Eagleton Institute of Politics

CENTER FOR YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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Rick Scott



Rick Scott (R) served as the 45th governor of Florida from 2011 – 2019. Prior to serving as governor, Scott was a lawyer working in Dallas, Texas. During this time, he formed the HCA Acquisition Company with the goal of acquiring the Hospital Corporation of America. Once successful, he worked as the CEO of Columbia/HCA, which at one point was the largest healthcare provider in the world. Following his tenure as governor, Scott was elected to the US Senate representing Florida in the 2018 election. His current tenure is expected to end in 2025.

Following the February shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in 2018, Governor Scott signed into law bipartisan gun legislation that created restrictions on purchasing firearms and bump stocks, raised the minimum age for purchasing a firearm to 21, and created a three-day waiting period before purchasing firearms. While these laws were not as progressive as gun legislation in more Democrat-leaning states, it signaled a major change for a state that is notorious for having lax gun laws. It was also a major shift for Governor Scott, who had an A plus rating from National Rifle Association (NRA). Following the passing of the laws, the NRA filed a lawsuit arguing that the legislation had violated the Second Amendment and the 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection.