

Candidate: Matt Caldwell Office: Commissioner of Agriculture

Party: R

Constitutionally Limited Government: _____

2nd Amendment: TPM Score: 5

- **NRA A- rating**
Rep. Matt Caldwell got the NRA's endorsement with an A-plus score
<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/opinion/columnists/cotterell/2018/07/17/nra-releases-candidate-grades-graham-gillum-both-score-fs-cotterell/793875002/>
- strong on self defense and anti-crime issues
<https://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/108173/matthew-caldwell> -
<<https://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/108173/matthew-caldwell>

Pro-life: TPM Score: 5

- Senator Marco Rubio said, "As the most conservative candidate in the race for Commissioner of Agriculture, Matt Caldwell has been an unwavering supporter of the Second Amendment, consistently voted to cut taxes and reduce the size of government, and is a **staunch supporter of the right-to-life**. <https://votecaldwell.org/sen-marco-rubio-endorses-matt-caldwell/>
- 80% rating from FFA <http://floridafamilyaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/FFALegislativeScorecard2015-2016.pdf>
- A human being has the God-given right to life as protected by our Constitution. The US Supreme Court got it wrong with Roe v. Wade, and I won't waiver from that position.
<https://votecaldwell.org/issues/>
- Pro Life - endorsed by Personhood FL Pro-Life Pac, has signed their Affirmation Commitment to Pro-life

Immigration: TPM Score: 5

- "We have to have a secure border. Priority No. 1." <http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/06/29/in-crowded-republican-race-for-ag-commissioner-candidates-flaunt-their-backgrounds-immigration-stances/>

Fiscal Responsibility: Taxes/Spending TPM Score: 5_____

- Senator Marco Rubio said, "As the most conservative candidate in the race for Commissioner of Agriculture, Matt Caldwell has been an unwavering supporter of the Second Amendment, **consistently voted to cut taxes and reduce the size of government**, and is a staunch supporter of the right-to-life. <https://votecaldwell.org/sen-marco-rubio-endorses-matt-caldwell/>
- Caldwell says: "Unlike my opponents, I have **never voted for a tax increase during my time in office**. In fact, we have **successfully cut more than \$10 billion in taxes** and **reduced more than 5,200 burdensome regulations** during my time serving." <https://votecaldwell.org/issues/>

Free Market Solutions: _____

Educ choice: TPM Score: 2.5

- In addition, Matt has always been an advocate for ... **limiting the size and scope of government.** <http://votecaldwell.org/about/>
- Rated 84% by Rating Group: [Foundation for Florida's Future](https://votesmart.org/interest-group/2077/foundation-for-floridas-future) 2017 "Florida's Education Report Card" <https://votesmart.org/interest-group/2077/foundation-for-floridas-future>

Healthcare: TPM Score: 5

- Matt is proud to have sponsored, and had the Governor sign into law, several pieces of legislation, including: The Andrew Widman Act, providing greater protection from career criminals; an act relating to Optometry, **lowering the cost of, and increasing access to, medical eye care**; as well as acts relating to pensions and term limits. <http://votecaldwell.org/about/>
- **Rated 100%** by Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)

Pro-Biz: TPM Score: 5

- Unlike my opponents, I have never voted for a tax increase during my time in office. In fact, we have successfully cut more than \$10 billion in taxes and **reduced more than 5,200 burdensome regulations during my time serving.** <https://votecaldwell.org/issues/>
- The No. 1 obstacle to successful small businesses? Government overreach and interference. I promise to get government out of the way so commerce rules, so businesses can be successful, and so we can thrive! <https://votecaldwell.org/issues/>
- Rated 92% by American Conservative Union <https://votesmart.org/candidate/108173/matthew-caldwell#.W1FWxWTAqWA>
- Pro Biz - criticized NAFTA <https://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/108173/matthew-caldwell#<https://votesmart.org/candidate/evaluations/108173/matthew-caldwell>

Total TPM Score: 32.5

Summary Comments:

Matt Caldwell scored 32.5 out of 35 because he consistently votes to protect the voters rights. **Matt Caldwell** has strong conservative positions, and also has broad support and many endorsements. A key point for the tea party is the NRA rated Caldwell an A (the Ag Commissioner gives out concealed carry permits.)

Nikki Fried views her job as a lobbyist to the legislature on medical marijuana, carbon emissions or the farm-to-school program. She is endorsed by Planned Parenthood. She seems to be a single-issue candidate with a total score of 2!

We strongly endorse Matt Caldwell for Ag Commissioner.

Other Topics/ Actions/Positions held

- Served in the FL Legislature 2010-2018.

- Campaign finance: [Caldwell finished January](http://floridapolitics.com/archives/258576-baxter-troutman-hits-2-9m-raised-ag-commissioner-race) with about \$1.11 million in the bank between his campaign and committee, while Grimsley had \$909,459 on hand between her two accounts. <http://floridapolitics.com/archives/258576-baxter-troutman-hits-2-9m-raised-ag-commissioner-race>
- (Note Baxter Troutman loaned \$2.5 M to his campaign—nearly all self-funded)
- “Between his steady stream of endorsements and his formidable fundraising – **more than \$1.5 million raised through December** compared, \$1.6 million by state Sen. Denise Grimsley, and **less than \$80,000 in donations to former state Rep. Baxter Troutman.** <http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/02/05/whos-the-gop-frontrunner-for-agriculture-commissioner/>
- Water: During my time in the Florida House, water policy was an area where I championed legislation and led the State in pursuing long-term solutions. In 2016, I carried the statewide Water Bill, which laid out policy goals for every region in the State. <https://votecaldwell.org/issues/>

Supporters/Endorsements include:

Endorsements: Marco Rubio

Caldwell's latest endorsements:

Rep. Ralph Massullo (R-Lecanto)
 Rep. Amber Mariano (R-Hudson)
 Rep. Danny Burgess Jr. (R-Zephyrhills)
 Rep. Ross Spano (R-Dover)
 Rep. Jackie Toledo (R-Tampa)
 Rep. Shawn Harrison (R-Tampa)
 Rep. Larry Ahern (R-Seminole)
 Rep. Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton)
 Rep. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota)
 Rep. Julio Gonzalez (R-Venice)
 Former Rep. Jimmie T. Smith (R-Citrus County)