

Biographical information

Name: Tim Canova

Age: 56

Address: Hollywood, Fla., residence for past 4+ years

Work history, at least 10 years back: See resume (attached)

Highest level of education: Juris Doctor degree, Georgetown University Law Center

Family status: Unmarried

Have you ever been arrested or charged with a crime? No.

Have you ever been a plaintiff or defendant in a civil action, or in a bankruptcy or foreclosure? No.

Issues:

What are the three biggest issues facing the federal government and our nation, and what should be done about them?

Campaign Finance Reform

Through enormous campaign contributions, giant corporations and a handful of the wealthiest individuals are able to buy access to our elected officials and dictate legislative outcomes. This is perhaps the most important issue we face as a nation.

If we don't get big money out of politics, we will not accomplish what needs to be done for working families, the middle class, ordinary citizens. This is why my campaign is not taking a penny from corporations, their political action committees (PACs) or Super PACs. Instead, I am financing my campaign through thousands of small donations from ordinary citizens. When elected, I will not owe any special favors to any corporate interests or billionaire donors. This is in stark contrast to my opponent, who has raised many millions of dollars from large corporate interests. Not surprisingly, her policy positions and votes in Congress largely reflect corporate agendas.

As a law professor and activist, I have been a steadfast critic of the Citizens United 5-to-4 decision by the Supreme Court that has allowed a flood of dark money from phantom

donors into our politics. This is why I support a Constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and why I believe reversing Citizens United should be a litmus test for any nominee to the Supreme Court. When elected, I intend to organize a bipartisan caucus in which members of Congress are pledged to reforming our campaign finance system and cleaning up our political system.

While my opponent also calls for overturning Citizens United, this is part of her pattern of saying one thing and doing another. She says she's for small-donor driven elections, but she raises millions of dollars from large corporations and their PACs and Super PACs. And in mid-February, it was reported that the Democratic National Committee (DNC), which she was heading at the time, reversed President Obama's 2008 ban on the DNC taking money from corporate lobbyists. President Obama was right to ban lobbyist donations because it raises all kinds of conflicts of interest and corrodes our politics, and leads to sweetheart legislation for large companies while costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

The U.S. is one of only a small handful of democracies around the world that does not have publicly financed elections. We must separate corporate treasuries from public elections, and implement a transparent system of publicly financed campaigns that amplifies small donations.

We must also restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, which the Supreme Court has recently gutted. We should expand early voting and vote-by-mail, and implement automatic voter registration. We also need to abolish the felon disenfranchisement laws – particularly in Florida – that deprive millions of citizens of their voting rights, often for life and frequently for non-violent drug possession offenses committed years ago.

Jobs and the Economy

As a law professor at Nova Southeastern University, I have seen first-hand how difficult this job market is for my students and their families. While the official unemployment rate is around 5 percent, the expanded U-6 unemployment rate is more than 11 percent in our district. Thousands of people who want full-time jobs with benefits are left in dead-end part-time jobs. Millennials are now more likely to be living at home with their parents into their thirties than starting their own families. The jobs crisis in South Florida and across the country has worsened along with rising levels of income and wealth inequality.

There are many causes to our weak economy and we need to address the problem on multiple levels. First, we need to increase public investment in modernizing our infrastructure and public institutions. We need more effective financial regulation and we need to reorient monetary policy to help Main Street, and not just Wall Street.

I support active fiscal and monetary policies to rebuild our infrastructure, provide jobs in construction and manufacturing, and extend credit to small- and medium-sized

businesses that have been neglected by big Wall Street banks. Everyone knows that we must make the investments necessary to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, from roads and bridges, to public transit, high-speed rail, water and sewage treatment systems, and a new smart electricity grid. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) – essentially a federal infrastructure bank – provided billions of dollars in grants and loans to rebuild the economy. But we're still waiting for a federal infrastructure bank – something that's been promised in presidential election campaigns in 1992 and 2008 and that many economic powerhouses with modern infrastructures, like Germany, Japan, and China, have had for years.

Finally, we must protect the most vulnerable citizens in South Florida. I have spent much of my career advocating for strict regulation of payday lenders, including proposals to cap the interest rates on their loans. My opponent co-sponsored a bill to prevent the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) from regulating payday loans and addressing racial discrimination in car loans. This would reverse the progress made by President Obama and Senator Elizabeth Warren in significant parts of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 - the Obama administration's main legislative response to the 2008 financial collapse.

I support an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2020, along with special protections for small businesses. Rather than cutting benefits to the elderly, I support expanding Social Security by lifting the cap on taxable income above \$250,000 so that those earning more -- and in many cases much, much more -- pay a bit more into the system. I have also called on the Florida Congressional delegation to co-sponsor legislation introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren to expand assistance to our poorest seniors and disabled people under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Although more than 124,000 seniors in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties live below the poverty line, my opponent has dragged her feet on this issue and as of today still has not co-sponsored this effort to strengthen the safety-net for citizens most in need.

Ending the War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration

As an activist and a law professor, I have been involved in the grassroots movement to end the misguided drug war for many years. The goal should be to let adults make their own decisions as long as they are not harming themselves and others, let the States and their voters decide their own drug policies, and treat drug abuse as a public health issue, rather than burdening our criminal justice system.

In Florida, I supported the 2014 medical marijuana referendum that garnered about 58 percent of the vote state-wide, falling just short of the required 60 percent mark. My opponent opposed the medical marijuana referendum. Medical marijuana is once again on the ballot and once again I support this referendum.

Certain industries have a special interest in keeping marijuana illegal - for example, the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries, both of which view recreational and medicinal use of marijuana as a competitive threat; and the private prison industry, which profits

from warehousing people in jails, including for marijuana possession.

In addition to Florida's medical marijuana referendum, I also support the recent reforms by Miami-Dade and Broward Counties to decriminalize marijuana for personal use, and I call on the federal government to "de-schedule" marijuana from the list of controlled and dangerous substances.

Far more serious than recreational marijuana use is the rise of illegal pill mills, the over-prescription of opioids, the enormous increase in heroin abuse, and the epidemic of flakka, synthetic crystals and bath salts imported from China. In the first year since the flakka epidemic began in Broward County, 60 people have died as a result, with hospitals getting dozens of overdosed patients a day, and on some nights, half the calls to police are flakka-related emergencies. Likewise, opioid use has resulted in an alarming rise in overdose deaths around the country, including in more affluent areas, and particularly in South Florida. These are the type of drugs on which we should be focusing our law enforcement and public health efforts.

In many of the states that have moved in the direction of legalization and regulation of marijuana for personal use, entire new industries are flourishing, adding jobs and increasing tax revenues, and crime rates are falling. While I support state efforts to allow individuals to make their own decisions, I also recognize the need to provide young people -- and people of all ages -- with many more job and educational opportunities in a time of decriminalization and/or legalization.

While ending the drug war presents a range of challenges, there is no doubt that the drug war itself has been a costly disaster for millions of individuals, families, and taxpayers. An entire private prison industry has arisen that lobbies for harsh drug wars with severe sentencing. The drug war institutionalizes racial, generational, and economic injustice, by disproportionately punishing people of color, young people, and people with lower incomes at far greater rates than the population as a whole. For instance, although surveys show that illicit drug use is no higher among people of color, African-American men are arrested at many times the rate of white men on drug charges in the U.S., and at even higher rates in Florida.

The drug war results in mass incarceration. More than half a million people are languishing behind bars on drug charges in the U.S., breaking up and often irreparably destroying families. And there are other collateral consequences. People convicted of even misdemeanor drug offenses, including marijuana possession, are denied access to education, housing and federal financial aid under federal law, and frequently will find that they are virtually barred from the job market. In Florida and some other states, those convicted of non-violent drug felonies are barred for life from voting, even after they have served their sentences, regardless of whether they are responsibly employed, paying taxes, and raising families. In 2001, I helped spearhead the grassroots lobbying campaign that overturned New Mexico's felon disenfranchisement law, and worked successfully with a Republican governor to do so. Unfortunately, Florida leads the country in felon disenfranchisement. According to the New York Times "more than one

in ten Floridians – and nearly one in four African American Floridians – are shut out of the polls because of felony convictions," most of which are non-violent drug felonies.

Public opinion surveys show that people across the country, and particularly in South Florida, want to end this misguided drug war. Unfortunately, powerful industries continue to lobby for the drug war – including the same pharmaceutical, alcohol, and private prison companies from which my opponent readily takes large amounts of money. It is time to take corporate money out of politics, end the drug war, and provide legal and healthy alternatives for everyone. People should have the freedom to decide with their doctors whether to use medical marijuana, and to decide for themselves whether to use marijuana recreationally. We don't need more prisons. We need more jobs and more educational opportunities as alternatives to drug dealing and chronic drug use. And for those who are caught in the grip of the disease of drug addiction, rather than warehouse them in prisons as punishment, we need more treatment programs to provide a better means to help them recover.

Briefly share your views on these issues :

The Iran Nuclear Agreement. Should the U.S. back out?

Although I was critical of several specific aspects of the Iran Nuclear Agreement, now that it has been entered into, I support its strict enforcement and implementation. The U.S. State Department continues to list Iran as the leading state-sponsor of terrorism. The gravest threat to Israeli and American security would be nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other authoritarian Middle East countries that promote radical and violent Islamic fundamentalism.

I was concerned that the nuclear deal may not prevent Iran from restarting its nuclear program for military use in the future. Just weeks after the nuclear deal was finalized, Iran began testing precision-guided ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. These missile tests also occurred after the lifting of sanctions and release of billions of dollars in frozen assets to Iran. A more measured and incremental lifting of sanctions and release of frozen assets would have provided continuing incentives for Iran to comply not just with the nuclear deal but also with its anti-ballistic missile commitments. Instead, the wholesale lifting of sanctions and release of assets may strengthen hard liners in Iran and provide the country with the resources to further aid Hezbollah and Hamas and other terrorist groups.

U.S. policy should be to ensure that Iran abides by all of its nuclear and ballistic missile commitments. If there are any material violations by Iran, the U.S. should snap back to sanctions against Iran. Moving forward from this agreement, the U.S. must do everything in its power to prevent a nuclear arms race in the region, including diplomatic efforts to negotiate a general disarmament for the entire region that includes nuclear, missile, and conventional arms reductions. We

should recognize that peace and security for Israel, the U.S., and the rest of the world is no longer possible without general disarmament and fundamental political and social reforms throughout the Middle East. We must work to bring about such reforms as much as possible through non-violent peaceful means using the full range of U.S. economic and diplomatic power.

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership. Should it be passed?

I oppose the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). According to many studies, the TPP would accelerate the outsourcing of American jobs overseas, including tens of thousands of South Florida jobs. It would also raise prescription drug prices and shift the costs of compliance with health, safety, and environmental regulations from investors to taxpayers. While I opposed fast-tracking the TPP last summer, my opponent voted for the fast-track after taking more than \$300,000 in campaign contributions from corporate interests lobbying for the TPP in the last election cycle and even more since.

President Obama has often said that we must rebalance our trade relations. I will fight against unfair trade agreements and I will push for trade sanctions against countries that violate the human rights of their own citizens, lack basic minimal labor and environmental standards, and manipulate their currencies to undermine our manufacturing base.

- What is the role of the federal government in addressing the violence in our cities, with the shootings of police officers and police shootings of black men?

In the past several weeks, we have all been appalled by so many shocking acts of violence - police killings of civilians and police themselves being ambushed and murdered. We hear that Black Lives Matter and that Blue Lives Matter. We know that all life is sacred, that we must do all we can to stop the terrible cycles of violence and lawlessness in our society.

Some voices blamed Black Lives Matter and the Occupy Wall Street movement for the ambush of police in Dallas and Baton Rouge. Yet, personally I have never heard anyone associated with either Black Lives Matter or the Occupy movement calling for violence against the police or violence at all. Black Lives Matter recently published a 10-point manifesto. There is no violence in any of these points, but rather an attempt to end arbitrary violence through reform of criminal enforcement at every level and stage of the process: body cameras, far better police recruitment and training, uniform standards to investigate police shootings, real community oversight, ending racially discriminatory "stop & frisk" practices, and ending civil forfeiture to fund police budgets via for-profit policing -- these are all overdue.

I would add to this agenda the pressing need to end the war on drugs, to end for-profit prisons, to end the mass incarceration -- "The New Jim Crow" -- that betrays the American promise of liberty and justice for all.

When elected, I will push for a comprehensive reform agenda that protects all of our citizens from arbitrary state power and lawless violence. I will push for far-reaching reforms of our criminal enforcement and criminal justice systems. Policing should not be so dangerous to either citizens or to the police themselves.

- Should civilians be allowed to purchase so-called assault weapons – and high-capacity magazines -- of the type used in the Orlando nightclub massacre? What do you want people to know about this issue?

I believe civilians should not be allowed to purchase so-called assault weapons or high capacity magazines. I am not an enemy of guns, I am an enemy of guns in the wrong hands. I plan on introducing common sense proposals that are widely supported across our country, even by a great majority of members of the National Rifle Association, such as:

1. Banning assault weapons;
2. Requiring instant background checks, and closing background-check loopholes such as for gun shows;
3. Prohibiting individuals on the terrorist watch list and from acquiring guns;
4. Requiring that gun-owners notify the police when their guns are stolen;
5. Prohibiting perpetrators of violent misdemeanors, those arrested for domestic violence and anyone under the age of 21, from qualifying for concealed carry permits, and requiring those who qualify for a concealed carry permit to successfully complete a safety training course;
6. Requiring criminal background checks on gun owners and gun shop/gun show employees;
7. Requiring reasonable liability insurance for gun owners.

I have no doubt that this legislative agenda will be very challenging. At the same time, therefore, I will support proposals that can be implemented through executive orders, such as prohibiting the federal government from doing business with firms that produce or distribute assault rifles for civilian use.

- What can be done about the gridlock and partisanship in Washington? Can **you tell us about a time when you've compromised with members of the other party?**

Campaign finance reform would help relieve much of the gridlock and partisanship in Washington. Members of both major parties are increasingly beholden to competing special interests, which prevents cooperation. Reforming

this campaign finance system would allow members of Congress to consider and vote for the best interests of their constituents and not their particular donors.

As a law professor at the University of New Mexico, I helped spearhead a grassroots citizens lobbying effort to overturn the state's felon disenfranchisement law that was depriving about 6 percent of the state's population from the right to vote for the rest of their lives, often for non-violent offenses from many years earlier. I worked with Gary Johnson, a Republican governor and now the Libertarian Party candidate for President, and a Democratic state legislature, to pass this legislation into law in only about three months.

After the 2008 financial collapse, I served as an unpaid advisor to several congressional offices on financial regulatory reform. I worked with Republican and Democrat staff alike on the legislation that would ultimately be passed as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, and in particular, the provisions that provided for two Government Accountability Office (GAO) audits of the Federal Reserve's governance structure and conflicts of interest, and emergency lending programs.

- What do you see as the next steps in health care reform?

The passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was a monumental achievement. With the stroke of a pen, President Obama signed into law the most important health care reform since Johnson's Great Society. Through the ACA, millions of Americans have gained access to health insurance that was previously too expensive or otherwise unattainable. It is because of the ACA that insurers can no longer deny coverage because of preexisting conditions, drop policy holders when they get sick, or issue policies with lifetime dollar limits on essential benefits. Simply put, the ACA was a transformational piece of legislation, but I know we can do better.

The United States remains the only major developed country that does not provide universal health care to all its citizens. Generations of American leaders – Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Lyndon B. Johnson, among others - have tried to guarantee health care to all Americans, without success. Despite the reforms of the ACA, tens of millions of Americans still do not have health insurance. Millions more are underinsured, cannot afford high priced deductibles and co-payments, or are forced to declare bankruptcy because they simply cannot afford to pay their medical bills. This should not happen in a fair and just America. I firmly believe that health care is a universal human right and it is because of this that I want to improve upon the Affordable Care Act, by moving to a "Medicare for all" single-payer health care system that would guarantee every citizen health care as a basic right.

That said, on the road to creating a universal health care system for all Americans, we must not ignore improving Medicare in its current form. Currently, many seniors struggle to afford the prescriptions medicines they need. That is why when I am elected to Congress I plan on working to create legislation that will allow the federal government to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for Medicare recipients. I also intend to introduce legislation to change the asset and income tests for getting help with Medicare premiums and copays so that the seniors who are most in need are not forced to choose between their health and feeding themselves.

- What should be done about the damage caused by releases from Lake Okeechobee and who should take the lead?

Big Sugar companies and other agribusinesses have contributed to this environmental crisis by polluting Lake Okeechobee with chemical fertilizers, particularly phosphorous and nitrates, and pesticides. The waters from the lake have been diverted west through the Caloosahatchee River toward Fort Myers and Sanibel Island, and east through the Saint Lucie River toward Stuart.

The rising sea levels from climate change have increased the salinity of South Florida's aquifer. Without replenishing the natural water flow from Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades—the so-called River of Grass—and Florida Bay, the very quality of our drinking water could be imperiled, and we could be facing a crisis of enormous proportions in the years to come—the kind of crisis that leads to a migration and internal refugee catastrophe.

According to numerous scientists and policymakers, to truly address this crisis will require allowing the waters of Lake Okeechobee to flow south into the Everglades, where natural marshland and plant life, such as bulrush and hydrilla, would filtrate phosphorous and other toxins. But literally standing in the way of this solution are the large sugar farms south of the lake. In 2008, then Florida Gov. Charlie Crist announced a massive deal, under which Florida would purchase 187,000 acres of land and facilities from the sugar companies for a fair market value of \$1.8 billion, and convert such land into marshland and reservoirs.

When the state was not able to find the money to make this happen, Florida voters approved Amendment 1 in 2014—with 76 percent of the vote statewide—to use hundreds of millions of dollars a year in real estate taxes for conservation and land purchases. Yet, Gov. Scott continued to protect the Big Sugar companies—eager to keep their annual federal subsidies—by diverting those Amendment 1 funds to other purposes and projects.

As a member of Congress, I would support the Everglades Land Acquisition Act of 2016, which was introduced by Rep. Curt Clawson, a Florida Republican. This bill would appropriate \$500 million for the land purchases that had been contemplated by the Charlie Crist plan. More recently, Senator Bill Nelson called

for a similar solution: eminent domain proceedings. My opponent has not cosponsored the Clawson bill and she has been largely silent about any comprehensive solution to this environmental crisis. She has also voted for huge subsidies for the sugar industry and other agribusinesses, as well as for delays in cleanups, while failing to deliver federal funds for any real solution.

- **What do you think about the Obama administration's move to normalize relations with Cuba?**

I have been in favor of President Obama's rapprochement with Cuba and I am convinced that only through diplomatic engagement will we be able to further the cause of political liberalization and economic development for Cuba.

Unfortunately, after resuming diplomatic relations, the human rights situation in Cuba remains largely unchanged. In fact, many have noted that conditions may have actually deteriorated. Economic reforms have not been advanced at a rapid enough pace and the country remains gripped by poverty and repression. Although there are signs of hope for economic development, benefits have not yet reached the common citizen. Now that diplomatic relations have been reestablished and the initial steps taken to lower barriers to economic and social exchange, I believe it is time to condition any further lowering of trade barriers to quantifiable and verifiable improvements in Cuba's human rights. We should also condition offers of U.S. economic assistance to political liberalization and basic economic freedoms for all Cubans.

- **What can be done to reduce windstorm and flood insurance premiums for Florida residents?**

I believe the federal government has a role to play in helping to insure for natural disasters, including flood and wind damage. We must balance often-competing goals of ensuring adequate protection for citizens and limiting taxpayer exposure. There are a number of proposals worthy of consideration, including: mandatory all-perils homeowners insurance, federal reinsurance for state flood insurance funds, and a federal lending facility for state flood insurance funds. These proposals could encourage private markets to provide flood insurance and broader participation by homeowners and business owners.

For each of these proposals, requiring premium rates to fully reflect actual risks would limit costs to taxpayers. However, subsidies may also be needed for low-income residents that would raise costs for taxpayers. Federal reinsurance and a federal lending facility could also expose taxpayers to the risk of loan defaults.

Many climate scientists believe that climate change and rising sea levels are now causing more severe and more frequent weather conditions and natural disasters than in the past. If so, this would mean rising costs to individual homeowners and businesses, and rising threats to the solvency of flood insurance programs.

Yet, it would also justify imposing carbon taxes on activities that contribute to climate change -- such as oil and gas extractive industries, automobile and airplane use, and factory farms -- to help pay for the costs of climate change and rising sea levels, such as wind and flood damage. If such carbon tax revenues are used to subsidize the rising costs of insurance and premiums, then the beneficiaries of such subsidies should also be subject to some degree of long-term planning, such as zoning and regional development plans to limit overdevelopment in flood zones. Such regional development planning could be greatly facilitated by federal revenue sharing, particularly to prevent coastal erosion by encouraging regional housing and transit plans.

- Do you believe the climate is changing? If so, what role should the federal government play?

Climate change is a global challenge. Here in South Florida, it is not simply a theoretical problem, but a very real and growing threat to our homes, businesses and neighborhoods. We already see the erosion of our seawalls, corrosion of critical infrastructure, and salt water intruding into the aquifers we rely on for our drinking water.

Addressing climate change must be a priority. We need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses into the environment by aggressively reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and harmful environmental practices like fracking. I was proud to stand with South Florida environmental groups, labor, community activists, the League of Cities, the Association of Counties and others who opposed the harmful state legislative bills that would have made it easier for big oil and gas companies to bring fracking to our state. In addition to clearing a path to potential environmental disasters, these fracking bills would have taken away local municipalities' ability to pass local ordinances to protect their own constituents.

We must focus our efforts on transitioning to sustainable, clean energy sources to power our future. For many years, I have supported a carbon tax, as well as cap-and-trade proposals. I reject arguments that somehow these initiatives would hamper our economy. There is no good reason for the U.S. to be lagging behind other major countries, like Germany, in converting to alternative, renewable energy sources. By allowing other countries to take the lead in the research, development and innovation of this growing market, we put our country's role in developing these revolutionary technologies at risk.

The reality of climate change will demand that we make huge investments in critical infrastructure in the coming years, from reinforcing sea walls and raising streets to protecting our electrical grid and modernizing sewage and water treatment facilities. I want the United States to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and to make tremendous investments in carbon capture and

sequestration technologies to actively remove carbon dioxide from our atmosphere.

- Do you favor fully funding the Obama **administration's \$1.9 billion request** to combat the Zika virus, with no other issues attached?

I support fully funding the Obama administration's request to combat the Zika virus, with no other issues attached, because we need to be proactive in researching and stopping the spread of this mosquito-borne illness.

The campaign:

Is there anything you want us to know about your opponent?

My opponent had the highest absentee rate last year of the entire Florida congressional delegation, except for Senator Marco Rubio. She introduced only five bills last year, and not one of them received a hearing or vote in committee or made it to the House floor.

My opponent studied political campaigning and then went to work in politics. She is a career politician with limited life experience outside of politics. Many of her positions on the issues seem to follow from special interest contributions to her campaigns and political actions committees, and not from study of issues or principled reasoning. According to the Center for Responsive Politics that tracks campaign contributions, my opponent has taken millions of dollars in contributions from the largest corporations and Wall Street banks throughout her political career. Not surprisingly, her stance on so many issues reflects those corporate interests. For instance, she has taken campaign contributions from giant private prison companies, and has supported a private detention center in Southwest Ranches in our own district.

I wrote to my opponent more than three months ago to propose a series of public debates on the issues. I have yet to receive even a reply to my letter. This does not reflect a commitment to democracy and fair and open elections. Likewise, every endorsement she has received from unions and Democratic caucuses that I know of has been the result of closed endorsement processes – without endorsement questionnaires or screening of all candidates.

I applaud the Sun-Sentinel for conducting an open and fair endorsement process. Unlike my opponent, my endorsements have all been the result of open and fair endorsement processes, in which every candidate was given an opportunity to be heard, with questionnaires and screenings. These include endorsements from the Communications Workers of America, National Nurses United, the Transport Workers Union Local 568 and the Pipefitters Union local 725, as well as Democracy for America and Progressive Democrats of America.

Why should voters vote for you?

My campaign represents a new kind of politics in which congressional candidates do not have to devote thirty hours a week in call centers to dial wealthy people for dollars for their campaigns. I have raised more than \$2.5 million in small donations, from more than 65,000 donors and more than 150,000 individual donations, with an average donation size of approximately \$17. From the beginning of my campaign, I vowed that I would not take a penny from corporate interests, their PACs or SuperPACs. When elected, I will not owe any favors to any special interests. I am for the people of South Florida, for their long-term interests, and not for special interests.

While my opponent has been a career politician and has never done anything else for a living, I have had many diverse experiences and career paths. I have lived in several states, practiced law at two leading law firms in Manhattan, served as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill, worked in a variety of manual labor jobs, and lived and worked and studied overseas, including on a kibbutz in northern Israel. I have returned many times to the same kibbutz, sometimes for weeks at a time, and backpacked alone throughout Israel and Egypt. The last two times I visited Israel was for academic fellowships, first with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies on a program to study terrorism and counterterrorism, then at Tel Aviv University for a workshop on War and Citizenship. I have written and published dozens of book chapters, monographs, and articles in academic journals and the popular press.

Like my opponent, I was born and raised in New York on Long Island. I am from an immigrant half-Italian Catholic, half-Jewish family, which taught me the traditional values of honesty and hard work. I ran cross-country and track in high school and college. As a teenager and young man, I worked in a wide variety of manual labor jobs, from delivering newspapers and cutting lawns to pumping gas, painting houses, loading trucks in a plastics factory, and picking avocados on a kibbutz in northern Israel.

I attended public schools K-12, completed my undergraduate studies in government and economics at Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, earned a law degree, with honors, at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., and I was a Swedish Institute Visiting Scholar at the University of Stockholm. In the early 1980s, when my opponent was still in high school, I served as a legislative aide to the late U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas, a Democrat from Massachusetts. While working on Capitol Hill, I began warning about the rise of Wall Street special interests and the assault on working families. I published critical articles on the deregulation of interest rates and lending standards and the rise of subprime and predatory lending. These practices would eventually have a devastating effect on the people of Florida when real estate markets crashed in 2008. To this day, Florida still has the highest rate of foreclosure in the country, with over 300,000 open foreclosure cases in state courts.

I practiced law in New York City with two prominent law firms in the early 1990s, and then moved to South Florida for a visiting professor position at the University of Miami School of Law. Like many New Yorkers, I already had so many close relatives living here, and I immediately fell in love with the diverse people and beautiful environment of South Florida. I became an avid sailor and scuba diver in the coastal waters, from the

Keys to Palm Beach. On South Beach, I became known as “The Hurdler” for hurdling every garbage can – 572 in all – on the 8 mile Raven Run, and earned Run of the Year award two years in a row.

Meanwhile, in my scholarship, I became a leading critic in the legal academy of Wall Street deregulation. I opposed efforts to weaken the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act fire walls that had separated commercial banking from the risky securities markets. I cautioned about the rise of complex derivative financial instruments that were turning the United States into a “casino” economy. In the early 2000s, I warned about the growing bubble in housing prices and called for increased supervision of Wall Street banks and financial markets.

I left Miami for a tenure-track teaching position at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where I was granted early tenure in 2003. I then accepted a tenured appointment at Chapman University in Southern California, where I was became an endowed professor in International Economic Law, and served as the academic associate dean, helping Chapman move up significantly in the national rankings. In 2011, I took part in the Occupy Wall Street movement, teaching a workshop on the Federal Reserve at the Occupy Los Angeles encampment. At that time, I was also selected by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders to serve on an advisory committee on Federal Reserve reform along with such leading economists as James Galbraith, Robert Reich, Jeffrey Sachs, and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz.

I moved back to South Florida in 2012 for a teaching position at the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law where I am a tenured Professor of Law and Public Finance, and where I have taught Business Entities, a required class for second year law students, and Regulation of Financial Institutions and seminars on the Wall Street crisis. During this time, I have taught hundreds of young men and women from South Florida and I have learned a great deal about the problems they and their families face every day.