

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 11-03 (Ethics and Open Government)

WHEREAS, a commitment to ethics and integrity in government is essential to maintaining the public trust; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 2010, the Nineteenth Statewide Grand Jury filed with the Florida Supreme Court its First Interim Report regarding public corruption in Florida and recommending proposed solutions to address public corruption in all aspects of government, politics and business throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, an open government in which decisions are made in a transparent manner is also imperative to preserving the public trust; and

WHEREAS, all Floridians have a right to know and have access to information with which they can hold government accountable for the management and expenditure of taxpayer dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section (1)(a) of the Florida Constitution, and all other applicable laws, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. I hereby direct the immediate adoption and implementation of a revised Code of Ethics applicable to the Office of the Governor. This revised Code of Ethics applies to all employees within the Office of the Governor, as well as the secretaries, deputy secretaries, and chiefs of staff of all executive agencies under my purview. As with its predecessor, this Code of Ethics imposes clear, understandable standards that often go beyond the statutory Code of Ethics

set forth in Chapter 112, Part III, Florida Statutes. However, this revised Code of Ethics imposes more stringent requirements than the Code it revises.

I hereby designate my General Counsel to act as the chief ethics officer for the Office of the Governor. Each agency secretary is directed to designate an individual at his or her agency to act as the agency's chief ethics officer. The agency's ethics officer will make reasonable efforts to ensure that the employees responsible for adhering to this revised Code become familiar with relevant ethics, public records and open meeting requirements.

Each agency secretary is further directed to review and evaluate the current policies adopted at his or her agency in light of this revised Code, with a view to using this revised Code as a standard for his or her agency, adjusted for the program requirements and variables unique to his or her agency. Agency secretaries are directed to implement any agency-specific adjustments to the Code within forty-five (45) days of the date of this Order.

I further direct my Chief Ethics Officer to periodically review and evaluate the revised Code. The purpose of this periodic review shall be to develop further recommendations as necessary or appropriate to assure that we maintain and effectively enforce the highest ethical standards for state officials and employees, and promote consistency of state agency policies on ethics, public records, open meetings and personnel matters.

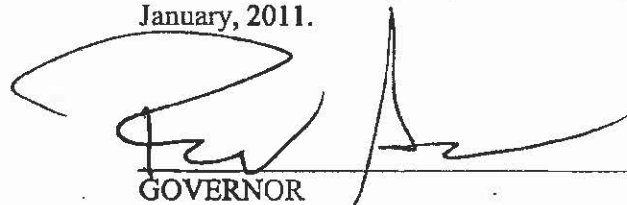
Section 2. I hereby direct my Special Counsel, in conjunction with my Chief Ethics Officer, to review the Statewide Grand Jury's December 29, 2010 First Interim Report addressing public corruption in Florida and recommend a plan for implementing all or certain of, as advisable, these recommendations either through executive action, or through legislative proposals seeking necessary statutory modifications.

Section 3. I hereby re-establish the Office of Open Government previously established in Executive Order 07-01, and reaffirm this administration's commitment to the proper functioning of such Office. The Office will (1) facilitate Floridians' right to know and have access to information with which they can hold government accountable, (2) establish and maintain a website providing ready access to accountability information, (3) continue to assure full and expeditious compliance with Florida's open government and public records laws, and (4) provide training to all executive agencies under my purview on transparency and accountability. The Office will also have primary responsibility for ensuring that the Office of the Governor complies with public records requests in an expeditious manner.

Section 4. All state agencies under the direction of the Governor are hereby directed, and all other state agencies are hereby requested, to provide such assistance to the individuals carrying out the directions in this Executive Order as may be requested from time to time in furtherance of the principles herein stated.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 4th day of January, 2011.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA