

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2016 FLORIDA SENATE RACE

	Patrick Murphy (D)	Marco Rubio (Incumbent–R)
<p>For mobile-friendly version and other guides, see campuselect.org/guides.html</p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at votesmart.org and countable.us</p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • murphyforflorida.com or • marcorubio.com 		
Abortion: Should abortion be highly restricted?	No	Yes, including instances of rape, incest, and Zika virus infection.
Campaign Finance: Support the DISCLOSE Act, requiring key funders of political ads to put names on those ads?	Yes. Has co-sponsored DISCLOSE Act legislation.	No
Campaign Finance: Support Supreme Court’s <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited independent political expenditures by corporations and unions?	No	Yes
Climate Change: Believe that human activity is the major factor driving climate change?	Yes	No. “The climate has always been changing” ¹
Climate Change: Should government limit the levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere?	Yes	No
Contraception: Should employers be able to withhold contraceptive coverage from employees if disagree with it morally?	No. Supported DC’s Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act.	Yes. Views as an affirmation of religious freedom.
Economy: Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?	Yes	No
Financial Regulation: Support the Dodd-Frank Act, establishing Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and increasing regulation of financial institutions?	Mixed. Doesn’t oppose, but has supported legislation that would eliminate some aspects.	No. Wants to repeal and replace.
Gay Marriage: Support gay marriage?	Yes	No. Supports overturning same-sex marriage ruling.
Gay Rights: Should transgender individuals have the right to use public bathrooms of their choice?	Yes ²	No. Men’s bathrooms are for men & women’s are for women. ³
Gun Control: Support enacting more restrictive gun control legislation?	Yes. Expand background checks and bar people on watch lists.	No. “Gun laws are not effective.”
Healthcare: Support repealing the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare?	No	Yes
Healthcare: Did you support shutting down the federal government in order to defund Obamacare in 2013?	No	Yes. Also voted against reopening unless Obamacare defunded. ⁴
Healthcare: Should Planned Parenthood be eligible to receive public funds for non-abortion health services?	Yes	No
Immigration: Support the DREAM Act, which would allow children brought into the country illegally to achieve legal status if meet certain conditions? ⁵	Yes	Supported comparable bill in Florida legislature. More recently has opposed ⁶

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Immigration: Should America’s 11 million undocumented residents have earned path to citizenship?	Yes	Backed bipartisan 2013 Bill. Disavowed since then, saying first need to strengthen enforcement.
Iran: Support the US-Iran treaty that limits Iran’s nuclear capability in return for lifting economic sanctions?	Yes	No
Iraq: Should the US recommit significant additional ground troops to Iraq to combat the success of ISIS?	No. Focus on air strikes, coalitions with allies, targeting ISIS cyber recruiting.	Some increase is fine. Also increase air strikes and coalitions to support local forces.
Marijuana: Support efforts to decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana?	Voted for related bills like rights of states to choose, access to banking for marijuana businesses, access for veterans. ⁷	Opposes legalization. Backs federal override of state laws. Might consider low-THC strains for limited medical conditions. ⁸
Minimum Wage: Raise federal minimum wage?	Yes. Increase gradually to \$15	No
Renewable Energy: Support government mandates and/or subsidies for renewable energy?	Yes.	No. Opposes prioritizing renewable energy.
Social Security: Support full or partial Social Security privatization?	No	Yes
Student Debt: Support refinancing of student loans at lower rates, paid for by increasing taxes on high earners?	Supports Clinton plan for debt-free college. No stand on this specific approach.	Voted against. Supports privately funded income-contingent loan repayment.
Student Financial Aid: Should federal student financial aid, like Pell Grants, be increased?	Yes	No. Has voted for budgets that reduce aid. Says problem is increased tuition rates.
Supreme Court: Support the hearings to consider Obama Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland?	Yes	No
Taxes: Increase taxes on corporations and/or high-income individuals to pay for public services?	Probable yes. Close tax loopholes and have people at top pay “their fair share.” Specifics not clear.	No. Proposes tax cuts for both groups plus end taxes on investment income. Pledged to oppose any tax increases.
Voting Rights: Support stricter voting rules such as voter ID requirements or reduced registration times, even if they prevent some people from voting?	No. Restore & expand Voting Rights Act, guarantee early voting, reduce wait times, and eliminate discriminatory voter ID laws.	Yes. Supports voter ID, eliminating Sunday early voting, & cutting early voting hours & locations. (Also see notes about supporting 2012 voter purge. ⁹)

Other senate candidates include [Paul Stanton \(L\)](#). Due to limited space, we can’t include his positions, but invite you to check out his website.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a non-partisan effort to help college and university administrators, faculty, and student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [Ballotpedia.org](#), [Countable.us](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), and public candidate statements. For a guide to all races, see [Vote411.org](#), from the League of Women Voters, and [Ballotready.org](#).

¹ From [2014 interview](#): “I do not believe that human activity is causing these dramatic changes to our climate.”

² [Cosponsored The Equality Act](#) to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity at the federal level.

³ Advocates for [reversing Obama’s Executive Order on gender identity](#) and [opposes making sexual orientation a protected class](#).

⁴ See [Politifact](#)

⁵ Need to have graduated from high school, have a clean legal record, and attend college or serve in the military.

⁶ For Rubio’s immigration shifts, see [here](#)

⁷ Supports [legislation that protects businesses and individuals in states where marijuana has been legalized](#), including permission for Veterans Affairs to recommend marijuana treatment to veterans in states that allow its therapeutic use.

⁸ [Rubio supports](#) first requiring an FDA process and proven medical benefits; will continue to oppose legalization or decriminalization; supports enforcement of federal laws over state laws.

⁹ [Supported Florida’s 2012 voter purge](#) of suspected illegal registrants, which a court has ruled violated federal law.