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Fact check: Crist's first radio ad for U.S. Senate campaign

by Michael C. Bender | October 16th, 2009



Gov. Charlie Crist's U.S. Senate campaign is running its first two radio ads across the state. Listen to "Out of Control" and "Enough is Enough" [here](#).

The ads are pretty much the same. Read the transcripts and fact check after the jump.

“Out of Control”

Washington is out of control. Yet the President has the same tired answer for every problem: To spend more of your money. I'm Charlie Crist. I'm running for the U.S. Senate because Washington needs a dose of Florida common sense. In the last two years, federal government spending has grown by over 25 percent. Here in Florida, I've slashed government by 10 percent. That's \$7 billion. And we've passed the biggest tax cuts in Florida history. Last fall, the conservative Cato Institute graded all 50 governors with a fiscal report card. I'm proud to say that I was ranked No. 1 in America. Less government, less taxes: It's more than a slogan. It's my commitment and the record I'll bring from Tallahassee to Washington. We can't spend our way into prosperity or tax or way into growth. Let's cut the size of the federal government and return your family's money so you can decide how to best spend it. I'm Charlie Crist and I approved this message.

“Enough is Enough”

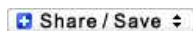
Enough is enough. That's my message to President Obama. I'm Charlie Crist. We cant spend our way into prosperity or tax or way into growth. I say its time to take some Florida common sense to Washington. Let's cut federal spending and let you decide how to spend your own money. When I came to Tallahassee about three years ago, the economy was already slowing down. Unlike our president, I said more government isn't the answer. Better to cut spending and lower taxes. And so we did. We reduced spending by over 10 percent, over 7 billion. At the same time federal spending rose over 25 percent. We passed the biggest tax cut in Florida history and I'm not done. When the conservative Cato Institute graded all 50 governors on fiscal management, I'm proud to say I was ranked No. 1. Less taxes less spending more freedom. That's my commitment to you every day I go to work. I'm Charlie Crist and I approved this message.

Fact check:

In the first ads of his U.S. Senate campaign, Crist exaggerates his role in the state budget cuts. Simply put, the budget was cut because a historic drop in sales taxes and real estate taxes gave lawmakers less to spend. Crist [lobbied hard](#) for lawmakers to spare as many cuts as possible and his past two budget recommendations were more expensive than what ultimately passed out of the Republican-controlled legislature. Crist did veto a record amount of spending in 2007, but signed a budget this year with \$2 billion in tax and fee increases.

Crist can claim the largest tax cut in state history – for now. A legislative change in 2007 (\$15.6 billion) and a constitutional amendment in 2008 (\$9.3 billion) were supposed to cut property taxes by \$26 billion. But [only a fraction](#) of homeowners have taken advantage of the constitutional amendment. And a [recent report](#) from the Florida Association of Counties shows counties have lost just \$340 million due to the statutory changes.

Crist talks mostly about the state budget, something he'd have little influence over from the Senate. He indirectly mentions the federal budget by accusing Washington and President Obama of “out of control” spending. But Obama's predecessor approved the [first \\$350 billion](#) to the financial industry and Crist — as his primary opponent, Marco Rubio, will [continue to remind voters](#) — was one of the only Republican governors [to embrace](#) Obama's \$787 billion stimulus plan.



Tags: [Charlie Crist](#), [fact check](#), [stimulus](#)

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9 Responses to “Fact check: Crist's first radio ad for U.S. Senate campaign”

1. *The Truth Hurts* Says:

[October 16th, 2009 at 6:21 pm](#)

My favorite part about Crist's radio commercials which I've heard at naseum is his railing against Obama, who Crist supported 100% basically up until his radio ads began playing.

100% Hippocrit ...Sorry Charlie, looks like you're staying on as Governor

2. *Nick DeVito* Says:

[October 16th, 2009 at 6:56 pm](#)

I'm a Republican and I find him disgraceful!!!

3. *Pico Sanchez* Says:

[October 16th, 2009 at 7:27 pm](#)