



## FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 27 CANDIDATE COMPARISON



**Maria Elvira Salazar**  
Republican

<https://mariaelvira.com/>



**Donna Shalala**  
Democrat

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| <b>Education</b>                    | University of Miami; Harvard University's John F. Kennedy's School of Government. | Western College; Syracuse University                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Professional Career</b>          | Political Affairs Journalist                                                      | Trustee Professor of Political Science and Health Policy; President of the Clinton Foundation; President of the University of Miami; U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services |
| <b>Elected Political Experience</b> | None                                                                              | None                                                                                                                                                                             |

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| <p><b>Economy</b></p> | <p>"I will always support any legislative measure that puts more money in the pockets of all hard-working Americans. The Republican Tax Cut law was the right thing to do for our economy and our struggling middle class. I also believe, that tax cuts, combined with fewer regulations, have led to the explosive growth of our economy. As your elected representative, I will work with my colleagues to ensure that the tax cut law becomes permanent for everyone, not just corporations. The reduction in the corporate tax rate has been very beneficial to the U.S. economy and job growth, but we must also ensure that the corporations pay their fair share of taxes by closing current loopholes that have allowed them in the past to pay less than required. I will also work hard to attract investments to South Florida, including strengthening the industries that drive our dynamic economy – particularly tourism, business, and international trade – by investing and improving our infrastructure—roads, public transportation, and traffic flow.</p> <p>Our local economy is driven by our small businesses, who employ the majority of our residents. We must help these small businesses grow by allowing them to invest and create more high paying jobs. I believe that our government does more when it involves itself less in our markets and leaves the business of job growth for our job</p> | <p>"Today, for too many working families, the American dream is slipping away. Low wage jobs, wage stagnation and high health care cost have forced many people to work harder than ever, not to get ahead but just to survive.</p> <p>Secretary Shalala will fight to build an economy that invests in people, not in tax cuts for the wealthy. Smart, strategic investments that include an education system that prepares our children for the jobs and industries of the future; building a strong local infrastructure of roads, bridges, mass transit options, airports and seaports that allows the movement of people and goods throughout our region and investments in a social safety net that allows everyone in our society to enjoy a decent minimum standard of living.</p> <p>She will support efforts to diversify the local economy to attract entrepreneurship and grow new businesses in high-tech, international commerce and other industries that can capitalize on Miami’s unique strengths and geographic location. We need to work on making existing jobs stronger for day care workers, nursing home employees, hotel housekeeping staff, maintenance crews and home health aides, just to name a few. As a nation we can do better. It is not enough to just create more jobs, we need better jobs with higher wages, jobs that can deliver</p> |
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|                                 | <p>creators. In the 1980s, Ronald Reagan described his goal for his tax reform initiatives as ‘fairness, simplicity and economic growth’ and that vision remains applicable today."I believe we need a Competitive Agenda for America. The truth is, our country can no longer afford to be a country that simply churns money and shuffles paper on Wall Street."<sup>1</sup></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>affordable health care, retirement plans you can count on and a genuine sense of prosperity and security for American workers and their families."<sup>2</sup></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Energy &amp; Environment</b> | <p>"Climate change is a real threat to South Florida's coastlines and economic development over the long term. I believe this is an issue that requires the ability to work in a bipartisan manner to find real and immediate solutions. One of the first caucuses I would join as a Member is the Climate Solutions Caucus so that we can stand united against climate change and its effects, and seriously address water quality, clean air, sea level rise, renewable energy, and other important environmental issues. From Biscayne National Park through the Florida Keys, our hometown is also home to the third largest barrier reef in the world, but coral cover has declined on the Florida Reef Tract by 80% or more since the 1980s. That is why I would seek to sponsor legislation that would help preserve our coral reefs from the negative impacts of ocean acidification emanating from climate change. Lastly, I would work diligently with local</p> | <p>"Secretary Shalala believes climate change is the biggest planetary challenge we face in the 21st Century, and for South Florida it is a dire existential threat.</p> <p>The United States must once again assume a position of leadership in an international, coordinated response to the threat posed by global warming, and the first step in that direction is to fully rejoin the Paris Climate Accord.</p> <p>Domestically we need to invest in clean energy infrastructure, facilitate and encourage the installation of solar panels in as many American homes as possible and progressively tighten efficiency standards as they pertain to transportation, housing and the workplace.</p> <p>She also believes that, with institutions such as the National Hurricane Center and the</p> |

<sup>1</sup> <https://mariaelvira.com/issues/prosper/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://donnashalala.com/jobs-economy/>

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|                   | <p>municipalities to determine how I can secure federal funds for their efforts to combat the effects of sea level rise on our community. As the recent red tide, there is more than we and Congress can do to address and prevent algae outbreaks. From research to education, this is a challenge to our families and to our economy.</p> <p>Because Miami is my hometown, I take this issue seriously now and I will too as your Representative in Congress.</p> <p>Not only have I witnessed sea levels risen substantially over recent years, but we are also seeing the devastating impact that algae outbreaks (red tide) bring to our livelihoods and to our economic vitality.</p> <p>From supporting investments in science and research to developing further understanding of ocean acidification, Congress can gear federal agencies and their partners to play an active role in mitigating, preparing for and addressing the impact of changing climate."<sup>3</sup></p> | <p>University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science headquartered in this community, Miami has the potential to become a worldwide hub for research on this crucial issue, and she intends to pursue federal dollars to make that a reality."<sup>4</sup></p>                 |
| <b>Healthcare</b> | <p>"With Obamacare premiums expected to rise by at least 17% in Florida, many families in our communities are gravely concerned about how they will be able to afford health insurance now and in the future. The current system is simply not working. I am determined to protect South Florida families from mounting costs by reforming our broken healthcare system with cost-effective</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>"As the longest-serving Secretary of Health and Human Services in American history, Donna Shalala is one of America's foremost experts on health care.</p> <p>To continue working towards universal, high-quality, affordable health care for Floridians and all Americans, Donna Shalala will:</p> |

<sup>3</sup> <https://mariaelvira.com/issues/protect/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://donnashalala.com/climate-change/>

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|  | <p>and patient-centered solutions. Specifically, we need to go after the \$95 billion in annual waste, fraud and abuse; give individuals and businesses the right to purchase health insurance across state lines; and repeal crushing Obama-era taxes and needless regulations, while ensuring that the neediest among us have access to affordable, quality healthcare.</p> <p>South Floridians deserve better! I am dedicated to bringing patient-oriented reforms to Washington that will work for hard-working American families."<sup>5</sup></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defend and improve the Affordable Care Act. Florida's 27th District has the highest number of people enrolled in the ACA marketplace in the entire country. Taking that coverage away would do irreparable damage to the health of our community.</li> <li>• Create a "Medicare Option for All" by enhancing Medicare to better cover routine dental and vision, and long-term care, and make it available to anyone regardless of income, immigration status, or age. At the same time, preserve employer coverage as an option for those Americans satisfied with their current coverage.</li> <li>• Reduce prescription drug costs, along with other out-of-pocket expenses like copays and deductibles. Medicare must be allowed to use its immense bargaining power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices, similar to how Medicaid and the Veterans Health Administration achieves lower prices."<sup>6</sup></li> </ul> |
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<sup>5</sup> <https://mariaelvira.com/issues/prosper/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://donnashalala.com/healthcare/>