

On the Issues: **DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL VS. RICK SCOTT**











A crucial Senate race is taking place in Florida and, while the **FEA doesn't endorse federal candidates or in national races**, we want to make sure you know who is on the ballot and where they stand on critical labor and education issues.













**Former U.S. Representative
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell**



Former Florida Governor and Current Senator Rick Scott

-  **OPPOSES VOUCHER PROGRAMS** that divert funds from public schools. (Source: [ISideWith.com](#))
-  **PRO-UNION** and defends collective bargaining. (Source: [Florida Politics](#))
-  **ADVOCATES FOR FAIR TAXES** for working families. (Source: [WUSF](#))
-  **SUPPORTED NO STUDENT LOAN INTEREST** on certain federal student loans. (Source: [Congress](#))
-  **WANTS FULLY FUNDED PUBLIC EDUCATION** and affordable higher education. (Source: [Community Newspapers](#))
-  **IS FOCUSED ON AFFORDABILITY FOR FLORIDIANS** from housing and living costs to lowering the cost of medications properly insurance rates. (Source: [NBC News](#))
-  **ADVOCATES FOR STEM EDUCATION** for our earliest learners and has focused on efforts to increase diversity in these fields. (Source: [Ballotpedia](#))
-  **SUPPORTS FLORIDA FAMILIES** and believes in making sure tax dollars are being spent wisely on the programs they are meant to support, like education, instead of raising taxes without proper oversight. (Source: [WLRN](#))
-  **SUPPORTS TEACHER PAY INCREASES** and believes teachers deserve consistent salary growth and meaningful raises, rather than bonus-based systems. (Source: [ISideWith.com](#))
-  **SUPPORTS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS** and believes in holding institutions accountable for rising costs, but opposes policies that disproportionately burden students for loan defaults. (Source: [Forbes](#))

-  **CUT FUNDING** from public education in his first years to the tune of about \$1.3 billion. (Source: [PolitiFact](#))
-  **DIVERTED PUBLIC SCHOOL RESOURCES** by promoting vouchers and charter schools. (Source: [Miami Herald](#))
-  **UNDERMINED TEACHERS** by signing SB 736 which imposed annual contracts for teachers, tied evaluations to student test scores, and required teachers to contribute 3% of their salary to pensions. (Source: [The Ledger](#))
-  **NO MEANINGFUL SALARY INCREASES** happened during his time- instead he supported the Best and Brightest bonus program. (Source: [Daytona Beach News Journal](#))
-  **CLOSED NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS** through HB 7069 by allowing private companies to enact school takeovers. (Source: [Tampa Bay Times](#))
-  **EXPANDED VOUCHER PROGRAMS** and created unfunded mandates for local school boards. (Source: [The Washington Post](#))
-  **SUPPORTED ANTI-UNION EFFORTS** with HB 7055, which included union decertification and further voucher expansion. (Source: [Florida Politics](#))
-  **SUPPORTED ANTI-PUBLIC EDUCATION POLITICIANS** like Betsy DeVos, who promoted for-profit education and reduced support for public schools. (Source: [Tampa Bay Times](#))
-  **RESPONSIBLE FOR FRAUD** when, as CEO of Columbia/HCA, his company was fined \$1.7 billion for Medicare and Medicaid fraud. (Source: [Department of Justice](#))
-  **SUPPORTED CUTS TO MEDICAID**, negatively impacting public health care access. (Source: [The White House](#))