



## Florida

Voters in Florida will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and state legislators in the 2018 election cycle. All 120 seats are up in the state Assembly and 20 seats are up in the state Senate. This is a battleground state for all three offices. Republicans are playing defense in the legislature.

### Governor

#### Republican Nominee

#### [Ron DeSantis](#)

Ron DeSantis represented the state's 6<sup>th</sup> congressional district from 2012 to 2018. DeSantis earned a commission in the U.S. Navy as a Judge Advocate General officer and supported operations at Guantanamo Bay and was deployed to Iraq.

DeSantis defeated the Republican establishment candidate running far to the right in the primary and featuring his support and relationship with President Trump in speeches and [ads](#). The president eventually endorsed DeSantis in the primary, though since the general campaign began the former Congressman has been distancing himself from the administration.

DeSantis has released an environmental proposal focused on protecting the Everglades, beaches, state lands, and expanding the water supply. The plan would complete a southern reservoir that would serve as a dynamic storage system discharging clean water into Everglades National Park and then into the Florida Bay. The plan would centralize the enforcement of water quality standards. DeSantis also opposes off-shore drilling.

DeSantis has released an education proposal focused on increased classroom spending, expanding school choice, and improving curriculum standards. The plan calls for 80% of public K-12 spending to go directly into the classroom. The plan calls for expanding apprenticeship programs and emphasis on career and technical education courses.

DeSantis has praised the state's [economic](#) growth and has stated that he wants to build on that momentum. He wants to phase out the business rent tax – a proposal that has failed in the Republican held Legislature. He also has stated that he would oppose tax increases and he [supports](#) a current amendment on the ballot that would require a supermajority vote in the Legislature to raise any tax.

*Trivia: He is married to an Emmy-award winning television host.*