

Move Over Scott Walker -- Here Comes Rick Scottposted by: [Robin Marty](#) 15 hours ago

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Running rampant across the state with the help of Republican legislative majorities? Slashing thousands of state jobs? Forcing state employees to pay for even more of their retirement funds? Decimating education, mass transit and environmental funds?

Sound a lot like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker? Nope, this time it's the next big governor to watch -- Florida's Rick Scott. And he's so out of control even his own party is getting worried.

Via [The Washington Post](#):

Scott faces a \$3.6 billion budget shortfall, but he also wants to cut nearly \$2 billion in taxes. He wants to cut \$1.75 billion in education funding, get rid of 8,500 state workers, and require the remaining state workers to pay 5 percent of their salaries toward their retirement.

Even such an ambitious agenda would appear doable, especially since Scott came into office with a new governor's dream - Republican super-majorities in both chambers of the state legislature.

But getting on the same page as those legislators, particularly in the powerful state Senate, is very much a work in progress. And that's putting it kindly. From [the week after his election](#) until now, Republican state legislators [have balked at Scott's proposals](#), and now that we're headed toward the biggest battle of all -- the budget -- observers are watching anxiously to see what transpires.

Already, Scott has clashed with Republican state legislators by selling two of the state's airplanes, trying to defeat a bill that would create a database to track prescription drug fraud and declining \$2.4 billion in federal stimulus funds for high-speed rail between Orlando and Tampa. And in every case, say Republicans on the ground in Florida, the state legislators were blindsided by Scott's actions.

Florida Republican operatives say privately that relations are quite

strained between some legislators and the governor. Even as Scott and most legislators are on the same page much of the time, when they aren't, the situation has been handled poorly.

"They've told the governor's staff, don't even bother come asking anything for the governor, because you're not going to get it," said one GOP operative who approves of Scott's policy goals but said he has to work on messaging.

One other reason Scott might be the governor to next travel in Scott Walker's footsteps? Political reporters in Florida state [Scott is guided by three major think tanks](#) -- Heritage Foundation, Reason Foundation, and Cato Institute. And two of those three are founded by Walker's best friends -- the Koch Brothers.