

LESSON 1

A B r i e f O v e r v i e w o f F l o r i d a ' s E x e c u t i v e B r a n c h o f S t a t e G o v e r n m e n t



The executive branch of government in Florida consists of: The **Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Cabinet and various departments**. The **Governor** is the “supreme executive” according to Florida’s state constitution, but some power is shared with the Cabinet. Powers exclusively under the Governor are as follows:

- Enforcement of laws
- Be commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active U.S. service
- Initiate judicial proceedings against state, county or municipal officers
- Give a state of the state message to the Legislature
- Appoint persons to vacancies in elected offices
- Appoint persons to head executive departments, commissions and boards in state, county and municipal governments
- Suspend public officials
- Remove public officials

The heads of agencies appointed by the Governor are considered to be in the “**Little Cabinet**.” These include: The Senior Executive Assistant, Transportation, Business Regulation, Health and Rehabilitative Services, pollution Control, Professional and Occupational Regulation, Community Affairs and Citrus.

The Governor must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 30 years of age.
- A resident of Florida for seven years.
- Swear to uphold the constitution of Florida and the United States.
- Cannot be a convicted felon nor judged to be mentally incompetent.

Governor’s term limits:

- Serve four year terms and can serve a consecutive term.

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- A Governor can be removed from office by the Legislature through impeachment.
- Impeachment requires two-thirds of the House votes and two-thirds of the Senators present vote for conviction.
 - Four members of the Cabinet may request in writing for the Supreme Court to declare the Governor mentally or physically incapable of performing governmental duties.
 - Impeachment proceedings can also be brought against the Lieutenant-Governor, members of the Cabinet, the Supreme Court and lower courts.

Lieutenant-Governor

- The Lieutenant-Governor of Florida is first in line of succession to the office of Governor.
- Qualifications for being Lieutenant Governor:
 - The Lieutenant Governor qualifications are the same as the Governor's.
 - Only one vote is cast for Lieutenant-Governor and Governor, and they must run as a team.

The Cabinet

- All members of the Cabinet have the same terms and qualification.
- They must be 30 years of age.
- Serve four year elected terms.

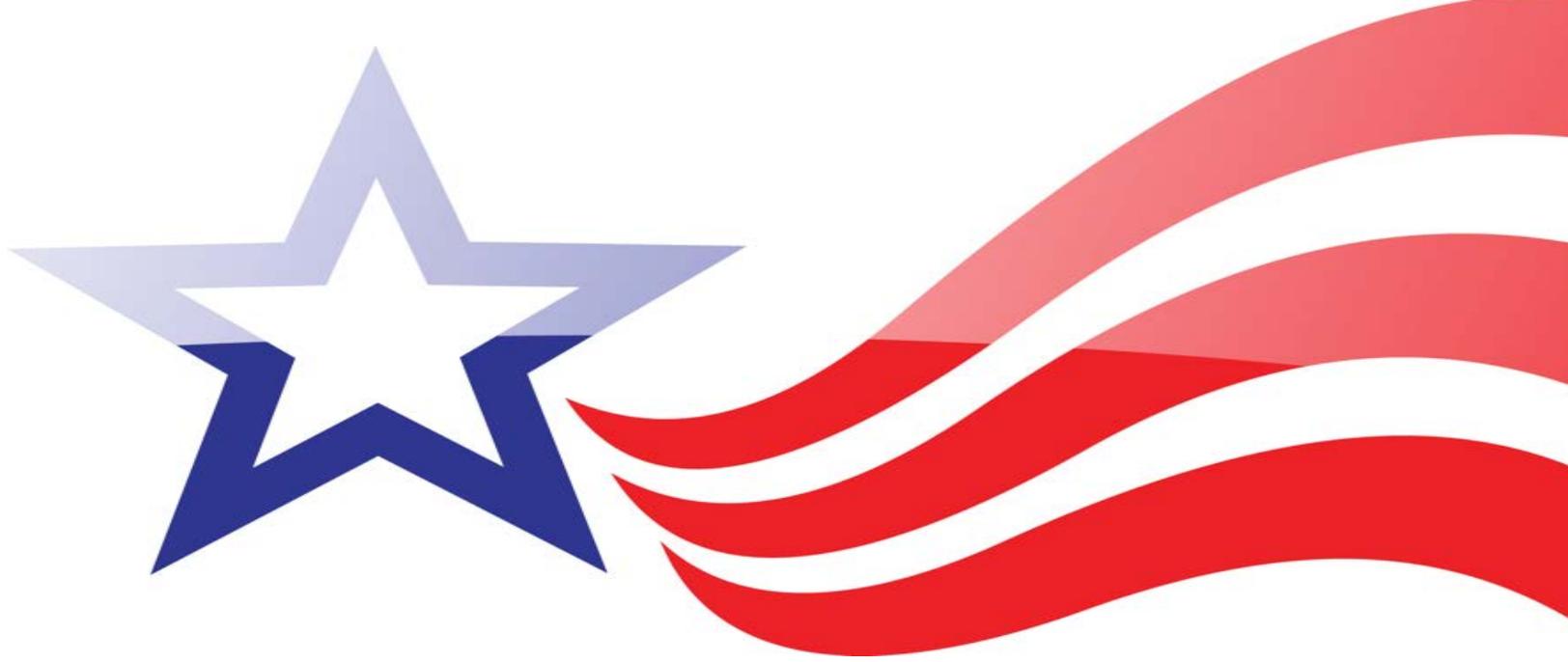
LESSON 1

A Brief Overview of the United States SENATE



A UNITED STATES SENATOR:

- A U.S. senator must be at least 30 years old, be a U.S. citizen and live in the state in which he is elected.
- Senators are assigned to serve on committees, in which they review bills, or proposed laws.
 - There are 20 committees, 68 subcommittees and four joint committees. Each committee focuses on a different topic, including budget, health, education, foreign relations, transportation and homeland security.
- Once a bill is passed in committee, all senators are responsible for voting on it.
- The Senate also has the power to impeach the president.
- U.S. senators work part of the year in Washington, D.C., and part of the year in their home state.
 - When in Washington, they work in one of three buildings: the Russell Senate Office Building, the Dirksen Senate Office Building and the Hart Senate Office Building.
 - Senators, travel back to their state when Congress is not in session to meet with their constituents to see what needs/issues they should address during the next session of Congress.
- They write and vote on laws in the Capitol.
- In 2009, U.S. senators earned an annual salary of \$174,000.
- The Senate provides advice and consent on treaties, confirms Presidential appointments of Ambassadors, Justices, and members of the Cabinet.
- They act as party leaders and fundraisers, and serve on committees.



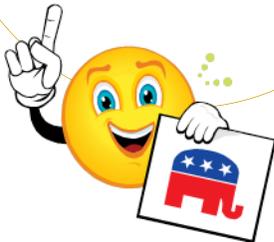
Meet the Candidates



ELECTION 2018

MEET THE CANDIDATES & THEIR ISSUES

FALL 2018



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Healthcare
- Medicare
- Immigration
- education

ABOUT THE GOVERNORS RACE:

Florida governor's race: Where Ron DeSantis, Andrew Gillum stand on the issues.

The candidates are diametrically opposed on nearly every issue – **guns**, **education**, **immigration**, **health care** and more.

Education

DeSantis supports the school-choice policies Florida Republicans have passed in their 20 years in power, specifically, expanding charter-school and voucher programs. He's also praised Putnam's platform of encouraging more vocational education and training.

DeSantis also wants to "stop Common Core" – the standards adopted by 45 out of 50 states as a way to improve education – but the steps he'd take to unwind them is unclear. The standards were criticized by conservatives as a top-down approach to education, and lawmakers responded by tweaking and renaming them "Florida standards" in 2014.

Gillum wants to spend an additional \$1 billion on education, part of which would go toward increasing the minimum salary for teachers to \$50,000 per year, and for early-education and vocational programs.

But the way Gillum proposes to raise the extra \$1 billion – an increase in the corporate income tax from 5.5 percent to 7.75 percent – would likely be nearly impossible to get through the Legislature. On top of the GOP's antipathy to tax hikes, the state constitution requires a three-fifths vote in each chamber to raise the corporate income tax above 5 percent.

Guns



DeSantis supports legislation to allow Floridians with concealed weapons permits to carry guns openly and on college campuses. Bills to allow both have failed in the [GOP](#)-controlled Legislature in the last three years.

He has also criticized the gun control measures in the bill passed by lawmakers in response to the Feb. 14 mass shooting at [Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School](#) in [Parkland](#). The legislation banned rifle sales to those under 21, prohibited bump stocks and placed a three-day waiting period on all gun sales.

Gillum called for a series of gun-control measures after the Parkland massacre, including a ban on assault weapons, limiting the size of magazines, banning armor-piercing bullets and prohibiting guns to those with domestic violence felonies or misdemeanors.

The [National Rifle Association](#) has given DeSantis an A- grade and Gillum an F.

Immigration

Even though the power to enact and enforce immigration laws lies exclusively with the federal government, illegal immigration was a major theme of the primary campaigns of both DeSantis and Gillum.

DeSantis fully backs President [Donald Trump](#)'s moves to enforce border security and deport illegal immigrants. As governor, DeSantis has promised to ban "sanctuary cities" even though virtually no city in Florida has such policies. West Palm Beach was on a list of cities identified by the Trump administration as possibly having policies of non-cooperation with federal immigration officials, but elected officials there dispute that, saying they cooperate with federal authorities when asked.

Alachua and Clay counties have been accused of being sanctuary areas for not complying with detention requests in some instances, but those claims are disputed as well.

DeSantis also wants to enact an E-Verify law requiring employers to check the immigration status of their workers. It's an idea Gov. [Rick Scott](#) pushed in his first year in office but quickly dropped when it failed to get through the Legislature.

One of Gillum's campaign ads called for abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, but he would have no power to enact such a policy as governor.

Gillum slammed Trump's move to restrict federal grants to sanctuary cities in January 2017, saying it was "inconsistent with our highest values" and "we can protect our national security interests and have a secure border without criminalizing people who are here undocumented."

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/political-pulse/os-governor-race-desantis-gillum-issues->



Health care

Gillum has campaigned on a platform of “Medicare for all” that a key supporter, U.S. Bernie Sanders, has pushed at the federal level. He also says universal health care is a right. As governor, he’s pledged to expand [Medicaid](#) in line with the [Affordable Care Act](#), and to guarantee care for those with pre-existing conditions.

Much of that platform will be difficult to achieve with a Republican-controlled Legislature, where leaders in the House have rejected Medicaid expansion after protracted battles.

DeSantis hasn’t laid out a specific platform on health care and has said little about health care policy. His issues page on his website, which was published a week before the primary, doesn’t include the subject.

In a debate with GOP primary opponent [Adam Putnam](#), he indicated health care wasn’t a right.

“What I think you have a right to do is pursue the type of health care you want. Obamacare infringes on your freedom to be able to do that,” DeSantis said. “Democrats are saying that there’s a bureaucratic right where you create bureaucracies.”

BILL NELSON VS. RICK SCOTT



Bill Nelson



Rick Scott

Political Party	Democrat	<u>Republican</u>
Date of birth	September 29th 1942	December 1, 1952
Religion	Christian	<u>Evangelical Christian</u>
Position on Healthcare	Strengthen the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare); supports <u>Medicaid</u> expansion	Opposes <u>Obamacare</u> or govt. support; Supports free market (privatization of
Position on Immigration	Supported comprehensive immigration reform bill of 2013 that passed the <u>Sen-</u>	"Secure" the border; supports DACA; wants to end sanctuary jurisdictions
Position on Gun Rights	NRA rating F. Supports ban on assault <u>weapons</u> ; comprehensive and universal	NRA rating A+. Strong supporter of gun rights. Believes the problem at the root
Position on Abortion	Supports safe and <u>legal access to abortion</u> .	During his term as governor, Scott approved several abortion restrictions.
Website	https://www.nelsonforsenate.com/	https://rickscottforflorida.com/
Age	76	65
Current Position	United States Senator representing Florida	Governor of Florida
Profession	U.S. Army captain, lawyer, politician. In 1986, Bill Nelson spent 6 days in space	<u>Lawyer</u> ; <u>business executive</u>

Official Sample Ballot - General Election

Boleta Oficial de Muestra - Elecciones Generales ★ Echantiyon Bilten Vòt Ofisyèl - Eleksyon Jeneral

UNITED STATES SENATOR
SENADOR DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS
SENATÈ LÈZETAZINI

(Vote for 1) (Vote por 1) (Vote pou 1)

- Rick Scott REP 10
- Bill Nelson DEM 11
- Write-in _____

Agregado por Escrito

Ekri non kandida ki pa parèt sou bilten vòt la

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
GOBERNADOR Y VICEGOBERNADOR
GOUVÈNÈ AK GOUVÈNÈ ADJWEN

(Vote for 1) (Vote por 1) (Vote pou 1)

- Ron DeSantis REP 23
Jeanette Nuñez
- Andrew Gillum DEM 24
Chris King
- Darcy G. Richardson REF 25
Nancy Argenziano
- Kyle "KC" Gibson NPA 26
Ellen Wilds
- Ryan Christopher Foley NPA 27
John Tutton Jr
- Bruce Stanley NPA 28
Ryan Howard McJury
- Write-in _____

Agregado por Escrito

Ekri non kandida ki pa parèt sou bilten vòt la