

Member of Congress Profiles

House of Representatives

Gus Bilirakis

- District Covers all of Pasco County, and northern parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.
- Was elected to Congress in 2006.
- Committees: House Energy and Commerce and House Veterans Affairs Committees
- Bilirakis has a Tampa Bay area law practice, the Bilirakis Law Group, specializing in probate and estate planning, which he took over from his father, Michael Bilirakis.
- His father served in Congress from 1983 to 2007, and Gus helped run his campaigns.
- Education: Tarpon Springs High School, St. Petersburg Junior College, University of Florida (BA, Political Science), Stetson University College of Law (JD).



Vern Buchanan

- District covers Western Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
- Was elected to Congress in 2006.
- Committees: House Ways and Means Committee.
- Education: Originally from the Detroit Michigan area, graduate High School in that area, Cleary University (BA, Business Administration), University of Detroit (MA, Business Administration).
- Self-made millionaire (\$73.9 million in 2018), Buchanan is the 5th wealthiest member of Congress. Most of his wealth is from his automotive dealerships but has an ownership interest in about fifty other businesses, including offshore reinsurance companies, and a charter-jet business.
- Co-chair of the bipartisan 29-member Florida congressional delegation
- Previously chaired the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.



Kathy Castor

- District covers Tampa and parts of Hillsborough County.
- Was elected to Congress in 2006.
- Committees: Chair, House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis; Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee. Previously served on Budget, Armed Services Ethics, and Rules Committees.
- Previously served as a Hillsborough County Commissioner and chair of the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission.
- Named the Tampa Bay Business Journal's Woman of the Year in government 2005.
- Education: Tampa's Chamberlain High School, Emory University (BA), Florida State University College of Law (JD).
- Former President of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers and partner in a statewide law firm.



Charlie Crist

- District covers Pinellas County from Clearwater through St. Pete.
- Was elected to Congress in 2016.
- Committees: House Committee on Appropriations, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
- Education: St. Petersburg High School, Wake Forest University, Florida State University (BA), Samford University Cumberland School of Law (JD).
- Florida Governor 2007-2011; Florida Attorney General 2003-2007; Florida Education Commissioner 2001-2003; Florida Senate 1993-1999.
- Early career included serving as general counsel to Minor League Baseball, working in private practice in his brother-in-law's law firm.



Ross Spano

- District Covers northern parts of Hillsborough and Polk Counties, and includes Brandon, Plant City, Lakeland and Bartow.
- Was elected to Congress in 2018.
- Committees: Small Business Committee; Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
- Education: Brandon High School, University of South Florida (BA, History), Florida State University College of Law (JD).
- Elected to the Florida House of Representatives 2012-2018; Shareholder of his own law practice representing individuals and small businesses in Hillsborough County.
- Father was a homebuilder.



Senators

Marco Rubio

- Was elected to the Senate in 2010.
- Committees: Special Committee on Aging; Committee on Appropriations; Committee on Foreign Relations, Select Committee on Intelligence, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
- Education: South Miami Senior High School, Tarkio College, (1 year), Santa Fe Community College, University of Florida (BA), University of Miami Law School (JD).
- Florida House of Representatives 2000-2008, and as Speaker of the House 2006-2008; City Commissioner for West Miami 1998-2000.
- Previously worked for a law firm that specialized in land use and zoning, and a lobbying firm based in Miami. While in the US Senate, has served as an Adjunct Professor at Florida International University (FIU) teaching undergraduate courses on Florida politics, political parties, and legislative politics.



Rick Scott

- Elected to the U.S. Senate in 2018.
- Committees: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Committee on Armed Services Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee; Committee on the Budget; Special Committee on Aging
- Education: North Kansas City High School, University of Missouri–Kansas City (BA, Business Administration), Southern Methodist University (JD)
- Served as Florida Governor 2010-2018.
- Co-founded Columbia Hospital Corporation, which later merged with another corporation to form Columbia/HCA, that eventually became the largest private for-profit health care company in the United States. Later, after leaving the health care company, Scott founded Richard L. Scott Investments, a venture capital firm that has invested in health care, manufacturing and technology companies.
- While not certain what his full net worth is, estimates based on disclosure filings put him in the top five wealthiest Members of Congress.
- Served in the US Navy as a radar technician. First business was a donut shop. Was a law firm partner.

