

US Senate Candidates Side-by-Side

BILL NELSON



Stands as a 100 percent pro-public education voter in Congress.

Supports providing quality public education for all children, regardless of their ZIP code or family income.

Advocates for career and technical education legislation.

Opposed voucher funding over public school funding.

Supports and promotes science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning beginning in early elementary school to begin preparing our students and readying our economy for the jobs of the future.

Co-authored the American Innovation and Competitive Act that authorized several programs to improve gender, racial and socioeconomic diversity in STEM education and in the federal workforce.

Supports fair and consistent treatment of student loan recipients.

Fought to cap interest rates and fees to help make higher education more affordable for our students.

Was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 and has been a tireless champion of public education throughout his career.

Opposed the nomination of Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.



The Florida Education Association has recommended Nelson.



RICK SCOTT



During his first year in office, signed a budget that cut education funding by \$1.3 billion. Over the past eight years, has signed budgets that reduced education funding share below 2008 levels and has promoted voucher and charter school programs over public schools.

Campaigned on and signed into law SB 736, legislation that resulted in annual contracts for teachers, increased testing for students and tied teacher evaluations to student test scores.

Required teachers and education support professionals to contribute 3 percent of their salary to their pension.

Signed legislation creating Best and Brightest bonuses rather than supporting actual pay increases for teachers.

Signed HB 7069 – legislation that accelerated school closures, directed public funding to private companies for school takeovers, expanded voucher programs and created unfunded mandates for local school boards.

Signed HB 7055 – legislation that includes unconstitutional union decertification, further voucher expansions and allows sales tax funding for private schools.

Before becoming governor, served as CEO of Columbia/HCA, a private health care company that was fined \$1.7 billion by the Justice Department for Medicare and Medicaid fraud.

Supported the nomination of Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.

