

Post-Election Deep Dive: Florida

Presented by
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2018 Florida Elections by the Numbers

5: Number of Statewide Races on the Ballot

12: Number of Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot

\$180 Million: Total spending on US Senate Race

\$113 Million: Total spending on Governor's Race

59%: Voter turnout in the 2018 General election- the highest midterm turnout since 1994.



Recount!

- For the first time in Florida's history, three statewide races were within the statutory margin required for a recount: U.S. Senate, Governor, and Commissioner of Agriculture.
- In addition, one state Senate race and two state House races were also within the recount margin.



Governor/Lt. Governor



- Republican Congressman Ron DeSantis defeated Democrat Andrew Gillum to become Florida's 46th Governor.
- His running mate, Jeanette Nunez, will be the first female Cuban-American to serve as Lieutenant Governor. She previously served 8 years in the Florida House of Representatives.
- Though DeSantis' experience is federal, his transition team is filled with Tallahassee insiders- in addition to Nunez, former House Speaker Richard Corcoran, Congressman Matt Gaetz, former U.S. Senator George LeMieux, and Former Lt. Governor Toni Jennings have all been tapped to serve.



Attorney General

- Republican Ashley Moody defeated Democrat Sean Shaw in the race for Attorney General.
- Moody is a former federal prosecutor and circuit court judge who was endorsed early in her race by current Attorney General Pam Bondi as well as several Sheriffs.
- Moody has pledged to continue Bondi's efforts in fighting the opioid epidemic.



Chief Financial Officer

- Republican Jimmy Patronis was appointed Florida's Chief Financial Officer in 2017. As a result, he was the only cabinet member who ran as an incumbent. He defeated Democrat Jeremy Ring.
- As CFO, Patronis oversees the state's accounting and auditing functions, monitors the state's investments, and is responsible for the licensing and oversight of insurance agents and agencies. The CFO also serves as the state fire marshal.



Commissioner of Agriculture



- Democrat Nikki Fried defeated Republican Matt Caldwell to become the state's first female Commissioner of Agriculture.
- A former lobbyist for the medical marijuana industry, Fried campaigned on the "Three W's": Water, Weed, and Weapons.
- The Commissioner of Agriculture oversees 13 divisions and five offices related to agriculture and consumer services, including food safety, forestry, and licensing for several consumer service businesses such as auto repair shops, telemarketing, and pawnshops. The office also oversees concealed weapons permits.



Florida House and Senate

House

- Democrats flipped six seats, bringing the margin in the chamber to 73 Republicans, 47 Democrats.
- This is the largest number of members the Democrats have had in the House since 1998.

Senate

- Democrats picked up one seat, bringing the margin in the chamber to 23 Republicans, 17 Democrats.



Florida U.S. Senate and House Seats

- Florida Governor Rick Scott defeated incumbent Bill Nelson in the race for the U.S. Senate.
- Democrats picked up 2 U.S. House seats, bringing the total number in the congressional delegation to 13 Democrats/14 Republicans.
- 11 of the 27 members of the delegation started their careers in state government.



Constitutional Amendments

- Eleven of twelve Constitutional Amendments passed on the November 2018 ballot. These include:
 - A 10% cap on increases in property taxes for commercial properties (Amendment 2).
 - Approval of any new casino gambling via citizen initiative (Amendment 3).
 - Automatic restoration of Voting Rights for Felons (Amendment 4).
 - A requirement that any bill creating a new tax or fee or increasing an existing tax or fee pass the legislature by 2/3 (Amendment 5).
 - A repeal of the “Chevron Doctrine” - courts are no longer required to defer to an agency’s interpretation of state law or rule (Amendment 6).
 - Ban on offshore oil drilling (Amendment 9).



2019 Legislative Session : Looking Ahead

Major issues for the 2019 legislative session may include:

- * Healthcare, including scope of practice
- * Disruptive technologies
- * Red Tide/Algae Bloom
- * Gambling/Implementation of Amendment 3
- * Elections reform
- * Hurricane relief and response



Questions?



Thank You!



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