

## NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2018 FLORIDA SENATE RACE

|  | Bill Nelson (D – Incumbent)   | Rick Scott (R)  |
|--|---|---|
| <p>For mobile-friendly version &amp; other guides, see <a href="http://campuselect.org/guides.html">campuselect.org/guides.html</a></p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at <a href="http://votesmart.org">votesmart.org</a></p> <p>To volunteer, visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://nelsonforsenate.com">nelsonforsenate.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://rickscottforflorida.com">rickscottforflorida.com</a></li> </ul> |    |    |
| <b>Abortion:</b> Highly restrict abortion?   | No. <a href="#">Supports a women’s right to choose.</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">“Abortion is wrong &amp; Roe versus Wade should be overturned.”</a>  |
| <b>Campaign Finance:</b> Require political ads to disclose their largest funders?  | Yes. <a href="#">Backed 2017 DISCLOSE ACT</a> requiring ads to disclose funders & major funders to reveal donations.  | No position found.  |
| <b>Campaign Finance:</b> Support <i>Citizens United</i> decision, allowing unlimited political donations from corporations & unions?   | No. Decision <a href="#">“opened the floodgates to dark money in campaigns.”</a>  | Probable yes. <a href="#">Considers political donations part of exercising the right to free speech.</a>  |
| <b>Climate Change:</b> Consider climate change a serious threat?   | Yes. <a href="#">“Climate change is real, &amp; we must take action.”</a> Denial <a href="#">“is simply not an option, especially in Florida,”</a> <a href="#">where sea level rise is a real threat.</a> | No. <a href="#">“I’ve not been convinced that there’s any manmade climate change.”</a> <a href="#">State environmental employees allegedly told to avoid the phrase “climate change.”</a> |
| <b>Climate Change:</b> Limit or tax production of greenhouse gases? Support US participation in Paris Climate Accord despite President Trump’s withdrawal?   | Yes. <a href="#">Supports federal regulation &amp; Paris Accord.</a> <a href="#">“If the US isn’t going to do its part to combat climate change, then the rest of the world won’t do theirs.”</a>         | No. Opposes federal regulation of greenhouse gases. <a href="#">Repealed Florida cap &amp; trade program.</a> <a href="#">Says Paris Accord risked US jobs.</a>                           |
| <b>Contraception:</b> Allow employers to withhold contraceptive coverage from employees if disagree with it morally?   | No. <a href="#">Co-sponsored bill safeguarding contraceptive coverage.</a> Would <a href="#">exempt religious organizations.</a>  | Yes. <a href="#">Sees as a matter of employer rights &amp; freedom of religion.</a>   |
| <b>Courts:</b> Support <a href="#">Judge Kavanaugh nomination?</a> (Position before allegations)   | <a href="#">Will meet, then decide. Won’t vote for someone who’d overturn Roe v Wade.</a>   | <a href="#">“I am glad President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh.”</a>  |
| <b>Criminal Justice:</b> Support Amendment #4 – <a href="#">restoring voting rights</a> to 1.6 million former felons, excluding murderers & sex offenders?   | Yes. <a href="#">“If you’ve done your time, you should be able to vote. It’s only fair.”</a>  | <a href="#">Has historically made rights restoration difficult. Opposes Amendment 4— prefers existing restoration process.</a>  |
| <b>Economy:</b> Support federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth?  | Yes. For instance, supported <a href="#">stimulus bill at height of 2008 recession.</a>   | Mostly no. Has focused primarily on <a href="#">tax cuts &amp; associated spending cuts.</a>  |
| <b>Economy:</b> Support Trump’s imposition of tariffs on Chinese steel & other products?   | No. Says that these tariffs <a href="#">“may start an international trade war.”</a>   | Mixed. Backs <a href="#">“free &amp; open trade,”</a> but <a href="#">other countries have to reciprocate.</a>  |
| <b>Education:</b> Public support for sending children to private schools?  | No. <a href="#">Must never take money from public schools for private schools.</a>  | Yes. <a href="#">Consistent supporter of vouchers &amp; other private options.</a>  |
| <b>Elections:</b> Support nonpartisan redistricting to address possible partisan <a href="#">gerrymandering?</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">Avoid drawing districts for your own self-interest.</a>  | Unknown. <a href="#">Delayed implementing 2011 nonpartisan initiative.</a>  |
| <b>Environment:</b> Support cutbacks in Environmental Protection Administration(EPA)?  | No. <a href="#">Publicly opposed EPA cutbacks.</a>  | Unknown. <a href="#">Supported Florida environmental regulation cutbacks, but funded Everglades restoration.</a>  |

|  | <b>Bill Nelson (D – Incumbent)</b>   | <b>Rick Scott (R)</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Environment:</b> Position on “red tide” algae crisis? Support reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee to prevent runoff feeding algal blooms?                                      | Supports reservoir. Criticizes Scott’s <a href="#">easing state environmental regulations &amp; cutting \$700 million from water management districts</a> . <a href="#">“When you dismantle the environmental agencies,” this is what happens.</a> | <a href="#">Declared state of emergency</a> . Supports reservoir. <a href="#">Says Nelson has had years to address the crisis &amp; should have gotten Federal support or Army Corps to address problem.</a> <a href="#">“Nelson didn’t care to make Lake Okeechobee a priority.”</a> |
| <b>Financial Regulation:</b> Support cutbacks in Consumer Financial Protection Bureau?   | No. <a href="#">Publicly opposed cutbacks.</a>   | Unknown. <a href="#">But signed legislation to blunt CFPB crackdown on payday loans.</a>  |
| <b>Gay Marriage:</b> Support gay marriage?   | Supports. <a href="#">“If the Lord made homosexuals as well as heterosexuals, why should I discriminate?”</a>  | <a href="#">Opposed in 2014, now says law of the land.</a>  |
| <b>Gun Control:</b> Support more restrictive gun control legislation? Restrict semi-automatic weapons?   | Yes. <a href="#">Long-time supporter of banning semi-automatic weapons &amp; expanding background checks.</a>  | Mixed. <a href="#">Historically opposed. After Parkland, raised purchase age to 21, added 3-day wait &amp; armed some school employees. Didn’t ban assault weapons.</a>   |
| <b>Healthcare:</b> Support or Repeal Affordable Care Act (ACA), known as Obamacare? Support Medicaid expansion?  | Support. <a href="#">Will work to ensure those with pre-existing conditions keep health coverage eligibility.</a>  | <a href="#">“A terrible notion.” “Repeal as quickly as we can get it done.” Rejected Medicaid expansion.</a>  |
| <b>Healthcare:</b> Let Planned Parenthood receive public funds for non-abortion health care?   | Yes. <a href="#">Voted against efforts to defund.</a>  | No. <a href="#">Supported ban that was overturned by courts.</a>  |
| <b>Immigration:</b> Support DREAM Act (DACA), allowing “Dreamers” who arrived illegally as children, then grew up in the US, to achieve legal status if meet certain conditions? | Yes. Co-sponsored <a href="#">2017 DREAM Act, including legal status &amp; path to citizenship.</a>  | In 2010 opposed: <a href="#">“I don’t believe in amnesty.” Vetoed DACA drivers licenses.</a> Now supports: <a href="#">Don’t punish children for actions of their parents.</a>  |
| <b>Iran:</b> Support withdrawal from treaty limiting Iran nuclear capability & lifting sanctions?  | No.  | Yes.  |
| <b>Marijuana:</b> Legalize or decriminalize marijuana?   | Mixed. <a href="#">Supports legal medical use, including letting VA doctors prescribe. Opposes recreational legalization.</a>  | Mixed. <a href="#">Signed law broadening medical, but fought to ban smokable medical marijuana &amp; opposes recreational use.</a>  |
| <b>Minimum Wage:</b> Raise federal minimum wage from \$7.25/hr?  | Yes. <a href="#">Co-sponsored 2017 bill to raise to \$15 by 2024.</a>  | Likely no. <a href="#">Says California minimum wage caused loss of 700,000 jobs.</a>  |
| <b>Net Neutrality:</b> Require internet providers to provide equal access to all users?  | Yes. <a href="#">Supported legislation to restore Obama-era FCC net neutrality rules.</a>  | No. Sees these rules as <a href="#">“burdensome regulations for job creators.”</a>  |
| <b>President Trump:</b> Support President Trump?   | <a href="#">Voted with Trump 43% of time.</a>  | <a href="#">Early Trump supporter. Trump encouraged him to run for Senate.</a>  |
| <b>Privatization:</b> Support partial or full Social Security privatization?   | No. <a href="#">Historically opposed.</a>  | Unclear. <a href="#">Old positions supporting privatization, but no recent ones.</a>  |
| <b>Renewable Energy:</b> Support government subsidies for renewable energy?  | Yes. <a href="#">Voted to cut fossil fuel subsidies to instead support renewables.</a>   | No position found. <a href="#">Signed bill for FL renewable credits that had passed unanimously.</a>  |
| <b>Student debt:</b> Lower student loan rates, paid by increasing taxes on high earners (Elizabeth Warren proposal)? Increase student financial aid, like Pell Grants?           | Yes. <a href="#">Voted for Warren’s student loan proposal. Also called on Trump to expand Pell Grant program.</a>  | No position found on federal aid. <a href="#">Cut higher-ed funding in first term. Recently expanded FL Bright Futures Scholarships &amp; froze student tuition &amp; fees.</a>   |
| <b>Taxes:</b> Support <a href="#">President Trump’s tax cuts?</a>  | No. <a href="#">“Terrible bill”</a>  | Unknown. <a href="#">Enacted major FL tax cuts.</a>   |
| <b>Voting Rights:</b> Support tighter voting rules even if prevent some people from voting?  | No. <a href="#">Says we should be making it easier to vote, not harder. Let students vote on campuses.</a>   | Yes. <a href="#">Necessary to prevent fraud.</a> Courts overturned his <a href="#">2011 regulations on registration drives &amp; 2012 voter purges.</a> <a href="#">Opposed on-campus voting.</a>   |

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