

**From:** [DSCC Press](#)  
**To:** [Eric Schultz](#);  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** DSCC STATEMENT ON GOV. CRIST ENTERING FLORIDA SENATE RACE  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 12:05:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)

---

**For Immediate Release**

**May 12, 2009**

**Contact: Eric Schultz, 202-485-3129**



## DSCC STATEMENT ON GOV. CRIST ENTERING FLORIDA SENATE RACE

Today DSCC Communications Director Eric Schultz released the following statement upon Gov. Crist's entrance into the Florida Senate Race:

"Charlie Crist's record in Florida is not one to be proud of. His administration has created an economic mess with record deficits, staggering unemployment, and a mortgage crisis that has hit nearly every Florida community. Too many in Florida are hurting because Governor Crist has failed to provide leadership and a way out of this mess. He's jumping ship when he's needed the most. That isn't leadership – it is an abdication of responsibility."

**Florida Has 9.7% Unemployment Rate.** In March 2009, Florida's unemployment rate rose to 9.7%, significantly higher than the national 8.5% rate. Since a year prior (March 2008), Florida has lost 424,300 jobs. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Regional and State Employment and Unemployment Summary, [4/17/09](#)]

**Florida Has Second Highest Foreclosure Rate.** Florida is currently ranked second in home foreclosure activity. Florida recorded 18,946 foreclosures in March, a 33 percent increase from February. [[Orlando Business Journal](#), [4/15/09](#)]

**Floridians Facing Job Losses, Foreclosures, Dwindling Bank Accounts.** Crist is presiding over a historic collapse of the state's housing market, banking sector and construction industry, and a slowdown in tourism. Floridians struggle with job reductions, home foreclosures and dwindling bank accounts. [[South Florida Sun Sentinel](#)], [4/17/09](#)]

**Budget Hikes Taxes, Fees, Tuition While Cutting Spending, Including Elderly Care and State Workers' Pay.** Lawmakers in Tallahassee have been wrestling with a \$6 billion budget gap. The budget recently passed by lawmakers includes \$2 billion in new fees and taxes, pay cuts for state workers, tuition hikes, and cuts to elderly healthcare. [[Ledger](#), [5/04/09](#); [News Herald](#), [5/08/09](#)]