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March 29, 2010

## Cato criticizes Crist's selective use of its report card

The fiscal conservative think tank, the Cato Institute, isn't happy that a politician is taking its report card out of context. We have no idea whether they've trained their ire on other politicians when it has been done, but they sure are mad this time at Gov. **Charlie Crist**.

Seems as though the governor continues to cite [Cato's 2008 Governors' Report Card](#) as evidence of his fiscal conservative credentials without mentioning that he didn't get the same kudos in 2009, when he supported tax increases. Crist has used this selective reasoning in radio ads, and did it again in his [Fox News Sunday debate](#) against **Marco Rubio**.

Cato blogger **Chris Moody** writes:

"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."

\*

Posted by Mary Ellen Klas at 01:09:20 PM on March 29, 2010 in [Charlie Crist](#) , [Marco Rubio](#) | [Permalink](#)

Comments

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Sorry, guys, but I don't see anything wrong with Crist citing the fact that Cato named him the most fiscally conservative governor one year. So what if the next year they gave it to someone else?

Posted by: Joe from Pensacola | [March 29, 2010 at 01:18 PM](#)

Joe,

By your reasoning, it would still be Ok for A-rod to claim that he is the American League MVP, even though he won it two years ago and hasn't won it since.

Posted by: Carl | [March 29, 2010 at 01:40 PM](#)

Pensacola Joe, it's mis-leading is what the problem is....they have changed the most current rating, and it's not good, the public should get the most recent info not 2 years ago....

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E-mail Times political editor Adam Smith: [asmith@sptimes.com](mailto:asmith@sptimes.com).

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Posted by: Jason | [March 29, 2010 at 01:52 PM](#)

THIS should be headlines in the paper tomorrow, Crist is really dishonest to be saying things that are not true !

Posted by: Stan | [March 29, 2010 at 01:53 PM](#)

I agree with Stan, this should be headlines, to clear this deception up....typical Crist !!!

Posted by: Kathy | [March 29, 2010 at 02:03 PM](#)

This is why Crist is loosing this race and his political popularity...he has been found out to be shady in every aspect of his life...his sexuality,his big money fund raisers,that end up in prison, Greer his hand picked RPOF chairman, throw out undre a cloud of suspicion,etc,etc,etc....Crist is not an honest Man !

Posted by: Larry | [March 29, 2010 at 02:31 PM](#)

Crist did use the past tense when he mentioned Cato. A-Rod could say he "was" the American League MVP. It's a fact either way.

How do the Rubio supporters justify Rubio's misstatement about his property tax vote while on the West Miami City Commission?

Posted by: Joe from Pensacola | [March 29, 2010 at 03:01 PM](#)

Joe...Rubio said that he didn't raise taxes in a state position, listen up, Big guy

Posted by: Les | [March 29, 2010 at 03:03 PM](#)

.....cato cited....the ed makes it past tense, but if he really wanted to be accurate, which he didn't as he was trying to pull a fast one..he should have said "in 2008 the Cato Institute,bla,blah,blah"

he was purposely being slick, I ask you Joe, why didn't he say "according to the most recent Cato Institute 2009 rankings, I was one of the very least fiscally conservative Governors"....

Posted by: Bill | [March 29, 2010 at 03:09 PM](#)

Ah, come on, guys. I'm sure Charlie was once voted Mr. Congeniality as a loser also. Doesn't he get to brag about that, too?

Posted by: whasup | [March 29, 2010 at 03:16 PM](#)

Les, and Rubio saying that he didn't raise taxes in a "state position" is any better?

Bye the way, guys, I did a little research...Cato only does report cards every two years on the governors, so Charlie should be ok even with a present-tense mention of his ranking.

Posted by: Joe from Pensacola | [March 29, 2010 at 04:55 PM](#)

OH...and Jeb Bush's rankings:

- 2006: C
- 2004: B
- 2002: A
- 2000: B
- 1998 (Chiles)

Just sayin'

Posted by: Informed Republican Voter | [March 29, 2010 at 05:06 PM](#)

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"From the Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors: 2006

Jeb Bush  
Final-Term Grade: C  
Final Overall Grade: B

...It is the strength of his tax cutting that has sustained his grade through the past eight years; he received an A on this report card for his first term. What has finally caused his grade to drop to a C this term was explosive growth in state spending, spurred largely by some big-spending schemes proposed by Bush himself, such as the grant of \$310 million in taxpayer money to the Scripps Institute to lure it to Florida from La Jolla, California. Real per capita general fund spending has grown an annual average of 5 percent over the past two years, making Bush one of the biggest spending Republican governors in this report card. Bush is seen by many as an attractive candidate for higher office. He certainly has a solid record on taxes. But the one glaring question that his second-term budget record has produced is whether he's turned into a big-government Republican."

Posted by: Informed Republican Voter | [March 29, 2010 at 05:17 PM](#)

joe/pensacola....how come the author chris edwards is saying the 2009 rating showed crist as poor...why would you say they only do this every 2 years, when it's right in this article that there is a 2009 rating???

give it up joe....

Posted by: Steve | [March 30, 2010 at 08:03 AM](#)

Like I said Steve, go to the website and you'll see they only do it every two years. There is no official 2009 rating.

Posted by: Joe from Pensacola | [March 30, 2010 at 08:29 AM](#)

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