

DRIVING MESSAGE
October 6, 2015

News of the Day

Q: What's your reaction to the El Faro?

- **Our thoughts and prayers are with all the crewmen's families during this difficult time. We want to thank the U.S. Coast Guard and FWC for their continued search.**

Q: Why do you think Florida hospitals need to increase transparency?

- **We must empower Florida patients to fight against unfairly high hospital costs by requiring hospitals to publish their pricing information in a usable online format.**
- **The high cost of healthcare continues to hurt some of our most vulnerable families in Florida, and the best way to guard against unfairly high hospital costs being passed on to patients is to require hospitals to be fully transparent with their own costs and patient charges.**
- Most Florida hospitals receive state taxpayer dollars. We must not use state money to subsidize hospitals who are charging our citizens unfairly high prices for services they receive, often during a time of personal crisis.

Q: But Governor why weren't you more transparent when you were a hospital exec?

- **We worked to create more transparency when I was in the hospital business. We started urgent care companies and made all prices available to patients.**
- Patients should know what their healthcare will cost.

Q: Are you going to ask Sam Rashid to resign from the Hillsborough Aviation Authority for calling a woman a slut on Facebook?

- **I expect him to resign and I would accept his resignation.**

Q: Will you ask Sam to resign? Or force him? (*If pushed*)

- **I shouldn't have to take legal action to force him to resign. I've said I would accept his resignation and he should do the right thing.**

Q: What are your thoughts on redistricting?

- **This is something the courts and the Legislature are handling. I will review any final proposal they send to me.**

Q: Would you support legislation to increase minimum wage to \$15/hr?

- First, Florida's minimum wage is already higher than the national average.
- **Let's be clear: We know that increasing the minimum wage will result in losing jobs. According to a CBO report last year, a minimum wage increase to \$10.10/hr would mean 500k lost jobs across our nation.**

- I'm focused on helping people make maximum wages and we can't do that if we pass legislation that kills jobs. In Florida, we have added over 940,000 jobs in 4 1/2 years and we have to continue this incredible momentum so Florida can be the best place in the nation for jobs.

Q: What's your reaction to Speaker John Boehner resigning from Congress?

- John was a great leader and I wish him the best in whatever he does next.

Q: What do you think about Daniel Webster announcing his bid for Speaker of the House?

- I hope Congress picks someone who is focused on cutting taxes and creating jobs like we are doing here in Florida.

Q: When do you think there will be a deal with the Seminoles on the compact and have you met with them on this?

- We will take the time that's needed to get the best deal for our state. My staff has met with them and you can get with them on those details.

Q: What do you think of the RPOF not allowing GOP presidential candidates on the primary ballot if they don't attend their candidate summit in November?

- The Republican Party of Florida should work this out with the Republican National Committee. This is a party issue for them to resolve.

Q: Did you push Blake Guillory to resign from the South Florida Water Management District?

- No.

Q: Did you push for Pete Antonacci to replace Blake Guillory at the South Florida Water Management District?

- Pete did a great job as my General Counsel and today's decision was made by the Board.

Q: What's your reaction to Senate President Gardiner's call for \$250 million in tax cuts next session? Do you think it's enough?

- I appreciate the Senate's commitment to cutting taxes.

Q: But, aren't you worried there won't be enough money to get to your promise of \$1 billion tax cut over two years?

- We will always continue to look for opportunities to cut taxes and I look forward to working with the Legislature this year to return more money back to families.

Q: Why are you supporting legislation that will help Uber and Lyft?

- Local governments and special interests should not be picking winners and losers in the free market.

- We clearly need a statewide solution that will let innovative companies like Uber and Lyft freely compete.
- I know the Legislature will bring this issue up next session and I hope we can find a way to allow these companies to compete that is fair for the companies and safe for consumers. That is something I would support.

2016

Q: What did you think about the GOP debate?

- **We have several Republican candidates running for President right now. I am watching for WHO HAS THE BEST ECONOMIC PLAN to CREATE JOBS. That is the candidate I will support.**
- We made a plan to add 700K jobs over 7 years when I ran for Governor of Florida. We have already beaten that goal in just over 4 years.
- In order to win, our next Republican president has to have a plan to add 12 million jobs in 4 years. And, they have to have the ability to actually implement that plan.

Q: Who do you plan to endorse?

- **We need a candidate with a specific plan to create 12 million jobs in 4 years across our country. That is what I want to see Thursday night. I want to support the candidate with the best ECONOMIC plan for our country.**

Q: What about Donald Trump? He is leading in a lot of polls despite some of his controversial remarks.

- This race is at the beginning and not the end. We have no idea how it's going to turn out.
- **I think people in Washington are trying to figure out why Trump is doing so well, but the reality is that he is saying what he thinks. He is not being politically correct. I think a lot of people find that refreshing.**
- But...we have a lot of time left in this race....

Q: We know you aren't making any endorsements- but what about Jeb or Marco?

- **They are great. We are fortunate to have so many great candidates – but we have had 8 years of good speeches with President Obama, it is my hope we start to see candidates lay out specific policies and plans to create JOBS.**
We don't need a speech-maker-and-chief, we need a commander-in-chief to lead our country back to the ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER WE SHOULD BE.

Q: Will you run for the US Senate in 2018?

- **I will worry about 2018 in 2018. I am focused on this job right now and we still have work to do in Florida to BEAT TEXAS as the number one place for jobs in the country. That's my focus every day – make Florida #1.**

Q: Are you planning to run for president?

- **HA. I think we have enough people running for president right now. I am focused on being Governor and getting Florida to the #1 spot for job creation.**

DRIVING MESSAGE
October 12, 2015

News of the Day

Q: Will you suspend Florida school grades?

- **No. We believe in accountability and results. I would like to thank Commissioner Stewart for her leadership on this.**

Q: Why did you deny Orville Lee Wollard's release in the 'warning shot' case?

- **We reviewed this case and felt we made the right decision. We are responsible for the safety of Florida families and we will continue to make sure that they are safe while ensuring that this process is as fair as it should be.**

Q: Are you going to remove Commissioner Pepe Diaz from the Miami-Dade County Board of Commission?

- **Our legal office is reviewing it.**

Q: What do you think about Daniel Webster announcing his bid for Speaker of the House?

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Q: Given the recent violence in *Oregon*, do you support allowing students/faculty to carry concealed weapons on college campuses?

- **FIRST – we have to keep all of the victims and their families in our prayers. The shooting last week was truly horrific and you cannot imagine something like that happening.**
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- We are at a 44-year low in our crime rate in Florida and I will continue to work with law enforcement and local officials to make sure our communities are safe for our families.

Q: What do you think about Russia' involvement in Syria? Do you think Syrian refugees should be allowed in the U.S?

- **I am the Governor of Florida and not in the position to make these types of foreign policy decisions.**
- But, what is clear is that President Obama has failed us on his foreign policy decisions - including dealing with ISIS. I hope that our next president will do everything possible to eliminate the threat of ISIS.

DRIVING MESSAGE
October 15, 2015

News of the Day

Q: What's your reaction to Cuban immigrants getting immediate access to welfare as refugees and returning to Cuba? Some stay for months. Others go back for good – living in Cuba on U.S. benefits?

- **This is a federal issue that President Obama has failed to address. The President should work with Congress to achieve real and meaningful immigration reform in our country.**

Q: What do you think of this policy now that there is more travel and openness between Cuba and the US?

- **As long as Cuba chooses dictatorship over democracy, I will continue to support the embargo and sanctions against them.**
- The President's end-run around Congress, the voice of the people, is alarming. Governors have to work with their state Legislatures to change laws and the President should be no different.

Q: Did you or someone in your administration ask Sam Rashid to resign from the Hillsborough Aviation Authority for calling a woman a slut on Facebook?

- **As you know, I've publicly said that I expected him to resign and I accepted his resignation last week when he submitted it.**

Q: How much will you exactly cut in taxes?

- **We will propose a tax cut package that will be larger than the package we proposed last year. We will be rolling out more details on this in the coming weeks.**

Q: President Gardiner says he will cut just over \$200 million in taxes. Are you confident you can get his support on you tax package?

- **I am very excited to have heard from President Gardiner and Speaker Crisafulli about their goals to cut taxes again in the upcoming session. Working together, I know we can give Floridians back more of their hard-earned money.**

Q: Are you confident you can get the Legislature on board with your EFI reforms since many seem to want pay-as-you-go?

- **As I mentioned in my speech, we have listed to many of the concerns that the House and Senate have about the current system, and with their input, we will propose major reforms to the Quick Action Closing Fund program in the coming weeks.**

Q: What are the details of your EFI reforms?

- **We will be rolling them out in the coming weeks.**

Q: Any chance you would be open to supporting Medicaid Expansion this session if it meant getting your tax cuts done?

- **I do not support expanding Medicaid if the state is on the hook.**
- What I have said is that if the federal government wants to pay 100 percent of the cost of anyone added, then I am in.
- But, what we know is that the plan proposed last year to expand Obamacare would cost STATE TAXPAYERS \$5 billion over 10 years!
- What I am interested in is reforming our health care system so there is more transparency at our hospitals so patients aren't price-gouged.

Q: Will you be attending the RPOF's Sunshine Summit?

- **Yes, I look forward to opening the Summit.**

Q: What are your thoughts on last night's Democratic presidential debate?

- What we heard last night would be four more years of Barack Obama – and we cannot afford four more years of taxes and policies that make our nation less competitive.
- **Our country desperately needs economic growth and our next president has to be all-in on growing the economy.**

Q: Why did you deny Orville Lee Wollard's release in the 'warning shot' case?

- **We reviewed this case and felt we made the right decision. We are responsible for the safety of Florida families and we will continue to make sure that they are safe while ensuring that this process is as fair as it should be.**

Q: Will you sign an executive order to suspend Florida school grades?

- **I believe in accountability and measurement because I want Florida to be first in education so our students are prepared for a great job when they graduate.**
- DOE will continue to follow the law with school grades.

Q: When do you think there will be a deal with the Seminoles on the compact and have you met with them on this?

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DRIVING MESSAGE

October 19, 2015

News of the Day

Q: Do you think Charlie Crist will win his run for Congress?

- I don't think he would serve the area well. I will leave it at that for now.

Q: What's your reaction to the controversy surrounding the award that Bethune-Cookman University wants to give you this week? Many are saying you don't deserve the award because you haven't done enough for the African-American community.

- I am honored that the university is presenting me with this award. I am proud to have supported Historically Black Universities by including over \$54 million in their budget since 2011 and over \$20 million for Bethune Cookman University.

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DRIVING MESSAGE
October 26, 2015

News of the Day

Q: What is the state doing to help in the death investigation of Corey Jones?

- **We've reached out to FDLE Commissioner Rick Swearingen, Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, and 15th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Dave Aronberg and offered the assistance of FDLE in the two ongoing investigations by the State Attorney's Office and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Our office continues to monitor any developments.**

Q: In light of two more child deaths, what is DCF doing to make sure this doesn't happen again?

- **First off, as a father and grandfather, I can't imagine this happening to a child. I know that Secretary Mike Carrol is reviewing these cases. We have to stop and think about what we can do to get better to ensure this does not happen again.**

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October 27, 2015

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Q: Your office refused to comment yesterday on the Seminoles decision to file a lawsuit in federal court. What is your response to the lawsuit? What will the state do at the end of the week with the looming deadline? Will there be an effort to stop the table games?

- **As I have always said, we will take the needed time to get the best deal for the state.**
- Our legal office is reviewing this.

Q: The FBI is investigating a suspicious package that was sent to an office at Los Angeles International Airport from a prison inmate in Florida. What is the status of this?

- **It is currently being investigated by the FBI and local law enforcement. I am glad no one was hurt and that the proper authorities caught this.**

Q: Did you or anyone on your staff force out Kelley Boree from her position as Division of State Lands Director at DEP?

- **Absolutely not. This was a decision made by Secretary Steverson and you can follow up with him.**

Q: Given the recent controversy at FAMU, lawmakers are calling on you to not reappoint some of your appointees when their terms expire in January. Will you consider putting new people on the board?

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Q: Do you support the FWC's decision to limit the week long bear hunt to just two days?

- **FWC can decide what is best for Florida's growing bear population and what will best keep families safe.**

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DRIVING MESSAGE
November 2, 2015

News of the Day

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DRIVING MESSAGE
November 9, 2015

News of the Day

Q: What's your reaction to the passing of Governor Chiles' wife, Rhea?

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Q: Why did the state decide to sue the Seminoles?

- **DBPR is enforcing the law under the existing compact.**

Q: What are your thoughts on redistricting?

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DRIVING MESSAGE
November 10, 2015

News of the Day

Q: Many in the Legislature say you do not have enough money to cut \$1 billion in taxes, invest \$250 into incentives and balance the budget. How do you plan to make this work?

- **Our state's economy is growing by over 2.7% and our state general revenues are up by \$1.3 billion. WE HAVE A HISTORIC LEVEL OF REVENUE EVEN WHILE WE HAVE CUT TAXES 50 TIMES AND MADE RECORD INVESTMENTS ALL ACROSS OUR BUDGET.**
- **We have a big opportunity this year to make Florida First in job creation with our \$1 billion tax cut plan.**
- **By eliminating the tax on business income for Florida manufacturers – big and small, and all Florida retailers, which include many small businesses all across the state, we are putting job makers on the road to more job creation for years to come.**

Q: How can you brag about our state's safety when 249 people were shot by Florida authorities from 2013-2014?

- **I know that our law enforcement works every day to make sure our communities are safe and that all of our residents live in a safe community.**
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Q: Florida earned a D- for government integrity. What are you doing to change that?

- **I don't know the details of that study but I hold all agencies to a high standard and expect them to run with accountability and integrity.**

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DRIVING MESSAGE
November 18, 2015

News of the Day

Q: Were you on the White House call? Was it helpful?

- Yes, I was on the call. The Obama Administration is STILL NOT GIVING US ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- The President wants us to trust their vetting process but has given us little faith that they can properly check the background of every refugee coming into our country.
- It is troubling that we cannot get information on the refugees they are sending to our states so we can make the best decision for our residents.

Q: Why are you joining other governors who are blocking Syrian refugees from entering your state?

- FIRST – My thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims in last week's terror attacks in Paris. You cannot imagine anything like this happening and our president needs to do EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THE THREAT OF ISIS.
- We know that at least one of the terror suspects posed as a Syrian refugee to get into France.
- AND IT IS INCREDIBLY CONCERNING that President Obama is letting refugees into our country without understanding the risk these individuals may pose to our national security.

Q: What are you asking the Federal Government to do?

- The state can only do so much and we need Congress to step in and take immediate action to stop the President from using ANY FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS to fund the relocation of up to 425 Syrian refugees to Florida.
- AGAIN, THIS IS INCREDIBLE CONCERNING AND WE CANNOT AFFORD ANY TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN OUR NATION.

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DRIVING MESSAGE
November 23, 2015

BUDGET QA

Q: Many in the Legislature say you do not have enough money to cut \$1 billion in taxes, invest \$250 million into incentives and balance the budget. How do you plan to make this work?

- Our state's economy is growing by over 2.7% and our state general revenues are up by \$1.3 billion.
- **The Florida First Budget is \$79.3 billion and in addition to our investments and tax cuts, we are setting aside \$5.3 billion in reserves! THAT MEANS WE HAVE SET ASIDE AN EXTRA \$5.3 BILLION FOR A RAINY DAY.**
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Q: Did you meet Amendment 1 requirements?

- **Yes – our budget fully funds Amendment 1 and includes over \$905 million to support land and water programs.**

Q: You have been criticized for not following the intent of Amendment 1. Does your budget invest in new or current projects?

- We are funding both new and existing projects.
- **I am proud that our budget provides more than \$3.5 billion to protect Florida's agriculture and natural resources, including over \$150 million this year for the Everglades and \$50 million for springs.**

Q: Why did you not include pay raises for forest firefighters despite being shown that there is a need for them?

- **My budget invests in a bonus program that all state employees are eligible for, including forest firefighters.**

Q: Will property taxes increase in this budget?

- **NO –the mileage rate will not increase. It is a good thing when property values increase.**

Q: Are you allocating money for UCF's downtown campus?

- **We have allocated funding for construction, but did not identify specific projects.**
- Like I do every year, I will review the final budget when it reaches my desk.

Q: How does your budget deal with LIP?

- As you know, funding for this federal program is being scaled back and overhauled by the federal CMS.
- **Our budget provides \$608 million in total funding for the LIP program. This is the amount the federal government is imposing on the state and the distribution is consistent with the new federal requirements.**

Q: Why do you keep cutting staff at DOH?

- As you know, I have asked all of my agencies to operate more efficiently.
- **The majority of the reductions come from vacancies and will not impact their operations or result in any interruption in services.**

Q: How does your budget deal with revenue from the Seminole gaming compact?

- **Our budget relies on the REC's most recent projections which does not include this revenue.**

Syrian Refugee Crisis

Q: John Kerry has sent you a letter regarding their screening process for refugees. Does this satisfy you?

- **The President wants us to trust their vetting process but has given us little faith that they can properly check the background of every refugee coming into our country.**
- It is troubling that we cannot get information on the refugees they are sending to our state so we can make the best decision for our residents.
- I appreciate the efforts in the U.S. House of Representatives and I hope the U.S. Senate follows.

2016

Q: Donald Trump has a similar background to you. Would you consider endorsing him?

- I will endorse the candidate who has the best plan to grow our economy.
- **Republican presidential candidates are not talking about growing our economy. I'm looking for a candidate who will be all-in on growing the economy.**
- So, no endorsements from me today.

Q: We know you aren't making any endorsements- but what about Jeb or Marco?

- **We have a lot of good potential candidates.**
- We are still at the beginning of the race and we need to hear more from ALL of the candidates about what they will do to grow the economy.
- Our country desperately needs economic growth, and that is just not part of the discussion or the debate right now. So no endorsements from me today.

Q: What do you think about Donald Trump's controversial remarks? Do you think he is offensive?

- **I think people in Washington are trying to figure out why Trump is doing so well, but the reality is that he is saying what he thinks. He is not being politically correct. I think a lot of people find that refreshing.**
- But, we have a lot of time left in this race and I hope every candidate will start talking more about their plans to grow our economy.