



REV UP Florida! Questions for Candidates for '18 Florida Attorney General's Race

1. In 2017, the state legislature [passed a law](#) requiring the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to establish an employment training component related to autism awareness. *As Attorney General, how will you ensure that state law enforcement is appropriately trained and equipped to interact with people with disabilities – including those who may be non-verbal, who use a communication device, or who are hearing impaired or deaf – to prevent unnecessary incarcerations and injuries?*
2. Under [legislation](#) passed in 2016, crimes evidencing prejudice based on either mental or physical disability may be reclassified in a manner identical to the state's "hate crimes" statute. *As Attorney General, what would you do to protect people with disabilities from prejudice and other forms of prejudicial discrimination, either in terms of necessary outreach, education, and victim assistance efforts, or in terms of possible additional criminal justice reform? Would you utilize your authority under Chapter 760, Florida Statutes, to actively pursue civil actions for violations of the state's Civil Rights Act and Fair Housing Act evidencing disability discrimination?*
3. According to data reported by the U.S. Department of Justice's [Bureau of Justice Statistics](#), in 2015 the rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was 2.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities. From 2011 to 2015, the rate of reported rape or sexual assault committed against persons with disabilities was 3.5 times higher than the rate for persons without disabilities. *As Attorney General, how will you work to combat this increased vulnerability to victimization experienced by persons with disabilities, and what assistance and resources would you offer to persons with disabilities who have been victimized?*
4. In recent years, the state has been grappling with an opioid epidemic disparately affecting Floridians in several important regards. *As Attorney General, what measures would you advocate for the state to take in response to the growing opioid epidemic? What approaches towards state regulation or intervention into the sober home (recovery residence) and related treatment markets do you support, especially in terms of efforts to curb patient marketing, referral kickbacks, and other deceptive marketing practices of these businesses?*

5. 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 Attorney General, 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?*

6. 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 Attorney General, would you support or oppose the expansion of 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?*

7. The phenomenon of youth being pushed out of school through exclusionary discipline policies and thereafter swept into the criminal justice system by the criminalization of typical adolescent behaviors is referred to as the “School-to-Prison Pipeline”. According to [data](#) compiled by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, this trend has a significant disparate impact on youth struggling with disabilities or trauma – Florida’s students with disabilities are nearly 3 times as likely to be suspended and more than 17 times as likely to be expelled than students without disabilities. *As Attorney General, how would you work to address the state’s School-to-Prison pipeline, especially for students with disabilities? Would you support efforts for in-school, restorative behavior interventions in place of seclusion, restraint, and other exclusionary discipline practices?*

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 Attorney General, 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?*