

## FLORIDA

Voters in Florida will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 120 House seats will be on the ballot as well as half (20) of the Senate seats. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and the legislature.

### Governor

#### Democratic Nominee

#### [Charlie Crist \(D\)](#)

Charlie Crist (D) is a former member of the U.S. House representing Florida's 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He resigned from the House on August 31 to focus on his gubernatorial race. Crist previously served one term as Florida's governor from 2007 to 2011. He was elected as a Republican, switched parties to an independent in 2010, and eventually joining the Democratic Party in 2012.

Crist has released a myriad of [policy platforms](#) including plans to address reproductive rights, voting rights, public safety, healthcare, and the economy.

Although his Democratic primary opponent had criticized him on his evolving record on access to abortion, Crist has vowed to protect reproductive rights and veto anti-abortion legislation if he is elected governor again.

He has released an [Affordable Florida Plan](#), which addresses utility rates, broadband access, housing affordability, and homeowner insurance rates. Crist supports eliminating the current Public Service Commission nominating process: He would like the governor to directly appoint commissioners. He opposes "unreasonable" utility rate increases and if elected will call on the Public Service Commission to set ambitious energy conservation goals. Crist also pledges to appoint a Housing Czar to support the work of local governments to innovate and meet broad housing affordability goals.

Crist has promised to establish a [State Office for New Floridians](#) to assist new residents in settling into the state. The office would include a resources hub and hotline to assist new residents in transferring ID's, obtaining proper licensing, or help securing a new job.

Unlike his opponent Governor Ron DeSantis who ran unopposed in his respective primary, Crist drained much of his campaign accounts in a competitive primary race against Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried (D). During the period from September 3 to September 9, his campaign [pulled in](#) about \$1.38 million. A [debate](#) is scheduled for October 12 between Governor DeSantis (R) and Crist.

*Trivia: Crist was a candidate for public office for the first time in 1986, in the Republican primary for a state Senate seat in Pinellas County.*