



FLORIDA RIGHTS RESTORATION COALITION
2010 CANDIDATE RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT CARD





FLORIDA'S FELONY disfranchisement policy is one of the most restrictive in the country. Every year, hundreds of thousands of Florida's citizens with past felony convictions are barred from

voting despite having completed the terms of their sentences. On April 5, 2007, the Board of Executive Clemency adopted a revised set of rules governing the restoration of civil rights (including voting rights) (known as "RCR," or "restoration of civil rights") for people with felony convictions. These new rules streamlined the RCR process for some people. However, many Floridians are still ineligible to have their rights restored because of the preconditions set out by the 2007 rules. Moreover, hundreds of thousands more are eligible but have not had their rights restored due to inefficiencies of the current system.

This year, Florida voters will elect the next Governor and three

members of the Cabinet: Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The Governor and these three members of the Cabinet serve as the Board of Executive Clemency. This board has the authority to make restoration of civil rights virtually automatic, notwithstanding the civil rights ban contained in the Florida Constitution, as follows: the Governor and two members of the Clemency Board may vote at any time to amend the Rules of Executive Clemency so that the rights to vote, hold public office, and serve on a jury are automatically restored to the over 950,000 Florida citizens who have completed their sen-

tences but currently do not have these rights.

The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) asked all candidates for Florida Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to complete a survey of their positions on civil rights restoration. The questions were designed to determine whether the candidates support reform of Florida's RCR policy (constitutional reform and/or reform of the Rules of Executive Clemency) and the nature of any reforms they support. This FRRC report card is intended to inform Florida voters of the candidates' positions on this critical civil rights issue.

Many candidates responded to the survey, including gubernatorial candidates Peter Allen, Michael Arth, Daniel Imperato, Farid Khavari, and C.C. Reed. All Attorney General candidates responded: Pam Bondi, Dan Gelber, and Jim Lewis. Chief Fi-

nancial Officer candidates Ken Mazzie and Tom Stearns responded. Commissioner of Agriculture candidates Thad Hamilton and Ira Chester responded. Answers from the leading candidates appear below.

Many candidates did not respond to the FRRC's many requests for responses. Gubernatorial candidates Josue Larose, Rick Scott, and Alex Sink did not respond. Chief Financial Officer candidates Jeff Atwater and Loranne Ausley did not respond. Commissioner of Agriculture candidates Scott Maddox and Adam Putnam did not respond.

FLORIDA VOTERS HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHERE THESE CANDIDATES STAND ON CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION. PLEASE CONTACT THESE CANDIDATES and urge them to answer the FRRC questionnaire and tell the voters their positions on rights restoration. Each candidate's contact information can be obtained from his/her campaign website.



Question 1. Automatic Restoration of Civil Rights

Do you support automatic restoration of civil rights for all persons with felony convictions who have completed their sentences and for whom all conditions of supervision have expired or been completed including, but not limited to, parole, probation, community control, control release, and conditional release?

<p>GOVERNOR</p>	<p>Rick Scott (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Alex Sink (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>ATTORNEY GENERAL</p> <p>Yes, but with statutory restrictions.</p> <p>Other.</p>	<p>Pam Bondi (REP)</p> <p>“No, I do not support a blanket restoration of felon voting rights.”</p>	<p>Dan Gelber (DEM)</p> <p>✓</p> <p>“No automatic for all capital offenses.”</p>
<p>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</p>	<p>Jeff Atwater (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Lorraine Ausley (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES</p>	<p>Scott Maddox (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Adam Putnam (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>



Question 2. Constitutional Amendment to Remove Voting Ban

Would you support/encourage passage of legislation that would put on the ballot a constitutional amendment to the Florida Constitution that would remove the civil rights ban imposed on persons with past felony convictions?

<p>GOVERNOR</p>	<p>Rick Scott (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Alex Sink (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>ATTORNEY GENERAL</p> <p>Yes, but with the restrictions described in response to question 1.</p> <p>Other.</p>	<p>Pam Bondi (REP)</p> <p>"No."</p>	<p>Dan Gelber (DEM)</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</p>	<p>Jeff Atwater (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Lorrane Ausley (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES</p>	<p>Scott Maddox (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Adam Putnam (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>



Question 3. Reform Rules of Executive Clemency

Until the civil rights ban is removed from the State Constitution, would you, as a member of the Clemency Board, vote to revise the Rules of Executive Clemency to provide for immediate and automatic, paper-work-free civil rights restoration for all persons who have completed their sentences and whose conditions of supervision have expired or been completed?

<p>GOVERNOR</p>	<p>Rick Scott (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Alex Sink (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>ATTORNEY GENERAL</p> <p>Yes, but with some restrictions.</p> <p>Other.</p>	<p>Pam Bondi (REP)</p> <p>"No."</p>	<p>Dan Gelber (DEM)</p> <p>✓</p> <p>"Same as above re capital offenses."</p>
<p>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</p>	<p>Jeff Atwater (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Lorrane Ausley (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES</p>	<p>Scott Maddox (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Adam Putnam (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>



Question 4. Eliminate backlog of applications

If you do not support immediate and automatic, paperwork-free civil rights restoration, would you support changes to the current process for reviewing RCR applications to eliminate the current backlog of applications?

GOVERNOR	Rick Scott (REP)	Alex Sink (DEM)
	No response.	No response.
ATTORNEY GENERAL	Pam Bondi (REP)	Dan Gelber (DEM)
I support automatic, paperwork-free civil rights restoration immediately upon completion of sentence and expiration or completion of all conditions of supervision.		✓
I would support a process that automatically restores civil rights upon receipt of documentation from the state or county correctional facility that the sentence is complete and all conditions of supervision have expired or are complete.		✓
I would not require a hearing for restoration of civil rights.		✓
All persons with felony convictions who have completed their sentences and for whom all conditions of supervision have expired or been completed would be eligible for restoration of civil rights once they have submitted a completed application to the Clemency Board.		✓
I would increase the number of cases that can be determined without a hearing.		✓
I would increase the number of times the Clemency Board meets so that more cases may be considered each year.	✓	✓
I would hold Clemency Board meetings in more locations throughout the state.	✓	✓
Other.		"Same limitation re capital offenses."



Question 4. Eliminate backlog of applications (continued)

If you do not support immediate and automatic, paperwork-free civil rights restoration, would you support changes to the current process for reviewing RCR applications to eliminate the current backlog of applications?

<p>CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER</p>	<p>Jeff Atwater (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Lorrane Ausley (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>
<p>COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES</p>	<p>Scott Maddox (DEM)</p> <p>No response.</p>	<p>Adam Putnam (REP)</p> <p>No response.</p>

Who is included in this report card?

To be included in this report card, the candidate must have at least 15 percent support (including the full benefit of a four-percent +/- margin of error based on a sample size of 625) among all likely voters who will participate in the general election as determined by a poll conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research. Such poll shall have been conducted and completed between 10 and 45 days before this report card’s release date. By way of example, if a poll shows a candidate receiving 12 percent support among all registered voters, and the poll’s margin of error is four percent, the candidate’s support, including the full benefit of the margin of error, is 16 percent.