



RICK SCOTT'S 'DIRTY DOZEN'

1. **Gutted growth management in Florida by eliminating the Department of Community Affairs.** Developers are now free to create new development projects with little to no regional or state oversight.

2. **Fought EPA's proposed rules for Florida's waters that would have stopped pollution at its source.** His Administration repeatedly sacrificed Florida's water resources to the profits of corporate polluters.

3. **Cut funding for Florida's water management districts** forcing them to eliminate environmental staff and programs.

4. **Crippled enforcement of environmental rules and appointed industry officials in top regulatory positions.** Florida DEP attorneys and regulators were instructed to avoid sanctioning businesses for circumventing environmental laws, and they were reprimanded or suspended when they did not follow orders.

5. **Proposed several new transportation corridors that would create new cities with millions of people** from the Georgia border to Alligator Alley. If Scott puts this plan in place during a second term, it would eliminate much of Florida's rural

(Continued on page 4)

Charlie Crist: The Environmental Candidate

Sierra Club Florida endorses Charlie Crist for Governor in an election that will determine the future of the state's environment

Dear Member:

Sierra Club Florida enthusiastically urges you to **vote for Charlie Crist for Governor.**

Crist served the State of Florida ably as Governor from 2007-2010. During his time, four major environmental accomplishments stand out:

1. Advised the Florida Public Service Commission to reject new coal plants in Florida. Crist's PSC followed his advice which led to the cancellation of **six** massive coal-fired power plants that Florida utilities had proposed.

2. Took a strong leadership position recognizing the impact climate change would have on Florida and the world. He put the State of Florida on the path to set strong renewable energy goals, an action that was later reversed by the Florida Legislature.

3. Negotiated an agreement with US Sugar Corporation that provides the State with the option to buy all 187,000 acres of land owned by US Sugar. This historic step was the single most important action taken in the past 30 years for restoration of the Everglades.



4. Appointed Tom Pelham as the director of the Department of Community Affairs. Pelham is a terrific champion of growth management, as good as one can find in Florida. (Scott eliminated the Department when he took office.)

We are thrilled that Charlie Crist is committed to build on his past record and to reverse the damage done to environmental protection in Florida by our current Governor Rick Scott.

Here are the highlights of what we can expect from Crist in a new term as Florida's Governor:

Protecting Wild Florida - Crist enthusiastically supports Amendment 1, the Florida Water and Land Legacy Amendment. Scott, on the other hand, hasn't taken a position for or against the amendment. Crist would use funding from Amendment 1 to acquire land and conservation easements from landowners for permanent pro-

(Continued on page 3)

Land, Water Conservation Must Be Priority

With more than 1,000 people moving to Florida every day, we must protect Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands before they are gone forever.

Bulldozers are paving our paradise to create cities out of our ranchlands. Springs across the state are dead or dying. Our rivers, bays and estuaries are being polluted, killing dolphins, manatees, and other marine life. Florida voters get a chance in November to create a legacy for protecting our special places and precious water resources by voting YES for Amendment 1 – The Water and Land Conservation Amendment.

Sierra Club Florida is one of more than 400 organizations and businesses from across the state which have pledged our support of this important legislation. Amendment 1 is the best — and likely last — hope we have to ensure Florida's precious waters and natural areas will be protected for future generations.

The amendment will protect our drinking water and preserve the water quality of our rivers, lakes, springs, and coastal waters for future generations — with no tax increase. The amendment will set aside one-third (33%) of Florida's existing documentary stamp tax ("doc stamp") revenues collected when real estate is sold, and direct billions of dollars to conservation during its 20-year lifespan.

We are asking our members to VOTE YES on Amendment 1 on the November 4 ballot.

These funds will be used to:

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA ENDORSEMENTS FOR FEDERAL SEATS

Gwen Graham – District 2

Corrine Brown - District 5

Alan Grayson – District 9

Kathy Castor – District 14

Patrick Murphy – District 18

Alcee Hastings – District 20

Ted Deutch – District 21

Lois Frankel – District 22

Debbie Wasserman Schultz –
District 23

Frederica Wilson – District 24

Joe Garcia – District 26

For more information on Sierra Club's endorsed candidates, go to

florida.sierraclub.org/florida_political_page.asp



November 4, 2014

Restore, manage and acquire lands necessary to protect Florida's drinking water sources and protect the water quality in our rivers, lakes and streams;

- Protect our beaches and shores;
- Protect and restore the Everglades and other degraded natural systems and waterways;
- Manage wildlife habitat, protect forests and wetlands, and restore conservation lands that are an important part of Florida's economy and quality of life;
- Provide funding to manage existing-

- state and local natural areas, parks, and trails for water supply, habitat, and recreation.

Across Florida last summer, toxic algae and pollution caused record numbers of wildlife deaths including dolphins, manatees, birds and other wildlife. Many natural springs, wetlands and rivers are not getting sufficient fresh water to stay healthy. Amendment 1 will help protect our water supply, as well as waters where we swim, paddle, fish, surf and play in.

We are not alone. The passage of Amendment 1 would make Florida the 12th state to secure conservation funding constitutionally. It would ensure that funds historically used for water and land conservation are not diverted to other uses by the legislature.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to protect Florida's water quality, natural areas, beaches, and wildlife, so future generations can enjoy them the same way we do.

Please join us in the fight to protect our state by voting YES on Amendment 1. For more information, go to voteyeson1fl.org

The Pelican, Vol. 47 No.2

The Pelican is published by Sierra Club Florida and mailed to Sierra Club Florida members. Address all inquiries to Sierra Club Florida, 1990 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712.

This member communication is paid for and approved by the Florida Sierra Club

Environmental Candidate

(Continued from page 1)

tection of wildlife habitat and corridors.

Fracking and Drilling - Crist opposes fracking for natural gas in Florida and offshore oil drilling in State waters and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Climate Change - Unlike Rick Scott, Charlie Crist doesn't have his head in the sand when it comes to recognizing the threat to Florida of climate change and rising seas. He would direct Florida DEP to work with the scientific community to address climate change impacts on Florida. He also recognizes that human activity is fueling climate change and that we need to rapidly make the transition to clean, renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Solar Energy - How serious is Charlie Crist on solar? Here is what he said on May 15, 2014, in a speech to the Council of 100, a coalition of Florida's top business leaders:

"We will invest in renewable energy, like wind and solar. We are the sunshine state, yet there are few places in America harder to invest in solar technology than Florida. And that is going to change. I know some in this room don't like to hear this, but it is time to remove the monopoly by big utility companies and let smaller companies who specialize in renewable energy compete, by making it easier and cheaper for you to put solar on your home or business – as well as encourage investment in solar and wind fields. Either you believe in the market or not, and on this one, Florida's policies are anti-free market. It is time for a change. Besides being good for the environment, alternative energy will create new high paying jobs. It is time for government to stop standing in the way."

Mass Transit and Electric Vehicles - Crist would provide incentives for fuel efficient motor vehicles and would support the development of clean public mass transit.



Photo by Marcia Biggs

During the 2011 Hands Across the Sand event organized by Sierra Club groups, Charlie Crist and wife Carole joined hands on St. Pete Beach. Earlier that morning he spoke at a press conference promising to protect Florida's beaches from drilling.



He would invest in electric vehicle infrastructure needed to increase adoption of EV's and is an advocate for adding zero emission electric buses to public fleets.

Clean Water Rules - Crist supports the right of local governments to protect their local waters by adopting strong fertilizer regulations. He is opposed to preemptive state legislation and rule-making that would weaken local environmental laws, but he would lead a comprehensive state approach to reducing nutrient pollution and harmful algae blooms. He also supports making consumptive use permits contingent on maintaining minimum flows and levels for Florida waters.

Everglades Restoration and Coastal Estuaries Protection - Crist is a strong

champion of protecting the Everglades and coastal estuaries. He would stop sending harmful releases from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries on Florida's east and west coasts. Instead he would send the water south to the Everglades where it belongs. He told us that he will execute the State's contract with U.S. Sugar Corporation to buy the land that will make sending the water south possible.

Enforcement of Environmental Laws - Crist pledged to us that he would appoint a strong Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection who will diligently enforce environmental laws. He also expressed dismay at the Scott Administration's practice of punishing DEP staff who file enforcement actions against polluters.

The choice is clear: Charlie Crist understands our state's environmental challenges and will work to lead Florida on a path toward conservation, sustainability and smart growth. We ask you to vote on November 4 for Charlie Crist.

Sierra Club Florida
The Pelican
1990 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

PRSRT—FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TALLAHASSEE FL

Modern Mailers Permit 236

Moving?

Send current mailing label and new address to:

Sierra Club
PO Box 421041
Palm Coast FL 32142-6417
Allow 4-6 weeks for processing or send
changes to address.changes@sierraclub.org
and include your membership number.

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION 2014

‘Dirty Dozen’

(Continued from page 1)

farmland and threaten wildlife habitat for the Florida panther and other endangered species. It also would threaten the State’s depleted water supply and further pollute our endangered springs, lakes and rivers.

6. Single-handedly killed high speed rail between Tampa and Orlando. Federal funds for the line were approved and ready to be spent to build the line, but Scott turned down the funds. It was a tremendous setback for efforts to bring clean, modern transit to the State.

7. Failed to do anything to help grow the solar industry in the sunshine state which lags far behind the rest of the country. Scott also stacked the Florida Public Service Commis-



Gov. Scott’s lack of concern for alternative energy allows big utilities to reap profits.

sion with utility-friendly Commissioners who repeatedly allowed power companies to charge customers in advance for expensive nuclear power plants that might never be built.

8. Ignored his responsibility to take leadership to address

and combat the problem of rising sea levels that are beginning to threaten Florida’s coastal communities. He came into office as a climate change denier, and currently responds to media questions on whether human activity impacted climate by saying, “I’m not a scientist.”

9. Failed to address the crisis of over-pumped and polluted Florida springs until they were near death this year. His recent funding for springs restoration did not go far enough toward solving the springs’ most basic problems from over-pumping of the aquifer and pollution from fertilizer use, septic tanks, cattle farms and other sources.

10. Didn’t defend the Florida Forever program for purchase of environmentally-significant lands when the Legislature slashed funding. To raise money to buy environ-

mental land, the Scott Administration’s solution was to sell public lands already owned and protected.

11. Promoted harmful dredging of ports which will damage coral reefs, bays and estuaries throughout Florida.

12. Sabotaged our best chance of restoring the Everglades and protecting the Indian River Lagoon and Charlotte Harbor estuaries when he publicly rejected Gov. Charlie Crist’s historic contract to acquire 187,000 acres of sugar land that would allow us to move excess Lake Okeechobee water south to the Everglades.

Scott’s acceptance of large campaign gifts from the sugar industry and his private hunting trip to U.S. Sugar’s retreat at the King Ranch in Texas make most people conclude he has gotten too close to Big Sugar.