



Compiled by: South Florida Water Management District
(for internal use only)

Total Clips: 8

Headline	Date	Outlet	Reporter
Everglades deal blasted in anti-Charlie Crist radio spot	03/30/2010	News-Press	
Club for Growth doubles down for Rubio	03/30/2010	Sunshine State News Service	Kenric Ward
Poll: McCollum wides lead over Sink	03/30/2010	St. Augustine Record, The	
Poll McCollum picking up steam in race	03/30/2010	Bradenton Herald	CAPUTO, MARC
Poll: Bill McCollum widens lead on Alex Sink in governor race	03/30/2010	Miami Herald - Online, The	MARC CAPUTO
Everglades deal blasted in anti-Charlie Crist radio spot	03/29/2010	News Press - Online	
BLOG: Everglades deal blasted in anti-Charlie Crist radio spot	03/29/2010	Palm Beach Post - Online	Bender, Michael
Latest poll has McCollum widening lead over Sink in governor's race	03/29/2010	St. Petersburg Times - Online	Marc Caputo

Everglades deal blasted in anti-Charlie Crist radio spot

03/30/2010

[Return to Top](#)

News-Press

From the Palm Beach Post

The Club For Growth, which has endorsed Republican Marco Rubio in the U.S. Senate primary, released a radio ad today that criticizes Gov. Charlie Crist for his plan to buy U.S. Sugar land in the name of Everglades restoration.

Script of the ad after the jump.

"We know all about the disastrous bailouts coming from Washington. First Wall Street, then the auto companies – taxpayers left holding the bag for billions of dollars. But now we learn about a massive bailout right here in Florida, engineered by our own governor, Charlie Crist.

"That's right. In a front-page exposé, the New York Times uncovered the truth about Charlie Crist's billion-dollar bailout for U.S. Sugar. Crist claimed it was to save the Everglades. But the Times examined thousands of state email messages and official records and found that Charlie Crist's decisions were bad for the Everglades and terrible for taxpayers."

"Former Governor Jeb Bush called the sugar bailout 'deeply disappointing.' A giant sugar company gets to wipe all the debts from its books, while Floridians are on the hook for over half-a-billion dollars.

"Tell Charlie Crist that taxpayers need his help more than U.S. Sugar."

Club for Growth doubles down for Rubio

03/30/2010

Sunshine State News Service

Kenric Ward

Sunshine State News Service

Kenric Ward's blog | Posted: March 29, 2010 5:36 PM

[Return to Top](#)

Club for Growth political action committee endorsed Marco Rubio last fall for U.S. Senate.

Now an affiliated group called Club for Growth Action is blasting Rubio's primary foe, Gov. Charlie Crist, with a radio ad beaming across the I-4 Corridor.

The spot hammers Crist over his U.S. Sugar-Everglades deal, likening it to the "disastrous bailouts coming from Washington." It urges Floridians to "Tell Charlie Crist that taxpayers need his help more than U.S. Sugar."

A Club for Growth Action spokesman, who declined to divulge the group's finances or directors, said Floridians should stay tuned for more where that came from.

In 2008, the Club for Growth PAC supported Rep. Tom Feeney's re-election bid in the 24th Congressional District. Feeney was defeated by Democrat Suzanne Kosmas.

Club for Growth, which claims to have 40,000 members, was sued in 2005 by the Federal Elections Commission for failing to register as a political action committee in the 2000, 2002 and 2004 congressional elections. The group agreed to pay \$350,000 in civil penalties.

Poll: McCollum widens lead over Sink

03/30/2010

St. Augustine Record, The

Attorney General Bill McCollum's decision to sue the federal government over healthcare reform looks like a political winner, according to a new poll showing that he has widened his lead over state Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink in the race for governor.

The Mason-Dixon Polling & Research survey released Monday shows that 51 percent of registered Florida voters approve of McCollum's lawsuit, while 39 percent are opposed.

As the state appears to lean toward the right, the Republican McCollum draws 49 percent support compared to 34 percent who would vote for Sink, a Democrat, according to the poll of 625 registered Florida voters.

"The lawsuit probably gave McCollum a little lift and has put him in a strong position, but there's more going on here," said Mason-Dixon pollster Brad Coker.

Coker said the numbers that "jump out at me" are those that show McCollum is winning support from 24 percent of Democrats, while Sink only draws 3 percent of Republican support.

"Also, there's no gender gap. That's a problem for Sink," he said. "A Democratic woman can't win without the strong support of women."

The poll indicates that McCollum would beat his Republican primary challenger, Sen. Paula Dockery, by 64 percent to 9 percent.

McCollum appears to be picking up momentum. The last time Mason-Dixon polled the race, in June, McCollum had a 6

[Return to Top](#)

percentage point lead. Now he's up 15 percentage points.

Voters have begun to view McCollum in a better light, with 39 percent saying they have a favorable view of the attorney general -- a 10 percentage-point increase since the last Mason-Dixon poll. In that time, Sink's numbers haven't moved, with 24 percent of voters expressing a favorable view of her.

"The poll is further evidence Alex Sink has failed to gain traction with Florida voters," McCollum spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said, "and her allegiance to the Democrats' failed tax-and-spend agenda and support for big-government healthcare is a huge liability going into November's election,"

Part of Sink's political difficulty lies in the fact that she's not as well known as McCollum, a career congressman who has run in three statewide campaigns. Sink has only run once, in 2006.

"That's the choice in this race: Another Washington politician like Bill McCollum, or a business leader like Alex Sink, the only candidate for governor with a comprehensive business plan to revive, remake and reform Florida's economy," said Sink's campaign spokeswoman, Kyra Jennings.

Sink, who has avoided high-profile stances on healthcare reform, recently has been touring the state promoting a jobs initiative.

Coker said Sink's strategy is a wise one, considering that 47 percent of voters polled said job creation is their top issue. The second-most important issue -- closing the state's budget gap -- garnered 15 percent support. Affordable healthcare ranked third, at 12 percent.

The poll shows that independent voters -- crucial swing votes in Florida elections -- are moving toward the right, but they're not supportive of every Republican position. Overall, thanks to the backing of independents, 50 percent of Florida voters support the Democrats' economic stimulus plan, while 42 percent oppose it. Men and Republicans are the strongest opponents, and Democrats and women the major backers.

Still, there are doubts about the beneficial effects of the stimulus package. A near majority -- 49 percent -- believe the stimulus will not create or save a significant number of jobs. Only 32 percent believe it eventually will create jobs and only 9 percent say it has created or saved a significant number of jobs.

Other issues in the poll:

- Floridians, by a 48-39 percent margin, oppose the Republican-backed legislation to link teacher pay to student test scores.
- About 50 percent of voters want to weaken the state's class-size amendment -- not enough to win at the ballot box because constitutional amendments pass only if approved by 60 percent of voters.
- By a 5 percentage-point margin, voters disapprove of Gov. Charlie Crist's plan to buy \$536 million worth of U.S. Sugar lands in the name of Everglades restoration. But 66 percent of voters support other Everglades projects, while just 26 percent favor the U.S. Sugar deal.

The political questions were added by the pollster to a larger, confidential survey commissioned by a business interest pursuing legislation unrelated to education, healthcare, energy or the environment.

Poll McCollum picking up steam in race

03/30/2010

Bradenton Herald

CAPUTO, MARC

[Return to Top](#)

Attorney General Bill McCollum's decision to sue the federal government over healthcare reform looks like a political winner, according to a new poll showing that he has widened his lead over state Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink in the race for governor.

The Mason-Dixon Polling & Research survey released Monday shows that 51 percent of registered Florida voters approve of McCollum's lawsuit, while 39 percent are opposed.

As the state appears to lean toward the right, the Republican McCollum draws 49 percent support compared to 34 percent who would vote for Sink, a Democrat, according to the poll of 625 registered Florida voters.

"The lawsuit probably gave McCollum a little lift and has put him in a strong position, but there's more going on here," said Mason-Dixon pollster Brad Coker .

Coker said the numbers that "jump out at me" are those that show McCollum is winning support from 24 percent of Democrats, while Sink only draws 3 percent of Republican support.

"Also, there's no gender gap. That's a problem for Sink," he said. "A Democratic woman can't win without the strong support of women."

The poll indicates that McCollum would beat his Republican primary challenger, Sen. Paula Dockery , by 64 percent to 9 percent.

McCollum appears to be picking up momentum. The last time Mason-Dixon polled the race, in June, McCollum had a 6 percentage point lead. Now he's up 15 percentage points.

Voters have begun to view McCollum in a better light, with 39 percent saying they have a favorable view of the attorney general -- a 10 percentage-point increase since the last Mason-Dixon poll. In that time, Sink's numbers haven't moved, with 24 percent of voters expressing a favorable view of her.

"The poll is further evidence Alex Sink has failed to gain traction with Florida voters," McCollum spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said, "and her allegiance to the

Democrats' failed tax-and-spend agenda and support for big-government healthcare is a huge liability going into November's election,"

Part of Sink's political difficulty lies in the fact that she's not as well known as McCollum, a career congressman who has run in three statewide campaigns. Sink has only run once, in 2006.

"That's the choice in this race: Another Washington politician like Bill McCollum , or a business leader like Alex Sink , the only candidate for governor with a comprehensive business plan to revive, remake and reform Florida's economy," said Sink's campaign spokeswoman, Kyra Jennings .

Sink, who has avoided high-profile stances on healthcare reform, recently has been touring the state promoting a jobs initiative.

Coker said Sink's strategy is a wise one, considering that 47 percent of voters polled said job creation is their top issue. The second-most important issue — closing the state's budget gap — garnered 15 percent support. Affordable healthcare ranked third, at 12 percent.

The poll shows that independent voters — crucial swing votes in Florida elections — are moving toward the right, but they're not supportive of every Republican position. Overall, thanks to the backing of independents, 50 percent of Florida voters support the Democrats' economic stimulus plan, while 42 percent oppose it. Men and Republicans are the strongest opponents of the stimulus and Democrats and women its major backers.

Still, there are doubts about the beneficial effects of the stimulus package. A near majority — 49 percent — believe the stimulus will not create or save a significant number of jobs. Only 32 percent believe it eventually will create jobs and only 9 percent say it has created or saved a significant number of jobs.

Other issues in the poll:

n Floridians, by a 48-39 percent margin, oppose the Republican-backed legislation to link teacher pay to student test scores.

n About 50 percent of voters want to weaken the state's class-size amendment — not enough to win at the ballot box

because constitutional amendments can only pass if they're approved by 60 percent of voters.

n By a 5 percentage-point margin, voters disapprove of Gov. Charlie Crist's plan to buy \$536 million worth of U.S. Sugar lands in the name of Everglades restoration. But 66 percent of voters support other Everglades projects, while just 26 percent favor the U.S. Sugar deal.

The political questions were added by the pollster to a larger, confidential survey commissioned by a private business interest pursuing legislation unrelated to education, healthcare, energy or the environment.

Marc Caputo , can be reached at .

Copyright © 2010 McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

Poll: Bill McCollum widens lead on Alex Sink in governor race

03/30/2010

Miami Herald - Online, The

MARC CAPUTO

Posted on Monday, 03.29.10

[Return to Top](#)

GOVERNOR'S RACE

A new poll showed that Republican Bill McCollum's front-running status against Democrat Alex Sink in the race to become Florida's next governor has strengthened.

Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau

Attorney General Bill McCollum's decision to sue the federal government over healthcare reform looks like a political winner, according to a new poll showing that he has widened his lead over state Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink in the race for governor.

The Mason-Dixon Polling & Research survey released Monday shows that 51 percent of registered Florida voters approve of McCollum's lawsuit, while 39 percent are opposed.

As the state appears to lean toward the right, the Republican McCollum draws 49 percent support compared to 34 percent who would vote for Sink, a Democrat, according to the poll of 625 registered Florida voters.

``The lawsuit probably gave McCollum a little lift and has put him in a strong position, but there's more going on here," said Mason-Dixon pollster Brad Coker.

Coker said the numbers that ``jump out at me" are those that show McCollum is winning support from 24 percent of Democrats, while Sink only draws 3 percent of Republican support.

``Also, there's no gender gap. That's a problem for Sink," he said. ``A Democratic woman can't win without the strong support of women."

The poll indicates that McCollum would beat his Republican primary challenger, Sen. Paula Dockery, by 64 percent to 9 percent.

McCollum appears to be picking up momentum. The last time Mason-Dixon polled the race, in June, McCollum had a 6 percentage point lead. Now he's up 15 percentage points.

Voters have begun to view McCollum in a better light, with 39 percent saying they have a favorable view of the attorney general -- a 10 percentage-point increase since the last Mason-Dixon poll. In that time, Sink's numbers haven't moved, with 24 percent of voters expressing a favorable view of her.

``The poll is further evidence Alex Sink has failed to gain traction with Florida voters," McCollum spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said, ``and her allegiance to the Democrats' failed tax-and-spend agenda and support for big-government healthcare is a huge liability going into November's election,"

Part of Sink's political difficulty lies in the fact that she's not as well known as McCollum, a career congressman who has run in three statewide campaigns. Sink has only run once, in 2006.

``That's the choice in this race: Another Washington politician like Bill McCollum, or a business leader like Alex Sink, the only candidate for governor with a comprehensive business plan to revive, remake and reform Florida's economy," said Sink's campaign spokeswoman, Kyra Jennings.

Sink, who has avoided high-profile stances on healthcare reform, recently has been touring the state promoting a jobs initiative.

Coker said Sink's strategy is a wise one, considering that 47 percent of voters polled said job creation is their top issue. The second-most important issue -- closing the state's budget gap -- garnered 15 percent support. Affordable healthcare ranked third, at 12 percent.

The poll shows that independent voters -- crucial swing votes in Florida elections -- are moving toward the right, but they're not supportive of every Republican position. Overall, thanks to the backing of independents, 50 percent of Florida voters support the Democrats' economic stimulus plan, while 42 percent oppose it. Men and Republicans are the strongest opponents, and Democrats and women the major backers.

Still, there are doubts about the beneficial effects of the stimulus package. A near majority -- 49 percent -- believe the stimulus will not create or save a significant number of jobs. Only 32 percent believe it eventually will create jobs and only 9 percent say it has created or saved a significant number of jobs.

Other issues in the poll:

Floridians, by a 48-39 percent margin, oppose the Republican-backed legislation to link teacher pay to student test scores.

About 50 percent of voters want to weaken the state's class-size amendment -- not enough to win at the ballot box because constitutional amendments pass only if approved by 60 percent of voters.

By a 5 percentage-point margin, voters disapprove of Gov. Charlie Crist's plan to buy \$536 million worth of U.S. Sugar lands in the name of Everglades restoration. But 66 percent of voters support other Everglades projects, while just 26 percent favor the U.S. Sugar deal.

The political questions were added by the pollster to a larger, confidential survey commissioned by a business interest pursuing legislation unrelated to education, healthcare, energy or the environment.

Marc Caputo can be reached at mcaputo@MiamiHerald.com.

Everglades deal blasted in anti-Charlie Crist radio spot

03/29/2010

News Press - Online

[Return to Top](#)

Palm Beach Post March 29, 2010

3:01 P.M. —

The Club For Growth, which has endorsed Republican Marco Rubio in the U.S. Senate primary, released a radio ad today that criticizes Gov. Charlie Crist for his plan to buy U.S. Sugar land in the name of Everglades restoration.

Script of the ad after the jump.

We know all about the disastrous bailouts coming from Washington. First Wall Street, then the auto companies taxpayers left holding the bag for billions of dollars. But now we learn about a massive bailout right here in Florida, engineered by our own governor, Charlie Crist.

That's right. In a front-page exposé, the New York Times uncovered the truth about Charlie Crist's billion-dollar bailout for U.S. Sugar. Crist claimed it was to save the Everglades. But the Times examined thousands of state email messages and official records and found that Charlie Crist's decisions were bad for the Everglades and terrible for taxpayers.

Former Governor Jeb Bush called the sugar bailout 'deeply disappointing.' A giant sugar company gets to wipe all the debts from its books, while Floridians are on the hook for over half-a-billion dollars.

Tell Charlie Crist that taxpayers need his help more than U.S. Sugar.

BLOG: Everglades deal blasted in anti-Charlie Crist radio spot

03/29/2010

Palm Beach Post - Online

Bender, Michael

The Club For Growth, which has endorsed Republican Marco Rubio in the U.S. Senate primary, released a radio ad today that criticizes Gov. Charlie Crist for his plan to buy U.S. Sugar land in the name of Everglades restoration.

Script of the ad after the jump.

"We know all about the disastrous bailouts coming from Washington. First Wall Street, then the auto companies – taxpayers left holding the bag for billions of dollars. But now we learn about a massive bailout right here in Florida, engineered by our own governor, Charlie Crist.

"That's right. In a front-page exposé, the New York Times uncovered the truth about Charlie Crist's billion-dollar bailout for U.S. Sugar. Crist claimed it was to save the Everglades. But the Times examined thousands of state email messages and official records and found that Charlie Crist's decisions were bad for the Everglades and terrible for taxpayers."

"Former Governor Jeb Bush called the sugar bailout 'deeply disappointing.' A giant sugar company gets to wipe all the debts from its books, while Floridians are on the hook for over half-a-billion dollars.

"Tell Charlie Crist that taxpayers need his help more than U.S. Sugar."

Latest poll has McCollum widening lead over Sink in governor's race

03/29/2010

St. Petersburg Times - Online

Marc Caputo

[Return to Top](#)

[Return to Top](#)

By , Miami Herald

Attorney General Bill McCollum's decision to sue the federal government over health care reform looks like a political winner, according to a new poll showing that he has widened his lead over state Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink in the race for governor.

The Mason-Dixon Polling & Research survey released Monday shows that 51 percent of registered Florida voters approve of McCollum's lawsuit, while 39 percent are opposed.

As the state appears to lean toward the right, the Republican McCollum draws 49 percent support compared to 34 percent who would vote for Sink, a Democrat, according to the poll of 625 registered Florida voters.

"The lawsuit probably gave McCollum a little lift and has put him in a strong position, but there's more going on here," said Mason-Dixon pollster Brad Coker.

Coker said the numbers that "jump out at me" are those that show McCollum is winning support from 24 percent of Democrats, while Sink only draws 3 percent of Republican support.

"Also, there's no gender gap. That's a problem for Sink," he said. "A Democratic woman can't win without the strong support of women."

The poll indicates that McCollum would beat his Republican primary challenger, Sen. Paula Doker, by 64 percent to 9 percent.

McCollum appears to be picking up momentum. The last time Mason-Dixon polled the race, in June, McCollum had a 6 percentage point lead. Now he's up 15 percentage points.

Voters have begun to view McCollum in a better light, with 39 percent saying they have a favorable view of the attorney general, a 10 percentage-point increase since the last Mason-Dixon poll. In that time, Sink's numbers haven't moved, with 24 percent of voters expressing a favorable view of her.

"The poll is further evidence Alex Sink has failed to gain traction with Florida voters," McCollum spokeswoman Kristy Campbell said, "and her allegiance to the Democrats' failed tax-and-spend agenda and support for big-government health care is a huge liability going into November's election,"

Part of Sink's political difficulty lies in the fact that she's not as well known as McCollum, a career congressman who has run in three statewide campaigns. Sink has only run once, in 2006.

"That's the choice in this race: Another Washington politician like Bill McCollum, or a business leader like Alex Sink, the only candidate for governor with a comprehensive business plan to revive, remake and reform Florida's economy," said Sink's campaign spokeswoman, Kyra Jennings.

Sink, who has avoided high-profile stances on health care reform, recently has been touring the state promoting a jobs initiative.

Coker said Sink's strategy is a wise one, considering that 47 percent of voters polled said job creation is their top issue. The second-most important issue, closing the state's budget gap, garnered 15 percent support. Affordable health care ranked third, at 12 percent.

The poll shows that independent voters — crucial swing votes in Florida elections — are moving toward the right, but they're not supportive of every Republican position. Overall, thanks to the backing of independents, 50 percent of Florida voters support the Democrats' economic stimulus plan, while 42 percent oppose it. Men and Republicans are the strongest opponents of the stimulus and Democrats and women its major backers.

Still, there are doubts about the beneficial effects of the stimulus package. A near majority — 49 percent — believe the stimulus will not create or save a significant number of jobs. Only 32 percent believe it eventually will create jobs and only 9 percent say it has created or saved a significant number of jobs.

Other issues in the poll:

- Floridians, by a 48-39 percent margin, oppose Republican-backed legislation to link teacher pay to student test scores.
- About 50 percent of voters want to weaken the state's class-size amendment. That's not enough to win at the ballot

box because constitutional amendments can only pass if they're approved by 60 percent of voters.

- By a 5 percentage-point margin, voters disapprove of Gov. Charlie Crist's plan to buy \$536 million worth of U.S. Sugar lands in the name of Everglades restoration. But 66 percent of voters support other Everglades projects, while just 26 percent favor the U.S. Sugar deal.

-- Marc Caputo can be reached at mcaputo@MiamiHerald.com.

