

# The Delray Democrat

## Marco Rubio: Driven by Blind Ambition, He's Violated His Oath of Office<sup>1</sup>

*June Sandra Neal*

*"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."*

Senator Marco Rubio took this oath on January 5, 2011. He has since abandoned his post more than he has served it and abdicated his responsibility to protect the American people against their cardinal domestic enemy: murder by firearms.

Our bleeding, bullet-ridden nation may face a greater loss of its states' ability to exercise reasonable requirements for gun safety come fall, when the Supreme Court decides the case of [\*New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen\*](#). At issue: whether the State of New York violated the Second Amendment by denying applications for concealed-carry licenses. A ruling for the plaintiffs could ripple out, reaching to the essential question of whether states have any right at all to regulate firearm ownership.

If ever the nation needed its elected officials to honor their oaths and protect the American people, it is now. But Marco Rubio has remained a steadfast retainer of the National Rifle Association, consistently voting against even the most commonsense measures to reign in wanton gun violence.

Rubio spent his first term as Senator in absentia, preparing to or running for the presidency, and unapologetic for all the missed votes. A shapeshifter, calling Trump "a dangerous con man," then bending his knee when Trump won. And, like all Republican extremists, he's become downright irrational about guns.

Following last month's massacre of school children in Uvalde, Texas, The Miami Heat urged fans to call Senators Rubio and Scott. "The Heat urges you to contact your state senators by calling 202-224-3121 to leave a message demanding their support for common sense gun laws. You can also make change at the ballot box. Visit [heat.com/vote](http://heat.com/vote) to register and let your voice be heard this fall."

Rubio's loony response? He called The Heat hypocritical because the NBA recruits potential players from China which is repressing Uyghur Muslims. "The NBA doesn't like to talk about the billions it makes from a China that enslaves Uyghur (sic) Muslims and harvests their organs. But

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, June 2022, page 1.

they have no problem politicizing a horrific tragedy in America.” What?

It’s true that Rubio has called out China for its human rights violations against the Uyghurs, but the NBA’s recruiting practices don’t cancel out The Heat’s concern for America’s gun violence. It’s an example of “But Johnny does it” thinking, common to those with limited understanding of complex social issues.

The bullets from the AR-style rifle used at Uvalde blew apart the 10-year-olds’ bodies like grenades; parents had to wait for the results of DNA tests to identify their children. Yet the NRA stands by such weapons and Marco Rubio stands by the NRA.

Indeed, he’s the NRA’s current favorite son, so he gets the biggest allowance; far and away more than other Republicans on this year’s ballots, as reported by the Washington Post:

**\$3,303,355** Senator Marco Rubio -FL  
**\$1,269,486** Senator Ron Johnson- WI  
**\$226,007** Senator Chuck Grassley - IA  
**\$104,456** Senator Rand Paul – KY

In the past, the NRA’s PAC, the Political Victory Fund, gave Rubio an “A+” for his pro-gun voting record. (We don’t have current scores for legislators since the NRA pulled them from its website after the Parkland, FL massacre.)

And why not? Rubio voted *against* prohibiting the carrying of firearms in vehicles, prohibiting the sale of assault weapons, limiting firearm magazine capacity, requiring background checks for sales at gun shows or on the internet and denying firearms and explosives to terrorists. He even voted against a proposal by the Social Security Administration to put some restrictions on gun purchases by people deemed unable to manage of their SS benefits.

After Uvalde, The PBS News Hour asked every US senator what each thought should be done about gun violence. Most Republicans did not respond. Rubio’s office simply referred to an earlier tweet about the Luke and Alex School Safety Act and Safe Schools for All, neither of which have anything to do with gun controls.

Other than guns, Rubio spent all his first term, and a good part of his second, blowing off roll calls. *The Sun Sentinel* has called him on his “Where’s Waldo” reputation since he took office, and especially in 2015 when he was running for the presidential nomination. “You are paid \$174,000 per year to represent us, to fight for us, to solve our problems,” the editorial said. “You are ripping us off, senator.” *That year, Rubio missed a third of the roll call votes.* Other publications slammed him for the same thing.

According to *GovTrack*, “From Jan 2011 to May 2022, Rubio missed 345 of 3,703 roll call votes, which is 9.3%. This is much worse than the median of 2.2% among the lifetime records of senators currently serving.”

Florida’s Indian River for Democrats even drew a cartoon of Rubio’s face on the side of a milk carton.

In 1999, Rubio was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. When America faced its worst domestic crisis in decades on 9/11, he bailed. First, he scrambled to secure a coveted spot on the state legislature's newly formed Select Committee on Security. After all, the hijackers had their flight training in Florida. Yet, the *Washington Post* reported, "He skipped nearly half of the meetings over the first five months of the panel's existence, more than any of his colleagues, according to Florida legislature records. He missed hours of expert testimony and was absent for more than 20 votes — prompting the state House speaker who had given him the assignment to express concern."

Later, in 2015, *CNN* reported that Rubio has "the worst voting attendance record in the US Senate this year." *NBC News* noted that, by the beginning of October, he had "missed 59 votes since declaring his run for president in April [2015], or 42%." And the *Washington Post* highlighted his hypocrisy when Rubio attacked Veterans' Administration workers for absenteeism:

Marco Rubio blasts slacker government workers — after missing his seventh of seven votes this month. As senator, his job is to be one of the two voices the state of Florida has in the Senate. That voice is expressed in a few ways, including in his advocacy for legislation and solving problems as he can for the state's residents. But the job also demands that Rubio exercise that voice *explicitly*, by voting for or against items that come before the body."

As usual, Rubio just brushed it off, claiming he was too busy running for the presidency.

His truancy continues today. The Palm Beach Democrats recently called him on it:

No-Show Rubio skips more committee meetings, votes against aid for struggling restaurants & small businesses, & is once again using the taxpayer-funded resources of his Senate office to promote himself and his campaign. Floridians deserve a real Senator who shows up and will fight for them and their interests, not Marco Rubio!

OK, many legislators miss votes when running for office. But most do so to attend campaign or fundraising events. The Question About Marco, then and now, is—where is he when there are no such events? *The Washington Post* revealed that, from the time he announced his 2016 presidential run on April 13 through the beginning of October, he was a no-show on *15 of the 34 days that Senate votes were held — with no explanation of his whereabouts.*

We know some of the time he's just trying to boost his profile. On May 8, 2022, he skipped the confirmation hearings for ambassadors to various Latin America countries and on funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. He was busy doing an interview on Fox news.

As the senior member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a member of the Gang of Eight, Rubio receives on-going, sensitive intelligence information about the war in Ukraine. And he tweets about it constantly, which is odd because the war is covered by the press daily in granular detail. It's clear he wants to establish his presidential chops to handle foreign affairs.

That ambition apparently drives him too far. Some foreign-policy experts were taken aback when Rubio played armchair psychologist regarding President Putin's mental state. "I wish I could share more, but for now I can say it's pretty obvious to many that something is off with Putin," he [wrote in one tweet](#). He speculated that Putin suffered from a neurological problem, later walking it back

by footnoting this was merely his opinion. Further, *Politico* noted, “Rubio’s frequent and uncensored updates on Russia’s Ukraine invasion have led some to question whether he’s revealed closely held US intelligence information,” although his colleagues on the Committee have made no charges. But Committee member Eric Swalwell (D-CA), just wants Rubio to shut up. “We don’t need your play-by-play. Who are you? John Madden?”

We know who Marco Rubio is. He’s the US Senator who tweets about foreign human rights violations (who can argue that?) but refuses to do a damn thing about the slaughter of innocents in America despite the fact there have been 250 mass shootings—and counting—since the beginning of 2022 and 20 after the May 24 massacre in Uvalde (he’d lose the backing of the NRA and the Republican extremist base).

He’s a hollow man, fueled by blind ambition. In 2016, we learned what blind ambition can do once it gains power. The primary elections are August 23, 2022.