

Dear Friends,

This week we marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. From September 15 through October 15, we honor the contributions and achievements of our states Hispanic community. Through hard work and leadership, Hispanic Americans enrich our society and grow our economy.

In commemoration of the celebration, the Capitol Rotunda features the 20 flags of countries that achieved independence from Spain. Also, this morning, I unveiled two murals, *Conquistadores* and *Raices*, by world-renowned artist Xavier Cortada at the Governors Mansion in honor of the celebration. The paintings use mangroves as a metaphor to depict the history behind Floridas rich and diverse Hispanic cultures. Through his artwork, Cortada vividly captures the strength and confidence that have contributed to the success of our countrys Hispanic American population.



I continue to focus on boosting Floridas economy. This week, I appointed Dale Brill as director of the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. Dale will help us encourage more high-wage businesses to expand and re-locate to Florida. Dales strong background and experience will serve Florida well as we continue to nurture a strong economic climate.

I also appointed Dean Colson of Miami as Special Advisor on Higher Education. He will advise me on ways to increase excellence in our state university system, including how they can impact our economy. With Deans 30 years of experience as one of Floridas most well known business and community leaders, along with his leadership of the University of Miami, he brings a unique perspective on higher education and provides valuable insight into how we can improve Floridas colleges and universities. Strong universities mean a stronger workforce. Research universities develop cutting-edge technologies that launch new economic opportunities.

I also joined AT&T Florida to announce their \$750 million investment in Floridas economy. They will build a new cable-TV and Internet franchise in Florida, creating thousands of jobs. The Consumer Choice Act, which I signed earlier this year, makes their investment possible. This new law will ensure more Florida consumers will have more control and choice over their video and entertainment experience, while benefiting from competitively-priced products. It gives you more choices *and* creates new economic opportunities.



The people of Florida have also an opportunity to re-fire our economy, and re-firing that economy is important by way of lowering their property taxes. This week I joined a bi-partisan group of citizens who support the property tax constitutional amendment. A yes

vote will be good news for Floridians and for our state because it will jump start Floridas real estate market. By voting Yes on 1 on January 29th, you can strengthen Floridas economy even more.

May God continue to bless you and the great State of Florida,

*Charlie Crist*