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Crist gives false fiscal policy rating

Jim Brown - OneNewsNow - 10/27/2009 7:00:00 AM [ADD THIS](#)

A tax policy expert says Republican U.S. Senate candidate Charlie Crist no longer deserves the 1st place fiscal policy rating he received a year and a half after he became Governor of Florida.

Florida Governor Charlie Crist's new U.S. Senate ad campaign boasts that Cato Institute gave him an "A" in his Fiscal Policy Report Card on America's Governors.



However, that report card was written in May of 2008. The author of that report card, Cato's tax policy director Chris Edwards, says since the report was issued, Governor Crist has "fallen off the fiscal responsibility horse."

"Since then, he's enacted a \$2.2 billion tax increase, which for a state government is a very big tax increase," accounts Edwards. "He's increased taxes on cigarette consumers, which particularly hits lower-income families, and also he's imposed another \$1 billion of fee hikes for things like mandatory automobile registration and the like, which are not really voluntary fees - ultimately you've got to pay them if you want to drive your car. So that's really like a \$1 billion of tax increases as well."

Edwards notes that Crist has also "nationalized" hurricane insurance in Florida, by providing government-backed insurance for people who live along the coastline.



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