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Contributors



**Sergio Bustos**  
State/Politics Editor  
[E-mail](#) | [Bio](#)



**Marc Caputo**  
Political Writer  
[E-mail](#) | [Bio](#)

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## From Common Core to immigration, Jeb Bush shows he's 'the Eat Your Broccoli' Republican

@MarcACaputo

Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor and a leading contender in the early GOP race for the White House, has fashioned himself as the "education governor."

But on Friday, Bush went veggie.

"I was the kind of the Eat Your Broccoli Governor," Bush joked at the Broward Workshop business breakfast where he pointed out that his policies weren't always perceived as sweet.

Judging from the applause of the 900 or so business leaders in attendance, Bush's speech was received like candy.

In rapid-fire fashion, Bush hopped from topic to topic geared toward the business crowd: immigration reform, Port Everglades dredging, bond ratings, state and federal debt loads, education reform, pro-growth policies, foreign trade and imprecations against "taxing assets, taxing income, taxing the air you breathe, the excuse-me-for-living tax."

But there's one topic he wouldn't touch: Whether he was running for president.

Bush tried to duck reporters on his way out of the Signature Grand event in Davie, and would only tell the media that he planned to make a decision later this year – likely after the 2014 elections.

In a friendly question-and-answer session, AutoNation CEO Mike Jackson wouldn't even ask him the question.

Instead, Jackson referenced Bush's mother, Barbara Bush, who said the country has had enough Bush presidents, namely his brother and father.

"If you were to run for president," Jackson asked, "would you get your mother's vote?"

"So, um, yes," Bush said.

Earlier Jackson made a joke about New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's woes in what's known as a the "Bridgegate" scandal

"When you were governor," Jackson asked, "did you ever close any bridges for traffic studies?"

Bush wouldn't answer.

With Christie's fall, Bush is now seen as the candidate of the GOP establishment.

Bush is favored to be the GOP's frontrunner in a new analysis from the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, which plays up the establishment roots of Bush, the son and brother of former presidents.

Some nationwide polls show Bush in front. Others indicate Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is the Republican to beat.

Nearly all show Democrat Hillary Clinton would beat them all, even in Florida, in 2016.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a Bush friend and protégé, was once a frontrunner and is now in the middle or bottom of the pack in many early

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polls.

Dragging Rubio down: his support of bipartisan immigration reform last year. Bush has essentially the same stances as Rubio on the issue.

Bush has advocated for pathways to citizenship and residency for illegal immigrants, enhanced border security and immigrant tracking technology and an emphasis on admitting immigrants based on the nation's needs, not family relationships with current U.S. citizens.

Bush said immigrants capture the entrepreneurial spirit of America.

"People who come here legally and illegally are the risk takers," Bush said. "If you're living in a rural area of Guatemala and you come, you're a bigger risk taker than those who stay."

Aside from immigration, Bush's advocacy for Common Core State Standards has earned him enmity on the right.

Bush has repeatedly explained the standards, implemented and controlled by the states, are designed to make the United States more competitive with the rest of the world. He said those who oppose the standards support the "status quo," oppose testing and are worried too much about children's self-esteem.

"Let me tell you something. In Asia today, they don't care about children's self esteem. They care about math, whether they can read – in English – whether they understand why science is important, whether they have the grit and determination to be successful," Bush said.

"You tell me which society is going to be the winner in this 21st Century: The one that worries about how they feel, or the one that worries about making sure the next generation has the capacity to eat everybody's lunch?"

Bush touted Florida's educational improvement as a model for the nation.

In a comment that could equally apply to his position on education as it could to a candidate for president, Bush said more needs to be done.

"The minute you kind of pull back and say 'We can rest on our laurels' is the first day of your decline," he said.

Posted by Marc Caputo at 12:09 PM on Friday, Mar. 21, 2014 in [Jeb Bush](#) | [Permalink](#)

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There were really no signature achievements or programs implemented during his eight years as governor that would qualify JEB! to be president of the United States. Self promotion and an overwhelming sense of entitlement do not substitute for the kind of experience we need to make our country safe and secure.



Posted by: Can't take anymore | [March 21, 2014 at 02:23 PM](#)

And that is why Can't take anymore is voting for Charlie Crist... because he is the type to get a job and stick with it, roll up his sleeves and find solutions!



Posted by: Hmmm... | [March 21, 2014 at 04:39 PM](#)

Gee, Hmmm. Can't you figure out that the amount of ego involved in running for president is several orders of magnitude greater than that of a run for Florida's governor. I didn't vote for Charlie the first time he ran but with Scott as the only alternative it is much easier to do now.



Posted by: Can't take anymore | [March 21, 2014 at 08:25 PM](#)

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If Mexico was a serious military power, we'd be facing the same kind of threat in Le Voz de Aztlan area of the United States as the Ukrainians are today with Russia in the Crimea.



ex animo  
davidfarrar

Posted by: David Farrar | [March 22, 2014 at 07:36 AM](#)

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