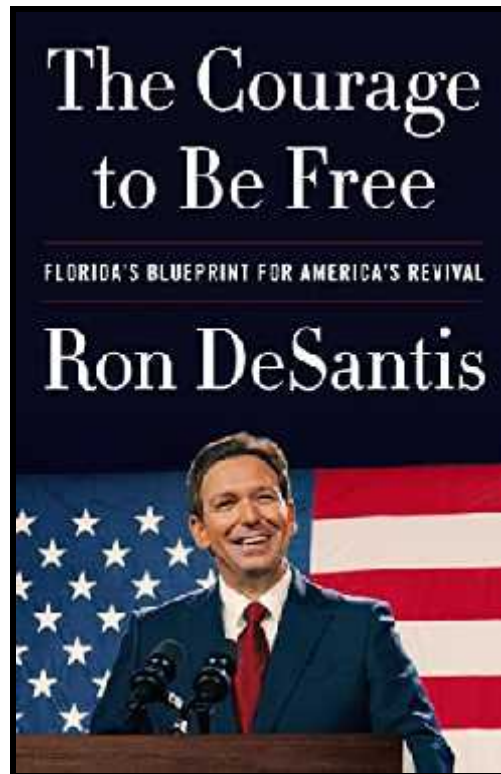


# The Florida Blueprint



Ron DeSantis is Florida's forty-sixth governor and one of the few American statesmen to receive bipartisan praise for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. An honors graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, he served as an officer in the US Navy and an adviser to a SEAL commander in Iraq, earning the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star. In 2012 he was elected to Congress, where he served on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He is married to Emmy Award-winning anchor Casey DeSantis, and they live in Tallahassee with their three children, Madison, Mason, and Mamie (p. 257).

One big reason for this paper is to answer the question “Why has Trump been so rude with his comments lately about DeSantis?”

First of all, Ron DeSantis does not say anything bad about Trump in his book. I would have thought he would defend himself but he didn't. Have concluded DeSantis, for not being a name caller, is a better man than Trump.

Second of all, how can we spend much time for someone who went to school at Yale? His answer: “Yale allowed me to see the future – it just took me twenty years to realize it” (p. 15).

Third, how can we have faith in someone who graduated from Harvard Law School? He says “I like to write...I had a strong foundation in American history and in matters pertaining to the US Constitution. I had a good understanding of the *Federalist Papers* and admired the judicial opinion of US Supreme Court justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, who both exhibited a firm commitment to our constitutional system” (p. 37).

Already he is sounding like Ted Cruz – let him rip!

While at Yale he went to a driving range to work on his golf swing near the University of North Florida and “As I started whacking away...in the next bay I saw a beautiful young woman practicing her swing. Let's say that I no longer cared about hitting those golf balls...There are certain what-if moments in life, and for me that spring day in 2006 stands as my life's most fortuitous moment...Casey and I were married three years later” (pp. 24-25).

“What lessons did I draw from my time in Iraq?...It was just as obvious that we would not succeed in establishing a pro-American, Western-style democracy in Iraq...the Iraqis considered ‘freedom’ to be submission to sharia law, not the enactment of a liberal democracy” (pp. 31-32). He was stunned (like, finally, the rest of us) over George Bush and his “Wilsonian moralism, not in a clear-eyed view of American interests” (p. 33).

“In late 2017, I asked the president if he would be willing to send out a tweet touting me as a good candidate for Florida governor...About a week later:

*Congressman Ron DeSantis is a brilliant young leader, Yale and then Harvard Law, who would make a GREAT Governor of Florida. He loves our Country and is a true FIGHTER!”* (p. 78).

“Energy in the executive,” Alexander Hamilton observed in *The Federalist no. 70*, “is a leading character in the definition of good government.” Hamilton believed that a “feeble Executive implies a feeble execution of the government” and “a government ill executed, whatever it may be in theory, must be, in practice, a bad government.”

Unlike some state constitutions of the time, the federal executive would not be subservient to the legislature but would “be in a situation to dare to act his own opinion with vigor and decision” (*The Federalist no. 71*).

“I had Hamilton's vision for effective executive leadership in mind when I became governor of Florida on January 8, 2019.” (pp. 88-89).

*A leading selling point in reading DeSantis is his chronological writing. Particularly pointing out his political history and his achievements - and at the same time painting the US political landscape.*

“Within three weeks of taking office, I made three appointments to the Florida Supreme Court...transforming the decades-long liberal court...At long last, judicial activism in the State of Florida was dead” (p. 101). Now it is 6-1.

“There was a new sheriff in town” (p. 105).

“In November 2020, as the election results poured in, Florida was able to count 99 percent of its votes by midnight...banning ballot harvesting...eliminating drop boxes...and prohibiting ‘Zuckerbucks’” (p.235).

Chapter 9 **The Best Defense is a Good Offense** – big list of issues: racial bias in law enforcement (Geo Floyd), BLM, CCP, “Defund” movement, George Soros, “de-carceration,” CRT, 1619 Project, “Stop WOKE Act,” NCAA and women’s sports, Victims of Communism Day, Big Tech censorship. **“It’s clear that the best executive leadership is rooted in bold action, not meek passivity”** (p. 145).

“Between July 2019 and July 2020, Florida saw the largest gain of residents in the nation, with more than 252,700 new residents, outpacing the 216,949 new residents in Texas over that one-year period...” [For us Texicans, this was 25 new folks every hour - or 602 a day.]

“People have voted with their feet. People have voted for the Free State of Florida” (p. 148).

“Florida proudly served as America’s West Berlin” (p. 151).

“Compared to these leftist fiefdoms, Florida is a redoubt of sanity, the place where woke ideology goes to die” (p. 156).

## Chapter 11 **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

“Well,” she [Dr. Birx] said, “this is kind of like our own science experiment”...”But the American people did not deserve to be used as guinea pigs in some real-life experiment” (p. 164).

“Keeping students out of school is a grave injustice” (p. 171).

“Just as I refused to impose a shutdown, I rejected imposing a mask mandate” (p. 177).

“We had become the citadel of freedom in the United States” (p. 178).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Gary Heartsill

“My view was simple: no Floridian should have to choose between a job that they need and a shot they don’t want” (p. 183).

“WE CAN NEVER let this happen in our country again” (p. 183).

## Chapter 12 **The Magic Kingdom of Woke Corporatism**

“Don’t Say Gay” bill...I knew they were lying to the public” (p. 187).

“Things got worse for Disney...they had already...eliminated the use of ‘ladies,’ ‘gentlemen,’ ‘boys,’ and ‘girls’ from its theme parks....Walt Disney would not have been pleased” (p. 195).

“The Florida Legislature had passed legislation to do the unimaginable: revoke Disney’s special self-governing status. I signed the bill into law as soon as it hit my desk” (p. 200).

Leaders must be willing to stand up and fight back when big corporations make the mistake, as Disney did, of using their economic might to advance a political agenda (p. 203).

“If men were angels,” Madison observed in *The Federalist no. 51*, “no government would be necessary” (p. 226).

“You never know what curveballs life may throw at you . Every day is a gift, so make the most of it – and don’t look back” (p. 249).

### **MAKE AMERICA FLORIDA**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis'.