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« It's Friday, so....Crist leaves Fla to raise \$ in NY and Michigan | [Main](#) |  
The schedule prize goes to...McCollum, Sink or Crist? »

## Cato Inst. tax man to Charlie Crist: Not so fast

Gov. Charlie Crist's new U.S. Senate campaign ad continues to backfire. First, morning show host Many Connell deconstructed it on-air as, essentially, a [vomit-provoking "lie."](#) Now Cato Institute's Tax Policy Director Christ Edwards, who gave Crist an "A" in his Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors," is annotating Crist's decision to mention the grade in the Connell-maligned radio ad.

From an Edwards email:

*According to the Herald's Naked Politics (October 16), Gov. Charlie Crist is trumpeting his grade of "A" on Cato's "Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors." The governor earned the grade in last year's report based mainly on his property tax cuts and moderate spending approach.*

*I am pleased that Crist values Cato's ratings because we work hard to make them accurate and nonpartisan. But as the report's author, I am concerned that the governor has fallen off the fiscal responsibility horse since the report was written in mid-2008.*

*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.*

*These tax increases will be particularly painful to Floridians in the short-term because of the recession. But Crist has also jeopardized the state's long-term finances with his expanded subsidies for hurricane insurance. Hurricanes are a major challenge in Florida, but giving big subsidies to coastal property owners, driving private insurers out of the state, and guaranteeing a massive state bailout when the next hurricane hits strikes me as the height of fiscally irresponsibility.*

Sincerely,

Chris Edwards

October 2009



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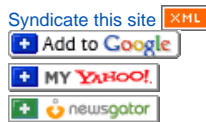
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*Washington, D.C.*

[Author of "Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors, 2008"](#)

Posted by Marc Caputo on October 23, 2009 in [Charlie Crist](#) | [Permalink](#)

## Comments

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Cato institute worried about middle class people? Hahaha.

I have never met a Libertarian that didn't demand preference given to people with capital, in other words, capitalists should not be taxed.

There is a huge flaw with describing Cato as some sort of fiscal responsibility expert or something, they are perfectly OK with unfunded public debt that eventually gets paid by the middle class masses paying a far higher percentage of their earnings than "Capitalists" who Libertarians want tax exempted.

Right now my entire family pays a higher tax rate than the wealthiest in this country because we punch time clocks and they make money with money, trickle down alright, it barely trickles. The middle class is worse off than ever but the wealthy, well they're still wealthy!

One of our most well known and most powerful Libertarians, Alan Greenspan came back to testify to Congress and admit he was wrong about deregulation and un-regulated funds such as OTC derivatives. At one time while Fed Chief Mr Greenspan fought tooth and nail with all he had to keep OTC derivatives unregulated and basically untouched by any oversight, nobody to even look at how OTC derivatives work. Greenspan now recants and apologizes to the American people.

Cato fights for deregulation and for keeping OTC derivatives untouched by the feds even though there is almost a hundred trillion dollars hidden away in "the black box" as it's known in the industry.

Posted by: chuck | [October 23, 2009 at 07:39 PM](#)



GOV. CRIST HAS TO BE THE WORST GOVERNOR IN FLORIDA'S HISTORY! OUR VOTE IS WITH MARCO RUBIO A TRUE CONSERVATIVE WITH A PROVEN RECORD! CRIST IS TOO LIBERAL!!!

Posted by: [gop of broward](#) | [October 24, 2009 at 08:08 PM](#)



Charlie has done a good job as governor...and do I really care about "moderate income" cigarette smokers??? Hard times call for hard measures. Also, my property insurance rates did in fact go down, and I

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