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## 09.20.10 | **FACT CHECK: Crist TV Ad Goes On The Attack With False "Facts"**

*Behind In The Polls, Crist Breaks His Pledge To Run A "Positive Campaign"*

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**Miami, FL** – Behind in the polls, Charlie Crist is breaking his pledge to Floridians to run a "positive campaign" focused on the issues" and is instead launching the first attack ad of the General Election.

When he announced that he was running as an "independent," Crist said people "are tired of the games and the name calling and the politics of personal destruction." He subsequently promised to run a "positive campaign" not focused on Marco Rubio. Instead, Crist focused on trying to make himself into a liberal Democrat. However, that was yesterday and now Crist is behind in the polls to Marco Rubio so he has decided to go on the attack. Crist is so desperate that he is launching ads with facts that are so false they can't even be cited in the ad itself. For a full fact check of Crist's new false attack ad, please see below.

"Charlie Crist is so desperate to not talk about his record of higher unemployment, failed \$800 billion stimulus programs, wasted taxpayer dollars on European junkets and numerous flip-flops on ObamaCare that he has resorted to making up facts about Marco Rubio. Since Charlie Crist will say anything and change any position about his record in order to win, there's no reason Florida voters should trust what he has to say about his opponents," said Alex Burgos. "No matter how much Charlie Crist spends on attack ads, nothing will change the fact that Marco Rubio is the only candidate Floridians can trust to challenge the direction Washington is taking our country and offer a clear alternative."

### **Myth Vs. Fact: Crist's New False TV Ads...**

*\* We tried to fact check the Crist ad as accurately as possible but because the TV ad itself cites no back up material, we were at a lost to know what Charlie Crist was referring to at times.*

**Crist TV Ad:** "Have you seen Marco Rubio's ads attacking me?" (Crist TV Ad, 9/20/10)

### **FACT: Marco Rubio Has Not Launched One General Election Ad Attacking Charlie Crist Or Even Mentioning Charlie Crist.**

**Crist TV Ad:** "Rubio tried to sneak almost \$500 million in earmarks into the budget. I vetoed them." (Crist TV Ad, 9/20/10)

**FACT: St. Petersburg Times: Crist Has Done "Some Creative Math" To Inflate The Number Because Included Is Money That "Never Existed In The State Budget."** "To reach the \$459-million total he proclaimed, Crist did some creative math. He vetoed tuition increases at universities and community colleges and claimed a \$39-million cut, even though the money never existed in the state budget." (Steve Bousquet, "Crist Slashes State Budget," St. Petersburg Times, 5/25/07)

**FACT: At The Same Time, Crist "Wielded His Veto Pen Parochially" And Acted To Protect His Hometown Projects.** "At times, Crist wielded his veto pen parochially. In a parks category, he vetoed most line items but spared \$500,000 to restore the fort at Fort DeSoto Park in his home county of Pinellas." (Steve Bousquet, "Crist Slashes State Budget," St. Petersburg Times, 5/25/07)

**FACT: The Plurality Of Budget Items Vetoed By Governor Crist, 128, Originated In The Senate Budget, Not The House Budget, According To Florida Taxwatch.** (FY 2007-08 Florida TaxWatch Turkey List – Updated To Reflect Governor's Vetoes)

**Crist TV Ad:** "One and a half million dollars for a rowing institute. Vetoed." (Crist TV Ad, 9/20/10)

**FACT: The Rowing Institute Was Sponsored By Rep. Ralph Poppell (R-Vero Beach), Not Marco Rubio.** "Rep. Ralph Poppell, R-Vero Beach, sought money for a rowing training center at Florida Institute of Technology. A taxpayer-funded rowing institute? 'There's a value to everything, I guess,' Crist said." (Steve Bousquet, "Will Crist Fill The Role Of Dr. No?" St. Petersburg Times, 5/19/07)

**Crist TV Ad:** "\$800,000 for artificial turf on a Miami field where he played flag football. I vetoed that too." (Crist TV Ad, 9/20/10)

**FACT: The Money Crist Cites Was Slated "To Go To A Joint Project Between A Sports League And The City Of South Miami For A Plan To Build Several Multi-Use Fields And Buildings For Programs To Help At-Risk Youth."** "First, some details about the project. The money was supposed to go to a joint project between a sports league and the city of South Miami for a plan to build several multi-use fields and buildings for programs to help at-risk youth." (Amy Sherman, "Crist Accuses Rubio Of Supporting Money For His Football Field,"

PolitiFact, 3/24/10)

**FACT: PolitiFact: The Sponsors Of The Project Were State Rep. Mitch Needelman, R-Melbourne, And State Sen. Alex Diaz De La Portilla, R-Miami.** "The total cost of the project was \$1,050,000 and the proposal asked for \$800,000 in state funds. The sponsors were State Rep. Mitch Needelman, R-Melbourne, and State Sen. Alex Diaz de la Portilla, R-Miami." (Amy Sherman, "Crist Accuses Rubio Of Supporting Money For His Football Field," PolitiFact, 3/24/10)

**FACT: PolitiFact: "We Couldn't Find Any Evidence [Rubio] Was A Driving Force Behind The Earmark."** "Although the project became linked to Rubio in news accounts and editorials, we couldn't find any evidence he was a driving force behind the earmark. Needelman, who was chairman of the juvenile justice committee at the time, told PolitiFact Florida that it was his idea to put the money in the budget. 'Marco has never talked to me one on one on this at all,' said Needelman, who is supporting Rubio for Senate. Guillermo Chacon, executive director of the sports league, said he never spoke with his friend Rubio about this proposal. 'Our business dealings were always with Needelman (and) Diaz de la Portilla,' Chacon said. 'We never had a contact with Mr. Rubio.'" (Amy Sherman, "Crist Accuses Rubio Of Supporting Money For His Football Field," PolitiFact, 3/24/10)

**Crist TV Ad:** "Just remember, the Washington special interests who are paying for Rubio's ads don't want an independent like me looking out for your money. I'm Charlie Crist and I approve this message." (Crist TV Ad, 9/20/10)

**FACT: When it comes to earmarks, Crist usually protects those of his political allies.**

**FACT: Miami Herald: "Crist's Closest Political Allies, Senators Durrell Peaden And Mike Fasano, Saw Their Projects Survive."** (Marc Caputo, "Charlie Crist Vetoes \$371m. Dade, David Rivera, Lose Out," Miami Herald's "Naked Politics" Blog, 5/28/10)

**FACT: Times/Herald: Crist "Protected Projects In The Districts Of Key Allies, Even Though They Made The Annual 'Turkey List' Compiled By Florida TaxWatch."** "Crist said he was vetoing projects that did not receive adequate open review, or benefited 'only select groups.' But he protected projects in the districts of key allies, even though they made the annual 'turkey list' compiled by Florida TaxWatch. For example, Crist let stand a \$750,000 grant to operate a health clinic at the Mike Fasano Hurricane Shelter in Pasco County, named after the state senator who championed it. The governor also saved \$8.5 million for a new pharmacy program in rural Crestview to be run by Florida A&M University, a project sponsored by Sen. Durrell Peaden. Fasano and Peaden are Crist loyalists who have pledged to support his independent candidacy for the U.S. Senate." (Steve Bousquet And Marc Caputo, "Crist Vetoes USF Lakeland Pharmacy School, Many South Florida Projects," Times/Herald, 5/29/10)

**FACT: Cato Institute: "Crist Fiscally Responsible? Not So Fast."** "Trouble is, the report card's author, Chris Edwards, has gone on the record again and again explaining how Crist has fallen hard off the fiscal responsibility wagon since the report was released two years ago. The Florida media has publicized Edwards' correction of the record numerous times since Crist began citing the Cato rating in his political ads. It is difficult to believe that Crist can be unaware of that. Here's Edwards in October 2009: Since I wrote the report in mid-2008, the governor seems to have fallen off the fiscal responsibility horse. In particular, Crist approved a huge \$2.2 billion tax increase for the fiscal 2010 budget, even though he had promised that \$12 billion in federal 'stimulus' money showered on Florida over three years would obviate the need for tax increases. About \$1 billion of the tax increases are on cigarette consumers, which will particularly harm moderate-income families. The rest of the increases are in the form of higher costs for often mandatory services, such as automobile registration, which is really just a sneaky form of tax increases." (Chris Moody, "Crist Fiscally Responsible? Not So Fast," Cato Institute's "Cato@Liberty" Blog, 3/29/10)

**FACT: Crist Increased The State Workforce For the First Time Since Lawton Chiles, a Liberal Democrat, Was Governor.** "The annual report indicates that Crist has presided over the first growth in total state government employment since the late Gov. Lawton Chiles started the decline in his last year – a reduction that Bush accelerated with privatization and computerization." (Bill Cotterell, "State Jobs On Rise Again," The News-Press, 12/30/07)

**FACT: In July 2008, Crist Went On A 12-Day European Trade Mission That Cost Taxpayers \$430,000.** "This summer, as the state's economy plunged, Gov. Charlie Crist took an entourage to Europe on a 12-day trade mission. The business development trip to London, Paris, St. Petersburg and Madrid was supposed to cost taxpayers \$255,000. The actual tab was far higher – in excess of \$430,000, the Sun Sentinel found in a detailed review of the July trip's costs." (Megan O'Matz, "Crist's Lavish Trade Trip," Sun-Sentinel, 12/7/08)



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