



FLORIDA DEMOCRATS

Putting Floridians First Because Security Begins At Home

FLORIDA DEMOCRATS ON REAL SECURITY

Democrats Support Increasing Funding for the Florida National Guard. We believe that the brave men and women that serve in the Florida National Guard should be honored for their service and treated with the utmost respect that they deserve. Democrats know that our military service men and women put their lives on the line every day. Our heroes in the National Guard protect us from terrorist attacks, assist us in dealing with natural disasters, and fight in the wars overseas. For the past decade, Republicans in Washington and Tallahassee have stood in the way of improved benefits for our soldiers and our veterans. Democrats successfully created the Citizen-Soldier Grant program, offering businesses tax credits to help make up the difference between their employee-soldiers' civilian and military pay. We also successfully passed legislation to pay for the life insurance policies of our National Guardsmen who selflessly fight to protect our country. Despite Republican opposition, we continue to support increasing educational benefits for all soldiers who return to Florida after their service.

Democrats Support Improving Port and Border Security. We believe government has no greater role than protecting the homeland. Democrats have led the fight to properly invest in port and border security in order to keep American families safe. Unfortunately, Republicans have been unwilling to join us. Instead, George W. Bush Republicans have a record of dangerous incompetence that has made America less safe, and they support policies that leave our ports and our borders helpless in detecting harmful and destructive materials. America needs a change and wants policies that are tough and smart. Americans deserve the real security that will keep America safe, not more of the Bush Republican incompetence. Democrats believe that homeland and hometown security begin with the full implementation of the recommendations of the independent, bipartisan 9/11 Commission.

Democrats Support Responsible, Comprehensive Immigration Reform. America's immigration system is broken, and our national and economic security is put at risk by the government's refusal to fix it. Democrats have been consistent in calling for comprehensive immigration reform that strengthens our border security, protects U.S. workers and their wages, reunites families, and allows hard working immigrants who pay taxes and obey the law the opportunity to apply for citizenship. The 9/11 Commission gave Republicans failing grades across the board, including a "D" on border security, because they failed to secure the borders and have not enforced immigration laws. Republicans have done nothing to secure our borders for five years, but are using immigrants as scapegoats to divide Americans for political gain. Bush may have finally conceded that Democrats have a comprehensive plan, but if he truly wants reform he must stop his own party from blocking it.

Democrats Support Protecting Our Beaches from Offshore Drilling. Democrats are united in opposition to any expansion or exploration for natural gas or oil in Florida waters. We believe in doing everything possible to protect the beaches that are so critical to our tourism economy. For the past decade, Republicans have been trying to find ways to open our shores to oil drilling. This year, several Republicans, including Gov. Bush, caved to the demands of the big oil industry and flip-flopped on their stances regarding oil drilling. These George W. Bush Republicans agreed to expand drilling just south of the Florida Panhandle. Thankfully, united Democrats in Congress were able to block the drilling for the time being. Some Republicans stalled our efforts to constitutionally prohibit all oil drilling in Florida waters, but Florida Democrats will not cease in our efforts to protect our shores.

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