

U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE COMPARISON - FLORIDA

A Nonpartisan Resource for Voters in the 2024 Election

Catholic Social Justice teaches that we have a responsibility to participate in politics out of a concern for and commitment to the common good. We are called to engage with openness and empathy, inform ourselves about the issues of the day, partake in serious conversations about our nation’s future, and **vote**.

Here is where the Florida U.S. Senate candidates stand on the issues.

We invite you to consider this information prayerfully.

To learn more and make your voting plan, head to networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter.



Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Democrat
debbieforflorida.com

Election Day:
Tuesday,
November 5th

Rick Scott
Republican
 Incumbent
rickscott.com



FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET	<p>Yes. “Climate change is <u>real</u>... impacting Floridians, their lives, and their property.” Will act to address it. Has <u>supported</u> building smart power grids, upgrading buildings for maximum efficiency, removing greenhouse gases from transportation and agricultural sectors, and <u>strengthening</u> building codes to withstand future storms.</p>	<p>Environment Should addressing climate change be a top priority?</p>	<p>No. As governor, <u>rolled back</u> climate change initiatives. State employees said his administration <u>banned</u> them from using the term “climate change.” In 2021 <u>said</u> it is real; would focus on addressing impacts without killing the economy. <u>Opposed</u> both Biden’s \$369 billion clean energy <u>investment</u> and <u>rejoining</u> the Paris Climate Agreement.</p>
	<p>Increase. <u>Expand</u> Child Tax Credit for lower-income families. <u>Invest in</u> job and vocational training. <u>Opposes</u> consolidation of grocery chains. Will work to <u>lower</u> property insurance costs and <u>cap drug prices</u>.</p>	<p>Economy Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?</p>	<p>Decrease. “We will <u>shrink</u>... the government work force by 25% in 5 years.” “Reducing <u>burdensome</u> government regulations aids with economic growth” and increases government efficiency. Voted <u>against</u> \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill.</p>
FREEDOM FROM HARM	<p>Tighten. Lost her father to a shooting, so “made it my <u>life’s work</u> to end” gun violence. <u>Advocated</u> increasing firearms safety. <u>Voted</u> to <u>expand</u> background checks.</p>	<p>Gun Laws Loosen or tighten gun regulations?</p>	<p>Mostly loosen. <u>Opposes</u> “every attempt to deny our 2nd Amendment freedoms.” <u>Opposed</u> raising age to own semiautomatic firearms. <u>Supports</u> “<u>red flag</u>” laws.</p>
	<p>Expand. “I will always <u>fight</u> to protect the LGBTQ+ community.” <u>Voted</u> to <u>ban</u> discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.</p>	<p>LGBTQ Rights Limit or expand rights for LGBTQ+ people?</p>	<p>Limit. Voted <u>against</u> same-sex marriage protection because it <u>didn’t</u> protect “religious liberties.” Supports <u>banning</u> transgender women and girls from female sports.</p>
	<p>“We must <u>continue</u> in the fight for justice and accountability within our institutions.” <u>Voted</u> to <u>require</u> police reforms such as more body-camera use and banning chokeholds. Address “underlying systemic <u>racism</u>” in policing.</p>	<p>Criminal Justice How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?</p>	<p><u>Strengthen</u> qualified immunity and legal protections for police. <u>Opposes</u> “proposals like defunding.” <u>Supported</u> <u>optional</u> incentives to increase use of body cameras, improve training, and diminish chokeholds.</p>

	Debbie Mucarsel-Powell Democrat	Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th	Rick Scott Republican
FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY	Increase. Health care 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. ”	Health Care Increase or decrease government support for health care?	Mostly decrease. Wants less government action. Sued to overturn the Affordable Care Act, (Obamacare), then wanted to repeal it. Threatened to sue to avoid penalties for rejecting Medicaid expansion, which he first supported and then opposed .
FREEDOM TO LIVE IN A WELCOMING COUNTRY	Mixed: Wants “major” reforms, starting with “legal pathways.” Supported 2024’s bipartisan border security bill. Voted for a path to permanent residence for DACA.	Immigration Defend the right to asylum and support a path to citizenship for DACA participants brought to the U.S. as children?	Opposes: Opposes all immigration reform until “our border is secured.” Opposed a Biden order aiding undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens. Urged Trump to not end DACA.
FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY	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.	Voting Rights Make voting harder or easier?	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.
FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES	Easier. Looks forward to “fighting to defend labor rights.” Voted for PRO Act to protect workers’ rights to organize unions.	Labor Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	Harder. Supports the National Right-to-Work Act, which would let employees in a unionized workplace not pay union dues.
	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.	Minimum Wage Raise federal minimum from \$7.25/hour?	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.
	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.	Student Financial Aid Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	No. “ Biden’s student loan bailout will cost ALL Americans.” “It’s a “socialist handout. ” Introduced bill to put schools “on the hook for student debt. ”
	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.”	Taxes Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	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 U.S. House and Senate. Supported making all low-income adults pay federal income tax.