

The Delray Democrat

Rick Scott: The un-American Candidate¹

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*“A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice.
A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that
which is true.”*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Senator Rick Scott stands for nothing. For more than thirteen years, he’s enjoyed the privilege of serving as Florida’s governor and junior senator, banking a lot of political power, power that was supposed to benefit Florida and the nation. Instead, he abused it. With a backstory of scandal, a litany of self-serving legislation and a spineless refusal to stand up to Donald Trump, who threatens the very foundation of democracy, Scott is running for a second term as senator. He’s an un-American candidate.

Rick Scott is not your average Donald Trump suck-up. They are easy to spot, rubbing their shins, bruised from falling over themselves to prove allegiance to a depraved man. Like them, Scott wants Trump’s approval. Unlike them, he doesn’t want the mud. So, he straddles the dilemma by criticizing the *results* of Trump’s crimes, but never the perpetrator.

It’s un-American Not to Condemn Donald Trump’s Attempted Insurrection.

Scott supported The Big Lie.

The January 6th insurrection at the U. S. Capitol Building was the abhorrent culmination of Trump’s Big Lie, the political virus he spread throughout the country by claiming that President Joe Biden had not won the election. Of course, every objective measure proved Biden did win it, fair and square, something acknowledged in “Lost, Not Stolen,” a [report](#) issued by a group that included former federal judges, Republican senators and Republican-appointed officials. After reviewing all 64 court cases brought by Trump and his allies to challenge the election outcome, they wrote: Our conclusion is unequivocal: Joe Biden was the choice of a majority of the Electors, who themselves were the choice of the majority of voters in their states.

But the MAGA cult brooks no facts and cannot be severed from Trump’s propaganda: If they couldn’t overturn the election, they’d burn down the house.

The day of the insurrection, “Scott was one of [seven senators](#) to vote against certifying Biden’s 2020 victory in the state of Pennsylvania. In the hours preceding that vote, Scott released a [statement](#) falsely asserting that Pennsylvania violated state law by counting certain mail-in ballots.” Yet, the U.S. Supreme Court had already [ruled](#) that simply was not true. At 12:00 p.m. that awful day, Trump inflamed the mob and directed them to the Capitol Building. “If you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country [anymore](#).” Soon, rioters broke through

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), September 2024, page 7.

security. They smashed windows, beat the Capitol police, erected gallows to hang Vice President Michael Pence and ominously searched the building for Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi. Trump was responsible for one of the most tragic events in modern American history.

That evening, when order was restored, the still shell-shocked members of Congress convened in a joint session, as proscribed by the Twelfth Amendment, to certify the electoral votes, surrounded by the broken glass and the spilled blood.

True, Scott later criticized the rioters, calling the event “disgraceful and un-American” but *never Trump*, who had instigated the riot. And on January 13, 2021, when the House voted to impeach Trump, Scott dismissed the effort as “[political theater](#).”

Scott Opposed Investigations by both Congress and the FBI.

Five months later, when legislators proposed a committee to investigate the riot, Scott said, “I completely oppose it. The FBI is doing their job. They have already arrested people for breaking into the Capitol. What people did that day — I was here — is despicable. They need to be held accountable, the FBI is doing their job. We don’t need a commission where people will act in a partisan [manner](#).”

Yet when special counsel Jack Smith filed criminal charges against Trump, Scott flipped. “Joe Biden’s DOJ will do anything they can to silence Biden’s political opponents,” Scott said on [X](#), “this is what communist dictators do.”

None of it that was true. The Jan. 6 commission was established to ascertain how the riot began and determine how law enforcement was caught short. It could subpoena people and make recommendations to the DOJ, but that was the extent of its power. And it was the Republicans who refused representation on the committee. After Nancy Pelosi rejected two of the five members nominated by Kevin McCarthy, he said Republicans would refuse to participate unless Pelosi accepted every single person he had nominated, thus squandering the opportunity to appoint any Republicans. Pelosi then appointed Republicans Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger.

The Jan 6 Committee subsequently sent its finding to the DOJ, and Merrick Garland – anxious to avoid any appearance of politicizing the process – appointed Special Prosecutor Jack Smith, who subsequently indicted Trump. This is precisely how criminal enforcement operates in a democracy. To claim that this is something “only communist dictators do” is either a deliberate lie or a reflection of Scott’s inability to think rationally.

It’s un-American to refuse to condemn Trump for siding with the enemy.

Scott, like the rest of America, witnessed so many of Trump’s offenses, ranging from his attempt to overturn the Georgia election vote to his threat to withhold Congressionally approved arms to Ukrainian President Zelensky unless Zelensky agreed to investigate Hunter and Joe Biden, who was at the time Trump’s likely opponent in the 2020 election. *to. These sound more like “things that only communist dictators would do.*

Long before that, there was Helsinki. On July 16, 2018, Trump sided with Russian President

Vladimir Putin against America's intelligence agencies after they discovered that Russia had interfered with the 2016 election.

Just three days prior, the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) had announced that a federal grand jury "returned an indictment against 12 Russian military intelligence officers for their alleged roles in interfering with the 2016 United States (U.S.) elections."

Asked by a reporter about the FBI's findings, Trump said, "President Putin says it's not Russia. I don't see any reason why it [would be](#)."

Anderson Cooper of CNN was stunned. "You have been watching perhaps one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president at a summit in front of a Russian leader that I've ever [seen](#)."

Asked about Trump's remarks, Scott criticized — Putin. Nothing about Trump.

"Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a Trump ally who's running for U.S. Senate, was sharply critical of Russian President Vladimir Putin while avoiding any mention of Trump in remarks to reporters late Monday," reported the [Palm Beach Post](#). "Asked specifically about Trump's remarks, Scott repeated his criticism of Putin."

It's un-American to support a president aligning with dictators.

Trump's obsession with dictators led him to visit North Korea's tyrant, Kim Jong Un, whose people have suffered starvation, repression, and political assassinations under his rule. Trump didn't care; it was a chance to look big. "[We fell in love](#)," said Trump. The visit was outrageous. Kim had been mocking Trump personally and taunting the United States with repeated ballistic missile tests. Although Rick Scott called for "action" in dealing with Kim, he [tweeted](#), "I also applaud @realDonaldTrump's efforts to get a deal with North Korea." The only result from the meeting was disgust for Trump's pandering and his risible desire to be seen in the company of despots.

It's un-American to defend our war heroes when they are attacked.

When Trump drew flak from Florida Republicans for criticizing the Gold Star family of a Muslim soldier, the [Miami Herald](#) pointed out, "Gov. Rick Scott, however, was not one of them." In an interview mentioning the late Senator John McCain, who'd been held in a miserable North Vietnamese prison camp for more than five and a half years, Trump said, "He's not a war hero. He's a war hero because he was captured. I like people that weren't captured" ([C-SPAN](#)).

Scott is a former Navy man. And a fellow Senator. And Scott did—nothing.

It's un-American to suppress the sacred right to vote.

No early voting for "souls to the polls."

As governor of Florida, Scott enforced a litany of voter suppression laws. [The Tampa Bay Times](#)

reported that, in 2016, U. S. District Judge Mark Walker “struck down a state law that rejected mail ballots if a voter's signature on the ballot envelope did not match a signature on file. In a state with millions of older voters, the judge said the rule ‘categorically disenfranchised thousands of voters.’ They can now update their signatures.”

Scott was inflexible even for natural disasters. The same paper noted, “Scott refused to extend the voter registration deadline in 2016 after ordering evacuations due to Hurricane Matthew. The Democratic Party filed suit and won a six-day extension.” Under Scott, “Florida had the longest lines at early voting sites of any state, creating indelible images of obstacles to voting in 2012, the year President Barack Obama won re-election. That was a year after Scott signed the Legislature's notorious House Bill 1355 that created new barriers to registering voters and curtailed early voting times.” It also ended early voting on the Sunday before Election Day, a practice known as ‘souls to the polls’ that helped churches mobilize African-Americans, who support [Democrats.](#)”

It’s un-American to support criminal candidates.

Scott is nothing if not obsequious. Last May, when Trump was on trial in New York for falsifying business records to hide payments to a porn star, his Republican groupies, donning the MAGA club’s uniform of dark suit and red tie, left the people’s business in Washington D.C. to show their support for Trump at the courtroom. And guess who was the first to visit? “Scott became the first member of Congress to attend. Speaking to reporters outside the courtroom...Scott said that the treatment Trump was getting was “[despicable.](#)” Trump had already been found liable for sexual assault and was later convicted of all 34 felony charges.

Then there was the theatre of the absurd. Back in 2021, Scott was head of National Republican Senatorial Committee. And he failed miserably. [The New York Times](#) reported, “By the end of July, the committee had collected a record \$181.5 million — but had already spent more than 95 percent of what it had brought in. The Republican group entered August with just \$23.2 million on hand, less than half of what the Senate Democratic committee had ahead of the final intense phase of the midterm elections. Mr. Scott’s detractors accuse him of transforming the N.R.S.C. into the “National Rick Scott Committee” — and a vehicle for his presidential ambitions.”

That political ambition was positively servile when Scott decided to give Trump the NRSC’s first “[Champion for Freedom Award](#)” in 2021 at a ceremony at Mar-a-Lago, because, “people appreciate getting something in recognition for business success or entrepreneurial success or, you know, educational [success.](#)” Huh? Of course, the award, a small bowl, was a sop to Trump’s insatiable need for accolades, but Scott thought it a smart investment in political security. Because of Scott’s abysmal mismanagement of his fiduciary responsibility, Senatorial candidates were strapped for money. But Trump got a bowl.

Rick Scott has no place in the United States Senate. Fortunately, we have an alternative, a superb candidate and a true American—Debbie Mucarsel-Powell. Let’s be sure to give her our vote to restore dignity and transparency to the Senate and to secure our precious democracy.

