SECURE
FLORIDA
FIRST
AGENDA

ADAM
PUTNAM
FOR GOVERNOR

PAID BY ADAM PUTNAM, REPUBLICAN, FOR GOVERNOR.
GOVERNMENT’S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS

People from across the country and around the globe are flocking to Florida to experience our world-class tourist destinations and take advantage of our state’s low-tax, high-quality business climate. As a result of conservative leadership, more Floridians are employed today than ever before.¹

While Florida’s economy continues to grow, and Florida workers continue to find high-paying careers, we cannot forget that our state’s economic prosperity rests on the shoulders of the hard-working first responders and law enforcement officers who serve and protect our state. Florida’s crime rate is at a 47-year low thanks to the determination and dedication of these brave men and women who wake up every morning, don their uniform and go to work safeguarding Florida families and visitors.² Florida must continue to recruit, train and support our law enforcement officers, and we must uphold the laws that keep criminals off our streets.

Additionally, as Florida’s crime rate continues to fall, we cannot grow complacent. Florida faces many serious threats, including criminal illegal aliens that threaten our public safety, an opioid epidemic that kills more than 16 people per day ³, human trafficking that preys on innocent adults and children alike, and risk of mass violence that endangers the health and safety of all, especially children in our schools. Florida also needs to be prepared to respond to the threat of natural disasters.

In order to meet these challenges head on, Florida needs a Governor who will put Florida’s security first. I am that Governor, and I will protect and uphold the rule of law so that all Floridians can safely pursue their American Dream here in the Sunshine State.

CONTINUE FLORIDA’S 47-YEAR DECLINE IN CRIME

Not long-ago Florida’s tourism industry was nearly destroyed after a series of violent crimes against tourists visiting Florida.⁴ After nine brutal murders in 1993, foreign newspapers ran headlines like “Deathtrap Under the Palms” and “Gunned Down like Animals.”⁵ While the headlines and attention generated globally from these murders had a serious financial impact on Florida’s tourism industry,

¹ https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LASS120000000000006?amp%3bdata_tool=XGtable&output_view=data&include_graphs=true

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the reality is these murders highlighted a greater underlying crime problem that was wreaking havoc across the entire state. Today, Florida’s crime rate is at a 47-year low, our state’s tourism is at a record high, and our economy is as strong as ever. It is not a coincidence that Florida’s economic prosperity coincides with a crime rate that has been cut in half over the last 20 years. Families and communities are safer today because of Florida’s tough criminal penalties and the hard-working men and women of our state’s law enforcement communities.

Florida needs a Governor who realizes and recognizes that our state’s incredible decline in crime is the direct result of our laws and the men and women who are committed to upholding the them.

That is why, as Governor, I will fight to protect Florida’s policies that punish criminals, and I will ensure that our law enforcement officers and first responders have the tools necessary to fight crime.

As Governor, I will:

- Veto any attempt to loosen criminal penalties on major drug traffickers and violent felons.
- Uphold Florida’s truth-in-sentencing law, which requires criminals to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence before being eligible for release.
- Support mandatory minimums for violent offenders and drug traffickers that threaten Florida’s social fabric and economic well-being, including Florida’s 10-20-Life law.
- Keep maximum penalties for repeat offenders, especially for those who commit violent crimes.
- Defend tough prison sentencing guidelines for all felony offenses.
- Work with sheriffs, police chiefs and state law enforcement officers to make sure that our law enforcement agencies have access to the best training practices available so that our officers and deputies can continue to ensure our safety.
- Increase funding for the Criminal Justice Standards & Training Trust Fund to ensure law enforcement agencies have the funds necessary to train the next generation of law enforcement and correctional officers.
- Support the continued use of the 1033 Government Support program, the Federal Excess Personal Property program and the Firefighter Property program that give local law enforcement and firefighting agencies access to life-saving equipment and allow our first responders to have the tools necessary to respond to any and every threat.
- Enhance the capabilities of the state’s crime labs to help law enforcement and prosecutors evaluate evidence more accurately and more efficiently through the use of technology.
- Protect our first responders from the threats of accidental opioid exposure by ensuring they have access to the life-saving Naloxone drug.

**STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT SANCTUARY POLICIES**

A number of cities and states across the nation have lost sight of the idea that no one is above the law. California’s recent announcement that it is a ‘sanctuary state’ is the latest example of government believing it can pick and choose what laws to enforce. I believe these policies not only jeopardize our citizens’ safety, but also undermine our very democracy.

As Ronald Reagan said, “government’s first duty is to protect the people.” This is the role of all government – state, local and federal. Local governments, like New York City, and states, like California and Illinois, that harbor illegal immigrants and impede our federal immigration officers are not only putting their...
citizens at risk, they are neglecting their fundamental responsibility.

According to the 2016 United States Sentencing Commission Report, criminal illegal aliens are responsible for 75 percent of federal drug possession convictions, 30 percent of federal kidnapping convictions and 21 percent of national defense crimes - staggering statistics considering illegal immigrants make up 3 percent of the population.7

In Florida, roughly 5 percent of our state’s prison population are criminal illegal aliens.8 There are more than 1,000 criminal illegal aliens in prison for murder and nearly 600 in prison for rape. In addition to the tragic impacts these crimes have on human life, they also cost Florida taxpayers nearly $100 million per year in free food, shelter and health care.9 And this is only a fraction of the cost considering it does not include all the criminal illegal aliens that end up in county jails, where in addition to food, shelter and health care, they also receive free legal advice. The cost to taxpayers is shocking.

As Governor, I will make sure that Florida upholds the rule of law and stops wasteful spending on criminal illegal aliens by strengthening enforcement and deportation efforts. I will prevent local governments in Florida from implementing sanctuary policies or practices, work with federal immigration officials to protect our citizens and put an end to the ever-increasing number of criminal illegal aliens entering Florida. To achieve this, I will:

- Support the Secure Communities program that was discontinued under President Obama and reinstated under President Trump. This program has helped deport more than 360,000 criminal illegal aliens from the United States.10

- Join the 17 Florida Sheriffs who are leaders in the nation when it comes to enforcing immigration laws, and I will help expand these practices throughout the state. These sheriffs are the first in the nation to reach an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in detaining and housing criminal illegal aliens so that federal immigration enforcement officers can faithfully execute our country’s immigration laws.

- Sign a 287(g) agreement between ICE agents and state agencies with uniform law enforcement officers, empowering them to support local law enforcement in the apprehension and deportation of criminal illegal aliens within Florida’s criminal justice system. There are nearly 5,000 criminal illegal aliens in our state’s prison system and thousands more come into contact with county jails, costing Florida over $100 million a year. Florida needs to stop paying to house these criminal illegal aliens and instead send them home.

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The right to vote is a hallmark of American democracy. It is the privilege and responsibility that awaits thousands of immigrants who lawfully enter our country and become citizens, and it is the cornerstone of a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Yet, in September 2017, College Park, Maryland, joined San Francisco, Chicago and dozens of other cities across the country that allow illegal immigrants to vote in local elections.11 In doing so, these cities

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10 https://www.ice.gov/secure-communities

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have devalued what it means to be an American citizen and diminished citizens’ voices in local decisions.

As Governor, I will fight any attempt to grant noncitizens the right to vote. Those who have broken our laws and subverted our sovereignty deserve no say in the direction of our country, state or communities.

The consequences are far reaching. Experts estimate that Florida’s foster care system has increased by 14 percent over the last two years because of opioids. Nationally, employers lose more than $80 billion a year in costs related to drug abuse, and Florida small businesses are directly feeling those effects. Our state’s first responders are being pushed to the brink responding to overdose victims, putting their own lives at risk of exposure, and county morgues across the state are beyond capacity. And most devastating, thousands of Florida families are being ripped apart by the scourge of addiction.

As Governor, I will put Floridians’ security first by fighting back against the drug dealers and pharmaceutical companies that are profiting off the opioid epidemic. I will:

- Support Florida’s lawsuit against drug manufacturers that have manipulated and profited off of victims. This lawsuit will result in the resources for additional treatment, prevention, awareness and support for the men and women in law enforcement, so that we can break the deadly vice that the opioid crisis has on our state.
- Designate an official Drug Czar to coordinate the state, federal and local efforts to combat the opioid epidemic so that resources are used most effectively when it comes to prosecuting drug dealers, protecting first responders, preventing and educating the public on the disastrous consequences of opioids, and providing treatment and recovery services.
- Continue to provide law enforcement and first responders with access to the lifesaving drug, Naloxone. The opioids first responders come into contact with are so strong that even incidentally touching or inhaling the drug can cause an overdose. It is critical we equip them with lifesaving overdose reversal drugs.

FIGHT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

In the early hours of New Year’s Eve 2016, a Florida Highway Patrol trooper pulled onto the shoulder of Interstate-4 to investigate an SUV that had its hazard lights flashing. The officer found two adults unresponsive in the front seat of the car with three children under the age of four miraculously still alive in the back seat. On June 9, 2017, the Volusia County medical examiner confirmed the couple had overdosed on opioids.

Sadly, over the last two years this epidemic has exploded, and thousands of Florida families have been destroyed by opioids. With more than 16 people per day dying from opioid-related deaths, Florida is home to roughly 14 percent of all opioid-related deaths in the country.

- Enhance penalties for drug traffickers that sell fentanyl and its analogs. These drugs are so potent that just three milligrams of fentanyl can prove fatal. Recently, a Florida sheriff caught a drug cartel with 1.5 pounds of fentanyl – enough to kill nearly a quarter of a million people, roughly the population of Alachua County. Given the danger fentanyl poses to Floridians, it deserves stricter penalties under the law.

- Expand the use of E-prescriptions for opioid pain medication to reduce fraud and abuse. In the 1960s, more than 80 percent of people who began using opioids initiated with heroin; today, nearly 80 percent of opioid users reported that their first regular opioid use was a prescription pain reliever.

- Standardize the minimum quality of care for sober homes in Florida to put an end to abusive and fraudulent activity that preys on those in recovery and raises health care costs for everyone – even those not in recovery.

There were multiple red flags that should have been acted on before February 14, 2018. The perpetrator was visited by local police officers three dozen times, he was reported to the FBI, he was evaluated by mental health professionals after cutting himself, and he had been expelled from school for weapons violations. With all these pieces of information, there should have been some action taken to prevent him from hurting innocent children.

Yet, the barriers, whether real or perceived, that prevented the communication among all those agencies failed to stop this tragedy, and it is the underlying issue that needs to be addressed. As Governor, in addition to supporting an increase in mental health services for students and school hardening resources, I will require all state agencies that interact with students to work with school districts and local law enforcement officials to better communicate, evaluate and coordinate services for students to make sure this never happens again.

The next Governor will receive the recommendations that the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission makes in its first report due January 1, 2019. As Governor, I will be prepared to review and enact quickly the necessary changes to protect our students.

Additionally, as Governor, I will:

- Tear down silos that prevent our local school districts, local law enforcement and mental health professionals from communicating with one another and working together, especially when dealing with individuals showing violent tendencies.

- Build out Florida’s See Something, Say Something threat reporting system to not only make it as easy as possible to report suspicious activity, but to allow increased information sharing across state and local agencies and improve data analytics to better assess threats.

PREVENT MASS VIOLENCE

As the father of four kids who attend public schools, the Valentine’s Day massacre in Parkland hit close to home. It is a tragedy that no student, parent or teacher should ever have to endure. Our students and our teachers deserve a safe environment in which they can learn and grow, and as Governor, I will work relentlessly to provide that.

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20 https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-front-on-opioid-litigation-suits-over-rising-premiums-1525279402

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• Protect the confidentiality of those who report suspicious activity through the See Something, Say Something reporting system by exempting them from the state’s public records laws.

• Incorporate social media monitoring tools into FDLE regional fusion centers as a way to identify threats to schools. Nearly every perpetrator of a mass shooting has left public evidence of their intent on social media prior to their crimes.

• Reevaluate school district discipline programs that promote a culture of leniency over a culture of safety. Schools need to be more concerned with the safety of their students and teachers than they are with their school discipline statistics.\(^{21}\)

• Provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to deescalate and protect the public against individuals with mental health needs through enhancing Risk Protection orders and the Baker Act.

• Continue to invest in evidence-based school hardening measures through cost-sharing programs that allow districts and local law enforcement officers to evaluate and implement best practices that meet the needs of their community.

• Support the state’s Guardian program that trains select school personnel to effectively respond to active shooter situations and work with counties to train and hire retired veterans and law enforcement officers to work as school resource officers.

• Ensure proper training for school resource officers and other personnel to respond to active shooter incidents.

• Thwart terrorist attacks like the Pulse tragedy by continuing to invest in FDLE’s Joint Terrorism Task Force, which enhances the state’s ability to coordinate counterterrorism efforts at the federal, state and local level. Prosecute to the full extent of the law anyone found guilty of aiding or knowingly obstructing investigations into the perpetrator of a mass violence event.

• Evaluate the effectiveness of technologies known as interoperable response preparedness systems, which enables rapid communications and response in real time to everyone within the vicinity of a crisis.

END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Under the leadership of Attorney General Pam Bondi, Florida has earned a reputation as a global leader in the fight to end human trafficking. We lead the nation in providing support for victims, raising awareness of the problem and coordinating the efforts of community and faith-based organizations. Florida is home to one of only a few safe homes for male victims of human trafficking in the country.\(^{22}\) And while Florida continues to lead the way in combatting this plague, there remains more to be done.

As the third largest state in the nation, Florida sees the third highest rate of calls to the National Human Trafficking hotline.\(^{23}\) This modern-day slavery is a blight on our state and requires the full force of


\(^{23}\) https://usiaht.org
our government, business and community partners in banishing this scourge from our society while ensuring we come together to support the victims, many of whom are children, of this heinous crime. This requires coordinated efforts between local communities, state officials and federal agencies. As Governor, in order to end human trafficking, I will:

- Partner with local communities to support the expansion of TraffickingFree Zones across the state. Pasco County, in partnership with the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, became the first county in the state to declare itself a TraffickingFree Zone. By combining the efforts of the county’s business community, faith community, local law enforcement and local government, Pasco County is leading the fight against traffickers. A Putnam administration will support these efforts and work to expand them across the state.

- Hold our child welfare and foster care systems accountable and leverage relationships with faith-based and community-based organizations to improve our state’s child welfare system. It is estimated that 60 to 70 percent of trafficked children in Florida come from child social services or the foster care system.24

PREPARE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

Florida’s tropical climate and 1,300-mile coastline is paradise to visitors and residents alike. Yet, while our state’s geography means residents are never too far from world-class beaches, it does pose significant problems when faced with hurricane season. In the event of a hurricane, Floridians have only two options: evacuate or shelter in place. Each of these options comes with challenges.

Evacuations place massive amounts of stress on our state’s roads as they try to accommodate millions of Floridians fleeing harm’s way. Alternatively, for those who cannot evacuate, our state’s shelters provide safe haven. Governor Rick Scott has been an outstanding leader for our state in preparing for and responding to these natural disasters. As Florida’s population continues to grow, however, the options available for Floridians to get to safety will be significantly stressed.

As Governor, I will invest in the infrastructure needed to prepare Florida for the next hurricane. I will:

- Ensure that the Florida Department of Transportation balances the state’s transportation needs to accommodate our growing population with our state’s evacuation routes. The Department of Transportation must adequately support and fund emergency evacuation routes in the state’s five-year work plan.

- Invest in our state’s shelters so that all regions of the state have adequate shelter space available in the event of a hurricane. To achieve this, I will invest funds to identify and retrofit shelters in order to meet the need of our state’s growing population.

- Partner with our state’s faith-based and community-based organizations to provide shelter, serve hot meals and offer a helping hand in cleaning up the aftermath of a disaster. In times of emergency, houses of worship have proven time and again their willingness to open their doors and take in those in need. Experts estimate that 80 percent of disaster recovery happens because of faith-based and community-based groups.25

24 https://usiaht.org
• Conduct joint agencies drills to prepare all sectors of government for an array of natural disasters. Florida needs to require COOP, or Continuity of Operations Plans, to be evaluated every year to ensure that all entities involved in disaster response know their roles and are prepared to work across silos in the event of a crisis.

CONCLUSION

Florida’s next Governor needs to secure Florida from the threats that risk our state’s prosperity. We need a Governor who recognizes the challenges that our law enforcement and first responders deal with on a daily basis and will protect and uphold the rule of law. I am that Governor, and I will ensure that Florida supports its first responders and law enforcement officials across the state. Together, we can put Florida first by stopping criminal illegal aliens, combating the opioid epidemic, preventing mass violence and ending human trafficking, while also preparing the state for natural disasters. Only after we secure our state can we continue to build our economy, create new jobs and make Florida the launch pad for the American Dream.