



## REV UP Florida! Questions for Candidates for '18 Florida Gubernatorial Race

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1. According to a [recent report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Florida has the third highest percentage of uninsured adults in the United States at 20.1 percent. If the state were to expand Medicaid, an estimated 384,000 people would be eligible for coverage. *As Governor, would you seek to expand Medicaid coverage in the state as prescribed in the Affordable Care Act of 2010, or through a similar federal participation initiative? Do you support or oppose proposals to block grant Medicaid spending or to convert this funding to a per-capita cap system in Florida? Why or why not?*

Nearly half of Florida's working families struggle to make ends meet — and for many, lack of access to affordable healthcare makes it worse. That's why as governor, one of my first priorities will be expanding Medicaid to cover over 800,000 Floridians, made possible through the Affordable Care Act. Furthermore, I would oppose any attempts to make Medicaid a block grant or per-capita cap system - which would disastrously reduce federal funding for Medicaid in Florida.

Expanding Medicaid would have a major positive impact on Floridians. It would improve children's performance in school, create nearly 122,000 good jobs, reduce uncompensated care in our hospitals, increased access to long-term care for seniors and the disabled, and help provide healthcare for our 49,000 uninsured veterans. While the ACA has already reduced the number of uninsured veterans by 5 percent, estimates suggest Medicaid expansion could insure another 2 to 4 percent of Floridians who served our country.

2. As of [July 2018](#), there were 21,471 children, adults, and seniors with developmental disabilities in the state on a waitlist for approved iBudget Medicaid Waiver services. Many of these individuals have been on this waitlist for years longer than the national average of 23 months across all waivers with waiting lists. As recently as [2015](#), Florida ranked 49th out of 50 states in spending for developmental disabilities services. *As Governor, what steps would you take to eliminate the current waitlist for home and community-based services in Florida, and to emphasize the need for increased funding for individuals with developmental disabilities in the state?*

I have pledged that when I am governor, I will ask the state agencies that oversee these programs to send me a budget that would end these waitlists and I will push the legislature to fully fund these budget requests. We need to do everything we can to help Floridians with disabilities live independently through home and community-based care.

3. When the state legislature passed Senate Bill 7026 (2018) following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the legislation included "mental health assistance allocations" to assist school districts in establishing or expanding school-based mental health care. *As Governor, how will you work*

*to expand the provision and coordination of mental health service delivery in the state's school system without worsening the stigma of mental illness for the students in need of these services? How will you work to fight this stigmatization?*

More than 800,000 Floridians live with serious mental illness — yet 70 percent of those who need mental health treatment cannot get it, according to the Orlando Sentinel. That's in part because Florida ranks 49th among states for mental health funding, with Mississippi spending four times more per resident than Florida.

Mental health challenges touch every neighborhood in every corner of our state, and it's time we address it as the important statewide public health challenge that it is. As governor, I will sign legislation establishing a statewide mental health commission to develop evidence-based approaches to care, and will increase funding to train law enforcement entities who respond to mental health issues.

4. In some jurisdictions, students with disabilities are not taught the challenging curriculum available to students without disabilities. *As Governor, how would you work to ensure that students with disabilities have the same access to ambitious educational opportunities that other students have, and that incorporate developmental milestones considered comparable to their peers without disabilities?*

As governor, I will work to ensure school districts are accessible and have the necessary resources to address the spectrum of disabilities students face, including the autism spectrum, deafness, dual sensory impairment, emotional and behavioral disabilities and learning disabilities like ADHD and dyslexia.

5. In 1992, the Sadowski Act was passed by the state legislature, creating a dedicated revenue source to fund Florida's affordable housing programs. Such monies are annually deposited in both state and local housing trust funds; however, since 2000 the state has [swept \\$2.2 billion](#) of this funding for purposes other than support for affordable housing initiatives. *As Governor, how would you act to encourage the state legislature to utilize this vital funding as intended and earmarked, and how would you respond to the state's growing affordable housing needs?*

For years, lawmakers have raided the Sadowski and other housing trust funds that make affordable housing possible. As governor, I'll veto any budget that sweeps these trust funds, and ensure the funding goes directly to affordable housing programs for low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities. I'll also fight to ensure our communities can enforce the impact fees and affordable housing set-asides they require of developers. In Tallahassee, we've fought for smart growth and to protect the local character of communities.

6. Despite the protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act (the ADA), the unemployment rate of people with disabilities continues to be much higher than that of people without disabilities. *As Governor, how would you work to promote meaningful opportunities for supported employment and competitive, integrated employment of people with disabilities in the state? How would you focus these efforts towards transition-age youth with disabilities in the state's school systems?*

If Floridians with disabilities are facing workforce discrimination, I will work with the Attorney General to seek prosecution to the fullest extent of the law for anyone violating the ADA. And as governor, I would work to build an economy where everyone's contributions are valued, including our citizens with disabilities.

7. Americans with disabilities face many barriers to voting, including inaccessible polling places and voting equipment, difficulty getting to polling places, and poorly-informed election officials and poll workers. *As Governor, what will you do to ensure voters with disabilities have equal access to the fundamental right to vote, and that the state's voting systems and mechanisms promote and accommodate this access?*

Instead of making voting easier, our state has consistently put up roadblocks to voting, and disenfranchising millions of Floridians in the process. As Governor, I'll direct the Secretary of State to ensure that all county elections supervisors have adequate resources to provide assistance with voting, registration, and getting to the polls.

8. Large portions of the disability community adhere to the proverb "nothing about us, without us" as a guiding or foundational tenet of sorts. *What work have you done with disability-led organizations? What is your prior experience addressing and responding to disability issues, and how will you ensure that people with disabilities play an active role in your administration? As Governor, how would you make or approach new investments in consumer- or advocate-led organizations to further the leadership of those with disabilities and the movements for freedom and self-determination in Florida?*

I have been vocal about the need to build a state that works for everyone, not just the wealthy and well-connected. That means building a state that affords opportunity for all, including people with disabilities. As Mayor, I've ensured that citizens with disabilities have easier access to our city's emergency home repair program, I've called out Rick Scott for cutting addiction treatment programs, and I've spoken out against the sweeping of state trust funds that provide affordable housing opportunities for those with disabilities. I will continue to be an advocate for the disability community as Governor.

Furthermore, I am fully committed to hiring a diverse administration that reflects the people of Florida, including those with disabilities. I'm proud to have built an inclusive community in our Capital City, and I'll do the same in our state as Governor.

9. Access to public transportation and adequate paratransit service coverage are key components to promoting independence and full community participation for people with disabilities. *As Governor, what would you do to expand accessible transportation options for people with disabilities, especially in rural areas of the state?*

Transportation is a defining necessity for Floridians with disabilities who desire to live more independently. As governor, I will work to improve transportation solutions in order to help Floridians with disabilities go to work, to school, and other destinations important to their freedom of mobility.

10. Accessible mainstream communication and information technologies, as well as assistive and adaptive technologies, allow people with disabilities to secure and maintain employment, participate in educational activities, and experience entertainment as readily as people without disabilities. *As Governor, what will you do to ensure the accessibility of government websites and other online services that are of increasingly central importance in the lives of all Floridians, so that people with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in these spaces?*

As governor, I will work closely in coordination between the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the Agency for State Technology to make sure our online services are accessible to Floridians with disabilities.

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*Andrew P. Gillum*

Mayor Andrew Gillum