceptions** for pregnancies resulting from rape, incest, or human trafficking.

31





Two Voter Suppression Bills Passed by DeSantis and FL Legislature

The 2021 Bill: (SB 90)

- **Cuts back** on the access to ballot drop boxes
- Places **more stipulations** on the use of those drop boxes. Limits the number of ballots a person can deliver from people not in their family -- which is how many with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income citizens vote.
- Adds new voter ID requirements and restrictions for mail-in ballots.
- Makes voters who request vote-by-mail ballots re-register each election cycle to vote that way.
- Limits the distribution of food and water for anyone waiting in line at the polls.

The 2022 Bill (SB 524)

- The law unnecessarily **increases criminal penalties** against third-party voter registration organizations that help people to register to vote. This will chill churches, nonprofits and other organizations from doing voter registration work that is relied upon by hundreds of the thousands of Floridians.
- The **creation of an Election Police Force reporting directly to the governor** has the potential to **intimidate voters** and discourage them from participating in the political process.

Taxpayer dollars would be better spent improving access to the ballot and making the voting process more efficient.

Defeat DeSantis, Defeat Fascism: We all risk his retribution when we don't "get in line."

- The **Tampa Rays baseball team** spoke out against **gun violence** on Twitter. In retribution, Gov. DeSantis vetoed **\$35 million** of state funds that had been approved for its new training facility, saying it was "inappropriate to subsidize political activism of a private corporation."
- In June, DeSantis threatened to impose a **\$27.5 million fine** on the **Special Olympics** if it insisted on a **Covid-19 vaccination mandate** for participants. The charity **backed down** and eliminated the requirement.
- On Aug 4th, DeSantis **removed from office the elected State Attorney of Hillsborough County, Andrew Warren**. The reason: Warren said in a June statement "**we decline to use our offices' resources to criminalize reproductive health decisions.**"



Democratic Challenger to Gov. DeSantis is **CHARLIE CRIST**



- Charlie Crist is currently the Democratic US Congressman representing Florida's 13th District (St Petersburg, FL)
- He was Governor of Florida 2007-2011. As Governor, he:
 - Prevented massive teacher layoffs during the recession, working with the Obama Administration to use federal stimulus funding to save 20,000 teachers' jobs.
 - Stopped radical attacks on women's rights, vetoing laws to restrict a woman's right to choose.
 - Led efforts to protect civil rights, taking action to automatically restore voting rights of non-violent ex-felons and to extend voting hours across the state for all Floridians.
 - A staunch environmental advocate, he secured a landmark land acquisition to preserve the Florida Everglades, and fought to hold BP accountable after the 2010 oil spill that ravaged Florida's coastline.
- He was Florida Attorney General from 2003-2007
- He was Florida Commissioner of Education from 2001-2003, where he put education first.

Charlie Crist on the Issues



- **Defending Reproductive Rights**
 - On Day 1, sign an Executive Order protecting the right to access a safe abortion as guaranteed by the Florida Constitution and the United States Constitution.
- **Voting Is A Right**
 - Reverse the DeSantis limits on mail ballots, which are opposed by the local supervisors of elections. If the Legislature refuses to act, he will declare a state of emergency before the next general election and make the changes himself.
 - Declare Election Day a state holiday so every voter has more opportunity to cast their ballots.
- **Clean Water For All**
 - Reduce the run-off from farms and ranches
 - Implement recommendations of the Harmful Algae Bloom Task Force on red tide
 - Replace all septic tanks and stop new ones in urban areas
 - Support water storage and wetland restoration
 - Protect Florida's freshwater springs
 - Fully fund and staff the Dept of Environmental Protection

Charlie Crist on the Issues



- **Safer Florida For All**
 - Assault weapons reduction, background checks, crack down on ghost guns and gun trafficking, make the reporting of lost or stolen firearms mandatory
 - Establish an Office of Gun Violence Prevention
- **Freedom To Learn**
 - Crist will declare a teacher shortage emergency to fill the 9,000 empty classrooms and other critical educational positions that are currently vacant
 - Invest in higher teacher pay raising it to the national average of \$67,000
 - Stop the unwarranted politicization of our classrooms
 - Restore local control and respect the separation of powers under Florida's Constitution
 - Make the Commissioner of Education an elected position again, not an appointed position
- **Equality For All**
 - Repeal "Don't Say Gay" Law and limit its impact
 - Order the state to investigate conversion therapy as child abuse

Charlie Crist on the Issues



- **Justice For All**

- Restore voting rights to ex-felons, as was passed overwhelmingly by the Florida Voters in Amendment 4
- Reduce gun violence: Pass stronger gun safety laws including universal background checks
- Marijuana reform: Legalize marijuana as has been done in 20 other states
- Reform Florida's justice system to ensure equal justice for all

- **Crist's Million Solar Roofs**

- Protect and enhance solar incentives
- Fight legislative attacks on net metering
- Create Solar Renewable Energy credits
- Support and expand low-cost financing options for homeowners and small business owners
- Install solar on state buildings
- Implement a jobs plan that will create and support tens of thousands of solar-related jobs in Florida, including manufacturing and installation.

US Senate Race:

Incumbent is Marco Rubio / **Republican**



His Voting Record as US Senator

Voted against Pro-Choice, Supported Roe vs Wade being overturned

Opposed to Gun Control legislation

Opposed Marriage Equality legislation

Opposed to Protecting LGBTQ Americans from discrimination

Opposed to banning harmful “Conversion Therapy”

Opposed to Adoption by LGBTQ families

US Senate Race: Challenger is Val Demings / Democrat

Background

Congresswoman Val Demings was the first in her family of seven children to attend college, became a social worker and then a police officer, rising to become Orlando's first female Police Chief.

Chief Demings served 27 years and at every rank level in the Orlando Police Department. She commanded the Special Operations division and coordinated the response of the Airport Division on 9/11.

In 2007, she made history when she was appointed to serve as Orlando's first female Chief of Police. She drove down violent crime by 40 percent.

In 2016, Chief Demings was elected by the voters of Florida's 10th District to serve in **Congress**. She has gained a reputation as a **tireless champion for public safety, civil rights, and the American Dream** that had given her a chance to succeed.





Val Demings on the Issues

ENVIRONMENT

Demings knows **the threat of climate change is real** and takes threats to our environment seriously. She **opposes offshore drilling off Florida's coasts**, and has **delivered funding to combat the toxic algae** that impacts our shores and waterways. She voted to bring \$1 billion in funding to **protect the Florida Everglades**. Deming **support of the infrastructure bill** which will fund billions of dollars of climate change-resistant infrastructure in Florida and create thousands of new jobs.

PUBLIC SAFETY

As a former 27-year law enforcement officer, Chief Val Demings **fought to increase funding for our law enforcement officers** so communities across Florida can have the resources they need to hire more officers and keep us all safe.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Demings believes we must keep our homeland safe. She is on **The Homeland Security Committee and Intelligence Committee**. Demings **supports leading our allies** to solve international challenges, such as terrorism, before they impact Americans at home.

"I believe that only in America can the daughter of a maid and a janitor, growing up in the south in the '60s, have such an amazing opportunity. No one can make me give up on America."

-Val Demings



Val Demings on the Issues



JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

As a Member of Congress, Demings worked with Republicans and Democrats to **deliver relief funding for Florida's small businesses during the pandemic.**

She championed a **bipartisan infrastructure bill** that is creating thousands of new, good-paying 21st century jobs in Florida.

HEALTH CARE

Congresswoman Demings believes that **every American deserves access to high-quality, affordable health care.**

Demings fights to **lower the cost of prescription drugs.** **She stands up the special interests** who want to undermine **protections for people with pre-existing conditions** like diabetes or asthma.

During this global pandemic, Demings has been a leader **promoting the vaccine** as the single best tool we have to keep each other healthy, and to keep our economy and schools open.

HOUSING

Demings believes housing is simply too expensive for many Floridians. In the U.S. Senate she will **deliver affordable housing** for Floridians. That's why she's worked to **cut middle class taxes** and fought for **increased funding for affordable housing** in the federal budget.



Voting in Florida

Why Your Vote Matters

How You Can Vote in Florida

Your Vote Matters!

- In **2000**, after an intense recount process and the United States Supreme Court's decision in **Bush v. Gore**, Bush won **Florida's electoral votes** by a margin of only **537 votes** out of almost **six million** cast (0.009%) and, as a result, became the president-elect.
- In **2018**, Ron DeSantis won the Florida Governor Race by a margin of **.4%**, the closest race of any gubernatorial election nationwide.



Election results

Map	Percent	Candidate	Party	Votes	Winner
	49.6%	Ron DeSantis	GOP	4,076,186	✓
	49.2%	Andrew Gillum	Dem	4,043,723	
	1.2%	Other		100,585	

100% of precincts reporting (6,111/6,111)
8,220,494 total votes





DeSantis only won by .4% points in the last election in 2018!!! This is NOT A MANDATE! It was a difference of 32,463 VOTES OUT OF 8,119,909 VOTES!!! YOUR VOTE MATTERS!!!



Ron Desantis 2018 Election Results

2018 Florida gubernatorial election

Nominee	Ron DeSantis	Andrew Gillum
Party	Republican	Democratic
Running mate	Jeanette Nuñez	Chris King
Popular vote	4,076,186	4,043,723
Percentage	49.6%	49.2%

**EVERY
VOTE
MATTERS**



**EVERY
VOTE
MATTERS**

DEMS CAN WIN THIS!!! TURN FL BLUE IN 22!

Voter Registration - By Party Affiliation

Totals reflect the number of **active** registered voters in the State of Florida.

Data as of April 30 , 2022.



Year	Republican Party of Florida	Florida Democratic Party	Minor Parties	No Party Affiliation	Total
2022	5,142,002	5,007,590	256,220	3,872,352	14,278,164
2021	5,123,799	5,080,697	253,843	3,829,372	14,287,711
2020	5,218,739	5,315,954	231,246	3,799,799	14,565,738
2019	4,761,405	4,986,520	147,546	3,641,359	13,536,830
2018	4,718,720	4,975,895	113,489	3,588,518	13,396,622
2017	4,544,708	4,807,950	65,526	3,449,005	12,867,189

[By Party Affiliation Archive - Data for 1972 - 2016](#)

YOU Have the Choice to Vote in Florida OR your Home State

Are you an Out-of-State resident from a **BLUE State**?
*Ask yourself where will **YOUR VOTE** matter more?*

To vote in Florida, you need to:

- Be a U.S. citizen 18 years or older
- Not have been convicted of a felony in FL without your civil rights being restored
- Not currently adjudicated as mentally incapacitated
- Provide a **Florida Driver's License or Florida ID Card number** **OR** list the last 4 digits of your SSN

We can register you here today OR register online at
www.registertovoteflorida.gov



Deadline for Voter Registration in Florida

To VOTE in the General Election on **November 8th, 2022**, you must register to vote by

October 11th

- You can also request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot when you register to vote.
- Voting by Mail increases voter turnout – essential to winning elections!

[illegible]

Go to <https://stjohnsdemocrats.org>

Headquarters

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