



# CAPITOL REPORT

2018

# 2018 Session Review

Lawmakers planned to focus on:

- Education Reform
- Hurricane Preparation
- Opioid Crisis
- Sexual Harassment
- Assisted Living Facility Regulation

All of those issues took a backseat to the unforeseen gun debate after Parkland.



# 2018 FCA Priority Issues

## Revision to S. 559.715, Florida Statutes

- (1) Third-party debt collection agencies are not “assignees”; and
- (2) The type of “action” that the 30-day notice pertains to is “legal action.”

### **Actions Taken:**

- FCA language was added to SB 920 by Sen. Bradley in Appropriations Committee
- The bill affected payday lending practices
- The Rules Committee issued an opinion that FCA amendment expanded the scope of the bill
- To keep the bill from getting slowed down in the final days of Session, FCA language was removed.

# 2018 FCA Priority Issues



**Sen. Dana Young**



**Rep. Lorraine Ausley**

## **SB 568/HB 315: Telephone Solicitation Senator Dana Young/Rep. Lorraine Ausley**

- Changes the definition of “telephonic sales call” to include voicemail transmissions
- Requires telephone numbers displayed on a caller ID to connect to the telephone solicitor or seller on whose behalf the call was placed.
- Prohibits telephone solicitors from sending voicemail transmissions to numbers on the “Do Not Call” list or to consumers who have previously communicated their wish not to be contacted.
- Increases the maximum penalties for violating the Do Not Call Program.
- Signed by the Governor on 3/19/18.
- **FCA Position:** Support, but did not want debt collectors added to the scope of the bill



# 2018 FCA Priority Issues



**Sen. Denise Grimsley**



**Rep. Sam Killebrew**

## **SB 962/HB 1267: Telephone Solicitation Senator Denise Grimsley/ Rep. Sam Killebrew**

Consistent with FCC rule, authorized telephone companies to proactively block certain phone calls from a customer's phone when:

- A customer requests blocking calls from a specific number that is used for inbound calls only;
  - A call originates from an invalid phone number;
  - A call originates from a number not allocated to a telephone service provider; or
  - A call originates from a number that has been allocated to a telephone service provider, but is unused.
- Signed by the Governor on 3/22/18.
- **FCA Position:** Support, but did not want debt collectors added to the scope of the bill

# Payday Lending Changes



**Sen. Rob Bradley**



**Rep. James Grant**

## **SB 920/HB 857: Deferred Presentment Transactions Senator Rob Bradley/ Rep. James Grant**

- Lightened restrictions on payday lenders by allowing them to issue larger loans with longer repayment periods.
- Authorizes a maximum payday loan amount of \$1,000 (exclusive of fees) and a term of at least 60 days to a maximum of 90 days.
- The bill was pursued in order to bypass a federal rule by CFPB that implements tougher regulations on the payday lending industry.
- These loans will be exempt from the CFPB rule because they will be issued for a term longer than 30 days, with installment plans that are “as equal as mathematically possible.”
- Signed by the Governor on 3/19/18.
- **FCA Position:** Neutral

# Other Issues of Interest



**Sen. Jeff Brandes**

## **SB 1384: Jurisdiction of Courts**

### **Senator Jeff Brandes**

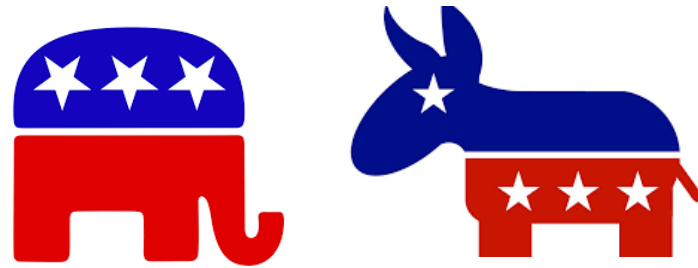
- Raised the jurisdictional amount of county courts in civil cases from the current amount of **\$15,000** to **\$50,000**.
- No House Companion in 2018
- Did not pass
- Senator Brandes likely to file again in 2019
- **FCA Position:** Neutral

# 2018 Session Review

- There were **1,747 bills filed** for the 2018 legislative session.
- Only **11.2 percent, or 195 bills**, were passed by both the House and Senate chambers.
  - **85 bills** were passed by the Senate
  - **286 bills** were passed by the House
  - This means that **46%** of bills that passed one chamber failed to pass the other.
  - This was the **highest bill failure rate since 1998**, the earliest year for which archive records are available.
- This is the **lowest number of bills passed in 20 years** even though Session was 2 days longer.
- Governor Scott signed **193** bills into law, and vetoed **2** bills.



# 2018 Election Season



# 2018 Governor's Race

Voter  
Support at  
47%



**Andrew Gillum**



**Ron DeSantis**

Voter  
Support at  
44%

## **Gillum's Priorities:**

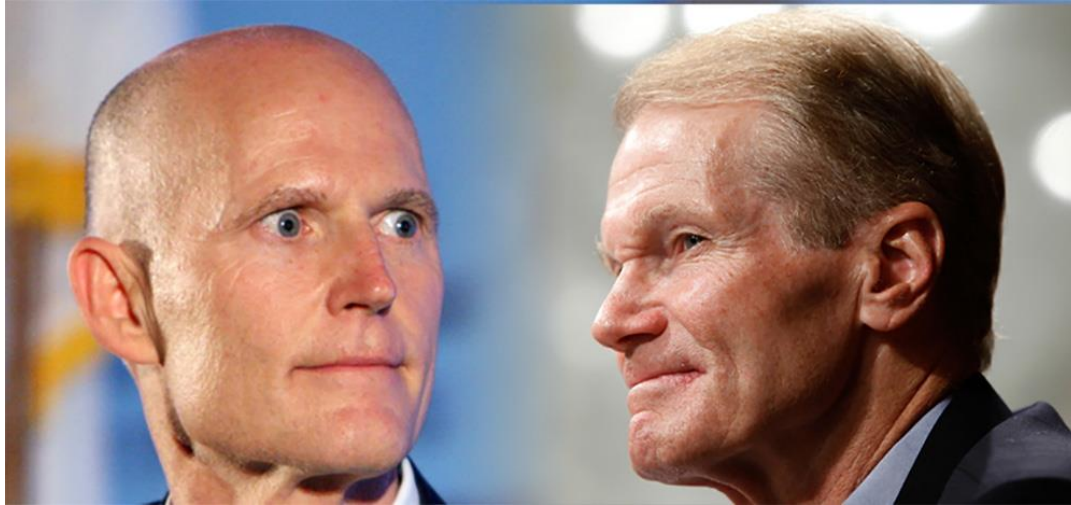
- Juvenile Justice /At-Risk Youth
- Gun Control
- Education/Workforce Development
- Immigration and States' Rights

## **DeSantis's Priorities:**

- Higher Education/Workforce Development
- Immigration/Restoring Federal Control
- Veteran's Issues
- Restoring the Everglades

# 2018 U.S. Senate Race

Voter  
Support at  
46%



**Rick Scott**

Voter  
Support at  
44.5%

**Bill Nelson**

## **Scott's Record:**

- Encouraged Educational Choice/Charter School Expansion
- Approved \$ for Higher Education
- Prioritized Workforce Development
- Emergency Response & Recovery
- Veterans Issues

## **Nelson's Record:**

- Democratic Ranking Member of U.S. Senate Commerce Committee
- Consumer Protection
- Opposes Offshore Drilling
- Favors Enhanced Gun Regulations
- Veteran's Issues

# 2018 Attorney General's Race

Voter  
Support at  
46%



**Ashley Moody (R)**



**Sean Shaw (D)**

Voter  
Support at  
44%

## **Moody's Experience:**

- Former judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Florida
- Elected as judge in 2006 and remained on the bench until 2017
- Former Federal Prosecutor & Commercial Litigator (Defense)
- **Priorities:** Fighting Opioid Crisis; Combating Human Trafficking and Elder Abuse

## **Shaw's Experience:**

- Current member of the Florida House of Representatives (District 61)
- Insurance consumer advocate from 2008-2010
- Son of late Florida Supreme Court Justice Leander Shaw
- **Priorities:** Cracking down on corruption and fraud; Advocating for Consumers; Repealing Stand your Ground Law

# 2018 Race for Chief Financial Officer (& Fire Marshal)

Voter  
Support at  
46%



**Jeremy Ring (D)**

## Ring's Experience:

- Former executive at Yahoo!
- Former State Senator (Elected in 2006 and served for 10 years)
- Former Federal Prosecutor & Commercial Litigator (Defense)
- **Priorities:** Stabilizing the Insurance Market; Diversifying Florida Retirement System funds; Investing in Innovation markets



**Jimmy Patronis (R)**

## Patronis's Experience:

- Former member of Florida House of Representatives
- Manages a seafood restaurant
- Appointed as CFO by Gov Scott in 2017
- Initiated 800 arrests for insurance fraud
- **Priorities:** Cracking down on insurance fraud; Promoting Fiscal Responsibility; Fighting against illegitimate crypto currency schemes; Advocating for First Responders

Voter  
Support at  
44%



# 2018 Race for Commissioner of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Voter  
Support at  
45%



**Matt Caldwell (R)**

## **Caldwell's Experience:**

- Current member of the Florida House of Representatives (District 79)
- First elected in 2010 and is unable to run for re-election due to term limits
- Voted against Firearm Regulation bill in 2018
- **Priorities:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights; Opposes Automatic Voter Restoration Rights for Felons; Opposes Marijuana Legalization



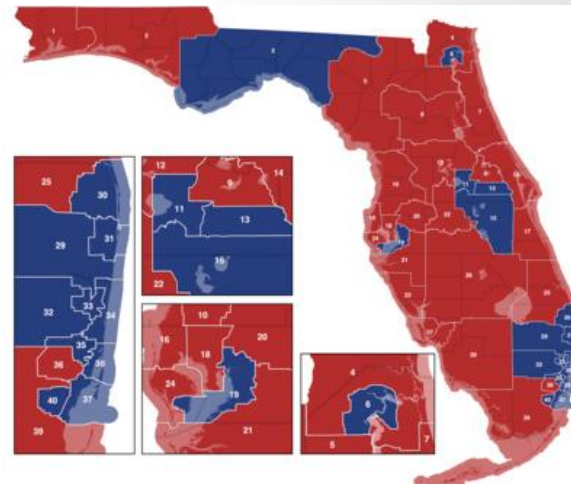
**Nikki Fried (D)**

## **Fried's Experience:**

- Medical Marijuana Attorney & Activist
- Former public defender and public interest lawyer
- **Priorities:** Allowing the growing of industrial hemp; Legalization of recreational marijuana for those 21 and over; Devoting more resources to enforcing the Do Not Call list; Shifting concealed weapon license background checks to FDLE (NRA Opposes)

Voter  
Support at  
47%

## Impact of State Senate Races



- Republicans have had majority since 1994
- **22 seats** out of the 40 Senate seats are up for election
- In the 2016 , Senate Republicans saw their majority drop from **26-14 to 25-15**
- To take control of the Senate in 2018, Democrats need to gain **5 seats**.
- Republicans needed to gain **3 seats** to have a 2/3 supermajority that can override gubernatorial vetoes.
- All **20 seats** up for election in 2018 were last up in 2016, where Republicans won **15**, and Democrats won **5**.

# Impact of State House Races

- All 120 Florida House seats are up for election in 2018.
- In the 2016 election, Republicans lost **2 seats** and saw their majority drop from **81-38 to 79-41**.
- **80 seats** are required for a 2/3 supermajority.

Party		As of October 2018
	<a href="#">Democratic Party</a>	41
	<a href="#">Republican Party</a>	75
	Vacancies	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>

# Legislative Leadership



**Incoming President  
Bill Galvano (R)  
Bradenton**



**Incoming Speaker  
Jose Oliva (R)  
Miami**

## **Priorities:**

- Higher Education
- Gaming Regulation & Reform
- Transportation
- Reducing Commercial Lease Tax
- Education/Workforce Development

## **Priorities:**

- “Hands off” Government Policies
- Business Interests
- “Opposed to all Taxes”
- Eliminating “Government Waste”
- Higher Education

# Legislative Leadership (2020)



**Senator Wilton Simpson**  
R- Tribby

## **Priorities:**

- Reducing Government Regulation on Business
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights
- Educational Choice/Charter Schools



**Rep. Chris Sprowls**  
R- Palm Harbor

## **Priorities:**

- Criminal Justice & Sentencing Reform
- Veterans' Issues
- Reducing Government Regulations on Business



# 2019 Session Forecast

- **Environment:** Current struggle with toxic algae and red tide
- **Criminal Justice:** Stand your Ground Reform; Gun Regulation
- **Gambling :** Senate will want to expand, & House will oppose; Seminole Tribe Opposes
- **Health Care:** Medicaid, Health Insurance, Mental Health
- **Government:** Tax Reductions, Eliminating “Burdensome” Regulations
- **Consumer Protection:** Data Privacy/Cybersecurity
- **Education:** School Security; (If Gillum Elected, Increased Funding for Public Education)
- **Transportation:** Passenger Rail Projects; Technology in Transportation Markets (Bikeshare; Scooter Chare Apps)

# Important Dates

## **General Election**

November 6, 2018

## **2018 - 2019 Interim Committee Meetings**

December 2018 – Week of the 11th

January 2019 – Week of the 7th

January 2019 – \*Week of the 22nd

February 2019 – Week of the 4th

February 2019 – Week of the 11<sup>th</sup>

February 2019 – \*Week of the 19th

## **2019 Legislative Session**

March 5, 2019

## **FCA Legislative Conference**

March 10-12, 2019

# Questions?

# For Additional Information

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