

**POLITICO** | **The Scorecard** | Crist airs first ad of campaign

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**Categories:** Florida

## **Crist airs first ad of campaign**

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist (R-Fla.) won't be on a election ballot for another 10 months -- but today he launched a campaign ad designed to reach out to disaffected conservatives in his Senate campaign.

The radio spot is airing in the Fort Myers-Naples market -- the same region where the governor famously embraced President Obama in support of the administration's stimulus bill.

In the ad, Crist narrates: "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 number one 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."

The campaign of Marco Rubio, his conservative primary opponent, said the advertisement was a sign that Crist, despite leading in the polls, is worried he could lose the Republican nomination.

"Just like government can't tax and spend its way to prosperity, Charlie Crist can't fundraise and spend his way into being a conservative," said Rubio campaign spokesman Alex Burgos. "By hitting the airwaves this early in the campaign, it's clear he's concerned that his abysmal economic record, embrace of Obama spending policies and Marco Rubio's rise are a recipe for his defeat."

**-- Kendra Marr**

**Posted by Josh Kraushaar 03:20 PM**

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