

Florida US Governor 2026

THE ISSUES

BYRON
DONALDS

REPUBLICAN

DAVID
JOLLY

DEMOCRAT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Ban. “ I stand firmly...for the pro-life movement.” Opposes putting Roe v. Wade into law. “ Regulating abortion is the job of the states.” In 2021 voted against a bill that would limit states’ ability to restrict abortion access.	Legal. Is “explicitly pro-choice .” Supports “replacing Florida’s 6-week ban with a statute permitting abortion until fetal viability ...with state regulation thereafter except where necessary to protect maternal life.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	No. Voted to end Biden-era clean energy tax credits. Voted to repeal Inflation Reduction Act clean energy provisions. Voted against \$369 billion in clean energy investments. Sponsored a bill to ban presidents from declaring a climate emergency. Said there’s no correlation between heat waves and climate change.	Yes. Says Florida “faces some of the most direct climate impacts in the country.” Would “unleash clean and renewable energies” and require “greater integration of clean energy technologies into public utilities.” Says “using the sun, the wind, the innovation...to drive down costs” is “overdue.”
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	“ Without law enforcement, we’re in chaos.” Voted against developing de-escalation techniques for police facing people with mental health issues. In 2021 voted against banning racial profiling and no-knock warrants, requiring body cameras, and limiting qualified immunity . Would work with law enforcement to regulate the use of license plate reader cameras.	Supports “local control of community policing” and de-escalation training for police. Proposes a system that “holds everyone accountable for breaking the law while ending...systemic bias.” Supports a state-level FIRST STEP Act, to reduce recidivism. Without a warrant or active crime, “no data should ever be collected by government cameras on an individual or their movement.”
EDUCATION Use public funding for private and/or for-profit schools?	Yes. “ School choice is the civil rights issue of our time.” Voted for a bill that includes providing federal tax credits for donations to private school scholarships. Says “education dollars” should “follow [students] wherever their path leads.”	Mixed. “Florida families are being left behind by the current choice program.” Calls for a reform, not an elimination, of the Florida school voucher program. “ We should keep choice, but improve the standards of our choice schools.”
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	Mostly yes. Opposed the 2023 Florida standards for teaching Black history. “The attempt to feature the personal benefits of slavery is wrong.” Opposes “sexuality & gender ideology injected into...curriculum.” Sponsored bills to “combat Critical Race Theory.”	No. “ Teaching our history strengthens and equips us.” Calls for “learn[ing] from the darker chapters of our past.” “ Research shows that classroom acknowledgment of LGBTQ topics reduces mental health harm for LGBTQ students.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Mixed. Voted to ease environmental rules to boost the semiconductor chip industry. Voted to end a 20-year protection against mining upstream from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Voted against funding reduction in the spread of PFAS at airports. Would “combat harmful algal blooms.” Sponsored a bill for the conservation of coral reef ecosystems.	Tighten. Says “investing in clean air and clean water” is not a specific to any party. “ I’m calling for a moratorium on data centers until Florida has real protections for our water, air.” Supports addressing “algae crises” with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Supports “septic to sewer conversions” and other rules to address “springs degradations.” Opposes offshore drilling.

ISSUES	DONALDS (R)	JOLLY (D)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Loosen. Would “be a champion for gun owners in across the Sunshine State.” Sponsored a bill to allow concealed carry across state lines. Voted against expanding background checks and encouraging state red flag laws.	Mostly tighten. “Responsible gun owners are not the problem. Lax gun laws are.” Would “ban the sale of new assault weapons, require universal background checks,” and “expand... red flag laws.” Would “defend [2nd Amend. right] as governor.”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Decrease. Voted for a bill that included Medicaid cuts . Voted against extending Affordable Care Act payment subsidies for 3 years; opposes the Affordable Care Act. Opposes “adopting a universal healthcare system.” Voted against capping Medicare out-of-pocket costs.	Increase. Supports expanding Medicaid. Supports extending Affordable Care Act premium-support tax credits . Proposes a “5-year pilot to dramatically expand community health centers” that “uses Florida tax dollars already being collected, paired with a 9-to-1 federal match.”
HOUSING How to handle housing in Florida?	Proposes an “insurer scorecard” comparison tool with “price, claims, and insurance performance data” for home insurance. Supports reducing the cost of construction permits. “On housing, we are going to slash red tape.”	Says Florida’s property insurance crisis is driving up housing costs. Proposes “creating a statewide catastrophic fund” to lower “insurance premiums.” Supports “down-payment assistance.”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	Voted to increase ICE funding by \$75 billion, then for \$70 billion more for DHS. Voted to build 900 miles of border wall, limit asylum, and require employers use E-Verify for new employees. Introduced a bill to evaluate the implementation of “a full biometric entry-exit data system” at the border. Opposes “ sanctuary policies.”	Would not require state or local law enforcement to work with ICE for immigration enforcement. Opposes mandating use of E-Verify. Supports a pathway to legal status for “long-term residents,” “those with U.S. citizen children,” and DACA recipients. Says those crossing the border without legal status for asylum shouldn’t be criminalized.
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	Harder. Voted against requiring employers to bargain with newly organized unions within 10 days after a vote to unionize. In 2021 voted against a bill to expand employees’ organizing rights. Supported right-to-work laws.	Easier. Is “ proud to have the support of the Florida AFL-CIO.” “It’s time Florida had leadership that respects labor.” Would “stand with public servants who deserve fair wages, strong benefits.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. Voted against federal recognition of same sex marriage. Voted to criminalize providing gender-affirming care to minors. Voted to ban trans students from participating in federally funded female sports programs. “Men SHOULD NOT be competing in women’s sports PERIOD.”	Mostly expand. Would “protect marriage equality at the state level.” Says “attack[ing] the LGBTQ+ community” is “shameful.” “I don’t think we should have biologically born men playing in competitive [women’s] sports.” Says the issue is not for governors to decide.
MARIJUANA Ban or legalize recreational marijuana?	Ban. “I do not support recreational marijuana.” Opposed the 2024 Amendment 3 to legalize adult marijuana use. Would oppose future ballot initiatives legalizing recreational marijuana use.	Legal. Voted against the 2024 Amendment 3 . Would “introduce legislatively any amendment that got more than 50% of the [amendment] vote. That includes...recreational marijuana .”
TAXES How to handle state taxes?	Opposes “raising taxes.” Says “as Governor” will “cut your taxes – no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, no tax on Social Security. Voted to extend the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included the largest one-time cut in the federal corporate tax rate. Supports the 2026 Amendment 3, a ballot measure to phase out property taxes for many owner-occupied homes.	Opposes taxing Social Security; supports taxing wages and tips. Supports “lower corporate taxes.” Says he “probably wouldn’t have supported” the bill extending the 2017 Trump tax cuts. Regarding the 2026 Amendment 3, says local communities should control tax exemptions.
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Harder. Sponsored a bill to require proof of citizenship to register to vote and ban universal vote-by-mail. Supports voter ID. In 2021 voted against requiring certain states to get preapproval for changes in voting practices.	Easier. “ Direct democracy should be easier, not a gauntlet.” Opposes the Supreme Court decision to limit the Voting Rights Act . Supports home rule: “Tallahassee should not override local democracy on local matters.”

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