



The Florida Democrat

Keeping Florida Democrats up to date on news in the state

Did Rick Scott Really Learn From His Mistakes At Columbia/HCA?

In the GOP debate against career politician Bill McCollum, disgraced executive Rick Scott said, "I have leveled from the voters from day one... when you are in business you learn lessons," in response to questions about his company's illegal practices while he was CEO of Columbia/HCA, which eventually pled guilty to systemic Medicare fraud and paid a massive \$1.7 billion in fines, the largest in American history. This has been Scott's default answer to avoid explaining why he was forced to resign amid the historic fraud conducted under his watch. and

Scott likes to say he learned from his mistakes at Columbia/HCA, but a story in today's *Miami Herald* directly contradicts that. According to the *Herald*, Scott's company Solantic, which he frequently touts on the campaign trail, has a less than stellar record. The *Herald* reports that days before Scott announced his campaign for Governor, "he was deposed in a case that alleged his healthcare company Solantic had broken Florida law by filing false medical licensing information with the state."

More from the *Herald*:

At the same time the case was quietly settled, the Republican frontrunner was drawing attention to Solantic on the campaign trail by boasting of his business background and the company's patient-centered low-cost health care model that provides "Starbuck's style" transparent pricing at nearly 30 clinics throughout the state. The Glencross lawsuit -- along with nine other court actions filed against the company since 2001 in Duval County -- tells a different story. Taken together, they portray the company, and sometimes Scott by extension, as a ruthless employer who discriminated or cut corners in pursuit of profit. [Miami Herald, 8/5/10]

Considering the Rick Scott of Solantic sounds awfully similar to the Rick Scott of Columbia/HCA, what lessons did Scott actually learn? Full Article: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/08/05/1761961/few-details-emerge-from-suits.html>

Rick Scott and Bill McCollum's Empty Jobs Plans

At the GOP Primary debate, disgraced executive Rick Scott and career politician Bill McCollum both touted their respective "plans" to create jobs in Florida. While McCollum can't decide whether he dislikes Scott's plan or if Scott plagiarized McCollum's, Floridians have decided that both plans are empty rhetoric and stale ideas.

The *St. Petersburg Times* said of both Republicans' plans, "but both men are rehashing the same tired and outdated plans for reviving Florida's economy. Their promise to cut corporate income taxes and property taxes — and still invest more in education to spur economic development — is deceptive pandering that even the Republican-led Legislature hasn't stooped to in recent years because it knew it couldn't deliver. Neither can McCollum or Scott."

More from the editorial:

Neither of the self-proclaimed fiscal conservatives are honest about the real elephant in the room: Next year the state is expected to face at least a \$6 billion shortfall in funding for schools, prisons and other programs in part because the federal stimulus funds will dry up. Cut taxes, as McCollum and Scott pledge, and that gap will only grow wider.

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Does Bill McCollum Really Want To Brag About His Experience?



In the GOP Primary debate this evening, Bill McCollum tried to use his 30 years in politics as a positive sign that he has the experience to be Florida's Governor. McCollum said, "I have a long record and I am proud of that."

In light of McCollum's bizarre willingness to use his record as a reason TO vote for him, we wanted to remind Floridians of McCollum's real voting record during his 20 years in Congress. Here are 5 highlights:

1. **Bill McCollum, in 1989, Voted Against Tougher Liability Laws Covering Negligent Acts Committed by Oil Companies.** Bill McCollum, on November 8, 1989, voted against an amendment "to further toughen" a comprehensive

oil spill liability bill. The New York Times reported "the House narrowly passed an amendment that would make oil companies liable for unlimited damages in the event of negligence. The bill had used a standard of gross negligence or willful misconduct." [Vote 341, HR 1465, 11/8/89 and The New York Times, 11/9/89][Continued on Page 2]

McCollum Questions Anyone's Ethics? McCollum and the RPOF

At the GOP primary debate, career politician Bill McCollum didn't waste 5 minutes before noting that his rival disgraced executive Rick Scott former company pleading guilty to the largest Medicare fraud in American history and paying \$1.7 billion in fines after Scott was forced to resign.

While Scott's record certainly deserves to be criticized, McCollum hardly has room to criticize someone else's integrity. McCollum's ties to the ongoing scandals at the Republican Party of Florida(RPOF) and his efforts to sweep them under the rug disqualify him from attacking anyone else's sense of ethics. Before Bill McCollum throws any more stones, here's a reminder of his own corrupt record:

McCollum "Has Been Deeply Involved In The Controversy, While Trying To Keep It Quiet". "Attorney General Bill McCollum, the Republican gubernatorial frontrunner, has been deeply involved in the controversy, while trying to keep it quiet." [St. Petersburg Times/Miami Herald, 2/9/10]

McCollum Suggested A Criminal Investigation Into FDLE Wasn't Necessary. "Months ago, McCollum received credit in helping oust Greer, a quiet, decisive presence behind the scenes. And now he initiated a criminal investigation by FDLE after earlier suggesting it wasn't necessary." [St. Petersburg Times/Miami Herald, 04/07/10]

McCollum was also involved in the negotiations over Jim Greer's resignation and generous severance package:

New Document Concerning Jim Greer's Severance Package "Illustrates The Close Connection To McCollum"—Greer Said He Would Honor Commitments Made With The McCollum Campaign. "A document obtained by the *Times/Herald* describing Greer's negotiations with the Republican Party concerning his severance package illustrates the close connection to McCollum. Greer writes to GOP general counsel Jason Gonzalez that he will honor the 'commitments that I have made to the House, Senate and McCollum's campaign.' It's unclear what commitments Greer is referring to. In the document, Greer also takes credit for helping McCollum, 'who I might add would not be without question the presumptive nominee if not for my efforts.'" [St. Petersburg Times/Miami Herald, 4/8/10]

Does Bill McCollum Really Want To Brag About His Experience?

2. **McCollum Co-Sponsored Bill that Repealed Glass-Steagall Act - Allowed Firms To Become “Too Big To Fail.”** The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, co-sponsored by Bill McCollum, repealed parts of the Glass-Steagall Act, which had previously prohibited U.S. financial services providers, including banks, securities firms, and insurance companies from affiliating with each other and entering each other's markets. During debate on the bill, Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, who opposed the bill, said, “I think we will look back in 10 years' time and say we should not have done this but we did because we forgot the lessons of the past, and that that which is true in the 1930's is true in 2010.” In May, 2010, Sec. Robert Reich wrote that the repeal of Glass-Steagall was, “part of the reason the giants on Wall Street could make wild bets that ended up threatening the entire economy, costing millions of Americans their jobs and savings, and requiring a massive taxpayer-financed bailout.” [Conference Report and Text of Gramm-Leach-Bliley Bill, 11/1/99; [House Vote 570](#), S 900, 11/4/99; Christian Science Monitor, 5/12/10]

3. **McCollum Voted To Raise Social Security Retirement Age.** In 1983, McCollum voted for an amendment to raise the social security age from 65 to 67 after the year 2000 and to raise payroll taxes in 2015. The amendment was adopted 228-202. [HR 1900, March 9, 1983, CQ Almanac of Politics]

McCollum Voted For Two Amendments To Weaken The Americans With Disabilities Act's Provisions Regarding Public Transit Systems. Bill McCollum, on May 22, 1990 voted for “two amendments that would have weakened the bill's provisions regarding public transit systems.” According to *The New York Times*, “The sponsors of the amendments argued that the bill needed to be changed because of its costs to public transit systems. Opponents said the effect of the proposed changes would be to segregate people with disabilities.” [Spelling error in original] [[HR 2273, H.AMDT.453 Roll No. 120, 5/22/90](#); [HR2273, H.AMDT.452 Roll No. 119, 5/22/90](#) and *The New York Times*, 05/23/90]

4. **McCollum Voted Against Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.** In 1983, McCollum voted against a bill to designate the third Monday of every January as a federal holiday in honor of the late civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. [HR 3706, Vote 291, 8/2/83]

Rick Scott and Bill McCollum's Empty Jobs Plans



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Scott also contends he would balance the budget without using any one-time monies, such as more federal stimulus if it is available or state savings. He is right in theory: It is not smart to use one-time money on recurring expenses. But the recession required the federal government to inject cash into the economy to prevent a total collapse, and the only way the Legislature has avoided raising more revenue is by relying on the stimulus and raiding state trust accounts. It is fantasy to believe Florida can cut taxes, reject one-time money and hum along — and it reveals Scott's shallow understanding of the state's revenue picture. Full

Article: <http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/scott-mccollum-offer-plans-that-dont-add-up/1110717>

UPCOMING EVENTS

8/7/2010

Brevard County DEC Banquet

When: Saturday, August 7, 2010

Time: 5:30-11:30 PM

Where: Radison Port Canavera

8/7/2010

SemDems Casino Royale Gala

When: Saturday, August 7, 2010

Time: 6:30PM-11:00PM

Where: Radisson at Port Canaveral

18701 Astronaut Blvd., Cape Canaveral, FL 33292