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**FSU sticking with run game despite early woes** SPORTS, 1C


## U.S. SENATE RACE

### NELSON, SCOTT GO ON ATTACK IN 1ST DEBATE

Immigration, Kavanaugh and environment on center stage



**John McCarthy**  
USA TODAY  
NETWORK • FLORIDA

**MIRAMAR** — Florida voters have a choice between a liar and a do-nothing in November's U.S. Senate election.

At least, that's what the candidates say.

**Sen. Bill Nelson and Gov. Rick Scott shake hands Tuesday at the first Senate debate, which was held in Miramar.**  
VALARIEL FOR TELEVISION

In their first debate, Democrat incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson and his Republican challenger Gov. Rick Scott, continued to come back to those two themes.

"Wherever he says, it's simply not true," Nelson said of Scott, pointing out that independent fact-checking sites have rated Scott's nine campaign ads as false.

"It's been these 42 years" and has gotten nothing done, Scott said of Nelson's 40 years in the Senate and another 12 years he served in the U.S. House back in the '70s and '80s.

Here's how they weighed in on the issues:

#### Immigration

The debate was hosted by Telemundo 54/WSCV, a Spanish-language TV station in Miami, and kicked off with a question as to what to do about the 8 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., including the 900,000 living in Florida.

Nelson called for a comprehensive immigration reform bill like the one he supported in 2013, that would have created a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. That bill passed the

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### Williams' murder trial set for December

18 years after husband Mike's disappearance, Denise will face jury

**Karl Ottens** Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK • FLORIDA

Denise Williams is scheduled to stand trial almost 18 years to the day her husband Mike Williams went missing.

Williams, 48, will go before a jury on Dec. 19 on charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and accessory after the fact in the December 2000 murder of the 31-year-old father and Tallahassee real estate appraiser. She was arrested at her office at Florida State University in May after a lengthy investigation and an indictment by a Leon County grand jury.

The setting of the trial date comes a few weeks after Williams' attorney Brian Viny deposed Brian Winchester, the man who confessed to shooting Mike Williams in the head during a duck hunting trip on Dec. 16, 2000, at Lake Seminole in Jackson County.

Why maintain Denise Williams is innocent and had nothing whatsoever to do with the killing of her husband. On Monday, he filed a defense witness list that includes current and past investigators, Mike's mother Cheryl Williams, his former boss, Clay Kitchin, and Winchester's ex-wife.

In his confession, Winchester de-

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### Pumphrey's handling of deputy's drug cases criticized

State attorney: "There was no rush" to drop cases

**Jeff Barlow** Tallahassee Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK • FLORIDA

The former prosecutor who exposed alleged drug planting by a Jackson County deputy unanimously dismissed seven of his arrests against the witness of higher-ups at the State Attorney's Office, which was conducting its own review of the matter.

Glen Hess, state attorney for the 14th Judicial Circuit, said his office ordered Wester-related cases to be put on

hold after accusations against him surfaced.

But he said former Assistant State Attorney Christina Pumphrey dismissed five cases even after she was told not to take any action on them. Hess said defendants in questionable cases could have been released on their own recognizance until the office review was done.

"Her justification for dismissing those cases was that people were in jail," Hess told the Tallahassee Democrat. "A



**Pumphrey**

prosecutor who knew what he or she was doing would have gone to the judge and requested \$100 bonds for anyone in jail on one of the Wester cases. That would have gotten them out of jail — rightly so — and it would have kept the case from so that a careful review could have been done. There was no rush to drop the cases."

Pumphrey, a former state agency lawyer, went to work for the State Attorney's Office in Maitland in early May. After hearing complaints about Wester,



**Hess**

she reviewed body-camera videos and noticed problems with some of his arrests, including potentially illegal stops and searches. Eventually, she came across a body-camera video that appeared to show Wester planting meth in a woman's pickup truck.

She and an assistant public defender shared their concerns with her supervisor, who notified the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, which in turn

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**USA TODAY**  
Confirmation won't end Kavanaugh fight, 1B

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