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Subject: FACT CHECK: Charlie Crist Launches First Campaign Ad



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FACT CHECK: Charlie Crist Launches First Campaign Ad

Miami, FL – Signaling his growing concern about Marco Rubio's momentum, Charlie Crist's U.S. Senate campaign today began airing its first paid advertisement of the year. The ad, which is playing on conservative radio stations in Florida, highlights Crist's allegedly conservative tax and spending record. Below is the full text of the ad, a point-by-point rebuttal and on-the-record statement from Marco Rubio's U.S. Senate campaign.

CRIST AD: "Washington is out of control, yet the president has the same tired answer for every problem – to spend more of your money. In the last two years, federal government spending has grown by over 25 percent. ... We can't spend our way into prosperity or tax our way into growth."

FACTS: Governor Crist Joined President Obama On Stage To Enthusiastically Support The Wasteful \$787 Billion Stimulus, Saying It Was "All About Jobs, Jobs, Jobs." "Gov. Charlie Crist said Friday the federal stimulus bill will bring tens of thousands of jobs to Florida and hopefully plug holes in the state budget. Of the estimated \$10 billion Florida will receive, about \$1.3 billion is expected to go toward local and state transportation projects, Crist said. ... 'It's all about jobs, jobs, jobs,' Crist said at a news conference." ("Gov. Crist: Stimulus Bill Will Bring Jobs, Funds," Associated Press, 2/14/09)

Despite Crist's Stimulus Promises Of "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs," Over 1 Million Floridians Are Now Unemployed As Florida's September 2009 Unemployment Rate Rose To 11 Percent, Its Highest Level Since 1975. ("Florida Unemployment Figure Hits 11 Percent," Orlando Sentinel, 10/16/09)

Florida's Unemployment Rate In February When The Stimulus Passed Was 9.6 Percent. (U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics Website, <http://data.bls.gov/>, Accessed 8/21/09)

When Charlie Crist Took Office, Florida's Unemployment Rate Was 3.3 Percent. ("Florida's January Unemployment 3.3 Percent," Agency For Workforce Innovation Press Release, 3/8/07)

According To The Federal Government, \$356 Million In Florida Stimulus Money Has Led To Only 1,635 Jobs. That's Over \$217,000 Per Job. "The federal government released its most detailed breakout of how the \$787 billion stimulus package was being used nationwide, and specifically how many jobs the tiny sliver of cash spent so far had created. ... The bottom line for Florida: 1,635 jobs have been created so far in a state with nearly 1 million jobless. Here's the government Web site with the information, and it says the state has awarded 344 contracts worth \$356 million." ("Stim Bucks Create 1,635 Florida Jobs So Far," Orlando Sentinel, 10/15/09)

CRIST AD: “Here in Florida, I’ve slashed government by 10 percent. That’s \$7 billion.”

FACT: *St. Petersburg Times*: “On spending, Crist claims credit for reducing Florida's budget, but he had no choice. The collapse of the real estate market caused massive tax collection shortfalls, which forced the budget to shrink by \$7 billion.” (“Crist's Agenda Looks Incomplete As He Skips Bid For Second Term,” *St. Petersburg Times*, 10/11/09)

CRIST AD: “And we’ve passed the biggest tax cuts in Florida history.”

FACTS: In May 2009, Governor Crist Signed A Budget That Raised A “Historic Amount Of Taxes.”

“Lawmakers are raising a historic amount of taxes, fees, licenses and rates – about \$2 billion worth – on smokers, property owners, drivers, parkgoers, sportsmen, university students and customers of state-run Citizens Property Insurance Corp.” (“Florida Legislature Finalizes Deal On State Budget,” *The Miami Herald*, 5/5/09)

Americans For Tax Reform Described The Fee Increases As “Actually Mislabeled Tax Increases.”

“Today, taxpayers expressed disappointment that Gov. Charlie Crist went against his commitment to Floridians on Wednesday and broke his Pledge as governor to ‘oppose and veto any and all tax increases.’ ... The \$65 billion-plus fiscal year FY2010 budget Crist signed ... requires an estimated \$800 million in ‘fee’ increases, many of which are actually mislabeled tax increases. ... ‘I’m deeply disappointed Governor Crist broke the Pledge he made to Floridians about how he would govern,’ said Christopher Butler, Chief of Staff at Americans for Tax Reform. ‘The crisis in Florida is too much government spending, not insufficient taxation.’” (“Taxpayers Disappointed with Crist Pledge Violation,” *Americans For Tax Reform Press Release*, 5/29/09)

In Doing So, Crist Broke His Promise To Floridians Not To Raise Taxes. “Breaking a pledge against raising taxes, Gov. Charlie Crist signed Florida’s \$66.5 billion budget into law Wednesday and barely used his veto pen. ... Also, the budget includes \$2.2 billion in new fees and taxes. ... Democrats, particularly in the House, assailed the tax hikes. ... By not vetoing the new taxes, Crist violated a no-new-taxes pledge he made on the campaign trail in 2006. He also has signed an antitax pledge geared toward governors, written by the conservative Washington group Americans for Tax Reform.” (“Gov. Crist Signs \$66.5 Billion Budget, Breaks Tax Pledge,” *The Miami Herald*, 5/28/09)

CRIST AD: “Less government, less taxes. It’s more than a slogan. It’s my commitment and the record I’ll bring from Tallahassee to Washington. ... Let’s cut the size of the federal government and return your family’s money so you can decide how to best spend it.”

FACTS: As Governor, Crist Has Expanded Florida’s Government-Run Property Insurance Program.

“And to reduce property insurance costs, especially for Floridians living near the nation’s second-longest coastline, Crist expanded, and vetoed reform of, the state’s reckless version of a property insurance ‘public option.’ It is government-run insurance that, by offering rates lower than rational assessments of risk would dictate, has driven private insurers to limit their business or even stop doing business in the state. When a huge hurricane hits, Florida -- and U.S. -- taxpayers might have to foot the bill, by which time Crist plans to be in Washington.” (“A Ripe Time For Florida’s Marco Rubio, George Will Syndicated Column, 9/27/09)

Gov. Crist Signed An Executive Order Setting Up A Big Government Cap-And-Trade System In Florida. “Republican Gov. Charlie Crist acknowledged Wednesday that his global warming initiative puts him at odds with the White House and some of his party's longtime supporters in the utility and construction industries. ... The governor intends to sign three executive orders at the end of his summit Friday that will set up a cap-and-trade system for cutting greenhouse gas emissions from the state's utilities, rewrite the building code to require more energy-efficient construction and appliances and require utilities to get 20 percent of their power from sources other than fossil fuels. ... Crist's proposals drew cheers from Democrats in the state House, who said reducing emissions is a moral obligation, and from several environmental groups.” (“Crist Picks Green Over Red: The Governor Is Well Aware His Warming Initiative Is Unpopular With Some In His Party,” *St. Petersburg Times*, 7/12/07)

Crist Increased The State Workforce For the First Time Since Lawton Chiles, a Liberal Democrat, Was Governor. “The annual report indicates that Crist has presided over the first growth in total state government employment since the late Gov. Lawton Chiles started the decline in his last year - a reduction that Bush accelerated with

privatization and computerization." ("State Jobs On Rise Again," Tallahassee Democrat, 12/30/07)

RUBIO CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

"Just like government can't tax and spend its way to prosperity, Charlie Crist can't fundraise and spend his way into being a conservative. By hitting the airwaves this early in the campaign, it's clear he's concerned that his abysmal economic record, embrace of Obama spending policies and Marco Rubio's rise are a recipe for his defeat. Despite his best efforts to sell himself as a conservative, Charlie Crist can't fool Floridians who are feeling the pain of the Crist economy and know his record of embracing wasteful stimulus spending, raising taxes and supporting cap-and-trade." -- Alex Burgos, Rubio campaign spokesman

FULL TEXT OF CHARLIE CRIST FOR U.S. SENATE RADIO AD

Washington is out of control, yet the president has the same tired answer for every problem – to spend more of your money.

I'm Charlie Crist. I'm running for the U.S. Senate because Washington needs a dose of Florida common sense.

In the last two years, federal government spending has grown by over 25 percent.

Here in Florida, I've slashed government by 10 percent. That's \$7 billion.

And we've passed the biggest tax cuts in Florida history.

Last fall, the conservative Cato Institute graded all 50 governors with a fiscal report card.

I'm proud to say that I was ranked #1 in America.

Less government, less taxes. It's more than a slogan. It's my commitment and the record I'll bring from Tallahassee to Washington.

We can't spend our way into prosperity or tax our way into growth.

Let's cut the size of the federal government and return your family's money so you can decide how to best spend it.

I'm Charlie Crist and I approved this message.

Paid for by Marco Rubio for US Senate

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