



Charlie
Crist

A Message from the

Governor of Florida

Serving Those Who Serve the People of Florida

As the people of Florida turned their calendars to 2007, I put my left hand on the Bible and took an oath to protect and defend Florida and her people. On that day, I pledged to be the People's Governor and put government in the service of the people. I am humbled by the trust and confidence the people of Florida have placed in me and will strive to honor that trust and confidence every day.

I know that Florida's law enforcement officers have also dedicated their lives to serving the people of Florida. It is an honor and a privilege to receive support from these outstanding men and women who face danger every day. I speak for all Floridians when I say, thank you for making our daily lives safer and more secure.

For me and for Florida's law enforcement officers, the safety and security of Florida's residents and visitors ranks as the highest priority. I know the criminal justice community shares my commitment to apprehending, prosecuting and imprisoning offenders. However, we also are committed to preventing crime, and that means taking action long before a crime is ever committed. Through service to children and teenagers, families and seniors, law enforcement officers also serve the law-abiding citizens of Florida through outreach to their communities.

Officers serve their communities by teaching children in our schools and community centers about the dangers and risks of drugs and crime. They reach out to seniors and retirees to make sure they enjoy a safe and secure retirement and do not become victims of frauds and scams. They give peace of mind to parents by making sure that their neighborhoods are safe places for their children to play.

We know that this service to our communities often means that these honored public servants make sacrifices. Sadly, a few weeks ago, a veteran Florida Highway Patrol trooper made the ultimate sacrifice, and the people of Florida lost a dedicated public servant, and **Sergeant Nick Sottile's** family lost a loving husband and father. I want to express my deepest sympathies to his family, including his son, **Nick**, who has also answered the call to public service as an FHP trooper in Tampa.

Sergeant Sottile's sacrifice reminds us that law enforcement officers cannot serve on the front lines of our communities alone. They need the highest level of support possible in order to effectively serve the people of Florida and

their communities. They need measures that ensure criminals are held accountable for their actions through strict sentencing. We must build on the initiatives that have brought Florida its lowest crime rate in 35 years.

I am proud of my track record on public safety. As a state Senator, I sponsored the bill that brought chain gangs back to Florida and sponsored the landmark **"Stop Turning Out Prisoners" Act** to require criminals to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences. As Attorney General, I received bipartisan support for the **"Freedom to Worship Safely Act,"** which increased penalties for violent crimes committed in places of worship and supported 10-20-LIFE that increased mandatory punishments for using guns to commit felonies.

I have worked side by side with the Florida Legislature to pass reforms that bring criminals to justice and prevent them from victimizing again. I championed the **Jessica Lunsford Act**, requiring longer prison sentences for child sex offenders, and successfully defended **Megan's Law** when it was challenged in the Florida courts so that sex offenders now must register their addresses. Working with the Florida

Department of Law Enforcement, I launched a Web site that lets Florida parents learn instantly whether a sex offender lives nearby and sponsored a unique service called "Family Watchdog" where parents can receive email notifications when registered sexual predators move into their neighborhood. I also sponsored Safe Steps and Escape Schools to teach children how to prevent and escape abduction.

"I know that Florida's law enforcement officers have also dedicated their lives to serving the people of Florida."

With the help of the PBA, Florida's focus on public safety will grow even stronger. We will see Florida's Anti-Murder Act become a reality. This legislation will require violent felony offenders to remain securely in jail until a judge determines that they no longer pose a threat to the community. I am honored that law enforcement officers agree with me that violent criminals who abuse the privilege of probation should not be given the opportunity to continue to prey on Florida's citizens.

Florida has already lost too many people, too early in their lives. The brutal murders of people like **Carlise Brucia, Jessica Lunsford, Sarah Lunde**, and the six young people in Deltona – **Erin Belanger, Franciso Roman, Jonathan Gleason, Roberto Gonzalez, Michelle Nathan** and **Anthony Vega** – remind us that we cannot continue to permit violent felony offenders to walk the streets if they have violated the terms of their probation.

One in five American teenagers who surf the Internet say they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation online, but Florida currently has fewer than 10 state officers fully dedicated to preventing Internet crimes against children. I believe we need more. I will seek to increase that number to 50 to ensure that every child in Florida is safe from Internet predators. Furthermore, in the course of investigating cybercrimes against children, cybercrime officers are often able to identify the minors that these criminals have preyed upon. I will work to ensure that these officers receive the resources and manpower necessary to protect these victims and notify their families.

As I move forward as the People's Governor, **Abraham Lincoln's** words echo through my mind: "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Every day I am deeply aware that the people of Florida have made it possible for me to serve them as their Governor. I am humbled by the trust and confidence they have placed in me, and I will strive to honor that trust and confidence every day in my service to them – and to the men and women who serve and protect them every day. 🇺🇸



Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Fred Lewis gives the oath of office to newly elected Florida Governor Charlie Crist as Crist's parents, Charlie Sr. and Nancy look on.

IRS FACT SHEET:

TI-2007-18

E-FILE – A Smart Way To Do Your Taxes

Every year, more taxpayers discover the benefits of filing their tax return electronically. Whether you use a professional tax preparer authorized by the IRS or do it yourself on a home computer, there are many reasons to consider e-filing your tax return this year.

- **Fast.** No more last minute trips to the Post Office - just hit Send!
- **Accurate.** The electronic filing program checks for errors and necessary information, increasing the accuracy of your return and reducing the need for correspondence with the IRS to clarify errors or omissions.
- **Easy.** The computer software leads you step-by-step. You can usually file a state tax return at the same time you electronically file your federal return.
- **Quicker Refunds.** Generally, when you file electronically, your refund will be issued in about half the time it would take if you filed a paper return. Those who choose direct deposit will get their refund in even less time.
- **Peace of mind.** Once the return is accepted for processing, the IRS electronically acknowledges receipt of the return.
- **Payment options.** With electronic filing, you can file your return early but wait to pay any balance due by the April deadline. You can also pay electronically, using a credit card, electronic funds withdrawal or, in some cases, the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System.
- **Request your Telephone Excise Tax Refund.** E-file can be used to request this refund.

The IRS is again offering eligible taxpayers the opportunity to electronically prepare and file their tax returns for free through the Free File Alliance, a partnership between the IRS and private-sector software companies. For information on taxpayer eligibility, access the Free File Web page on the IRS Web site at IRS.gov.

For more information on e-filing, check the IRS Web site at IRS.gov. You will also find a withholding calculator and worksheet, along with Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, on the Web site. You may also get Form W-4 from your employer or by calling the IRS at 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).