Comparative Reference Guide

Attorney General of Florida

About this guide: Summarizes the publicly stated positions and documented actions of Jose Javier Rodriguez and James Uthmeier, compiled from campaign materials, official voting records if applicable, official actions/decisions when applicable, and independent news current as of September 2026. Each claim carries bracketed source marker (e.g., R-D1, U-D1).

A note on sourcing: Uthmeier's rows draw more heavily on actions in office and so absent any sponsored legislation or a voting record, some positions were not possible to determine. Rodriguez's rows draw more heavily on voting records, sponsored legislation, and stated positions.

1. Pillars of Democracy

Area / Component	Jose Javier Rodriguez (D)	James Uthmeier (R)
Protect Elections	A long record of supporting voter access while in the state Senate and of election reforms to see that "every vote is counted", including support of **Amendment 4** which restored voting rights of former felons and **SB 1386** that would have reduced discarding of eligible mail-in ballots. *(R-D1)*	Uthmeier frames election protection primarily around **election integrity and enforcement against fraud**, including investigations involving alleged fraudulent voter registrations, voting by ineligible people and fraudulent ballot petitions. *(U-D1)*
Defend Rule of Law Through Transparency & Accountability	Strongly pro-transparency. As a senator, he sponsored measures aimed at making constitutional initiatives less susceptible to "bundling," supported public-records access concerning redistricting, and sponsored ethics legislation (SJR 690 & SJR 176). His 2019 legislative record includes **S 1008 (Ethics)** and **S 1458 (Public Records/Redistricting Plans)**. In 2025 he argued that major utility-rate decisions should be made openly with the evidence available to the public. *(R-D2, R-D3, R-D4)*	While the Attorney General's job is specifically to defend the rule of law and make government accountable to the people, Uthmeier's enforcement seems to be applied inconsistently. His **Public Integrity Unit** explicitly emphasizes following public money and investigating misuse of appropriations. His office has also emphasized transparency on corporate and consumer matters. In action, that enforcement has been selective, especially where it concerns the DeSantis Administration and his own political network. The AG's office under Uthmeier has aggressively threatened elected local officials whose actions he believes violate state law, as in cases where cities balked at cooperating with federal immigration officials. And while his office released a substantial amount of documentation regarding the **Hope Florida** misappropriation of funds, critics say that material was selective due to his own and the Governor's possible involvement. See also the Trump Library/Miami Dade College issue, and delays in fulfilling public records requests. *(U-D2, U-D3, U-D4, U-D5, U-D6, U-D7)*

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Fight Corruption	Strongly pro-accountability. Rodríguez has made government corruption and independence central themes of his AG campaign. **His personal experience losing his Senate seat after the 2020 "ghost candidate" scheme appears to have reinforced this emphasis.** He has specifically criticized alleged "pay-to-play" conduct in the current AG's office and pledged to restore integrity and independence. *(R-D5, R-D6)*	**See above:** Strong public pro-enforcement and accountability positions, but applied inconsistently in practice.
Civic & Media Space	Rodríguez's campaign platform explicitly says he would **defend Floridians' constitutional and individual rights** and his conception of the AG's role is that the office should be a check on government rather than an extension of the governor's office. No specific public statements found addressing protests, 1st Amendment protections, police/protest surveillance, or government monitoring of political activity found. However, he has specifically criticized Uthmeier's interventions in Jacksonville as excessive state interference and said he would respect home rule and local government's ability to govern itself. *(R-D7. R-D8)*	Uthmeier has publicly acknowledged 1st Amendment protections but emphasized limits when demonstrations involve obstruction, violence, or threats. In June 2026, discussing "teen takeovers," he said people do not have a 1st Amendment right to stand in the street, obstruct traffic, and threaten violence. He also said drivers who run over people could have legal protections when crowds surround their vehicles. **Importantly, his office has also directed law enforcement to monitor planned protests:** in March 2025, Uthmeier said FDLE and FHP would monitor TeslaTakedown protests and act if they became violent. There is also evidence that Uthmeier supports some limits on law-enforcement surveillance technology, rather than unrestricted surveillance. *(U-D8, U-D9, U-D10)*
Pluralistic Governance	Rodríguez's approach places **considerable emphasis on institutional independence, local autonomy, minority participation and government as a check on concentrated power**. His Senate record includes nondiscrimination and equal-rights legislation and opposition to state immigration requirements imposed on local governments. Rodríguez has made protection of vulnerable communities and civil rights an explicit campaign position. He received the endorsement of LGBTQ-rights organization SAVE in 2026. *(R-D9, R-D10)*	**Uthmeier's approach to pluralism is primarily a law-enforcement and constitutional-uniformity model.** He has argued that government should apply constitutional rules uniformly—for example, opposing government racial classifications and asserting that religious organizations cannot be excluded from generally available benefits. At the same time, his office has vigorously enforced state-level policies against local governments that disagree with Tallahassee on immigration and has pursued organizations and private corporations over DEI-related practices. *(U-D11, U-D12)*
Counter Disinformation	Rodriguez's documented approach is more strongly associated with transparency, political accountability and exposing deceptive practices, particularly because of his own experience with the 2020 ghost-candidate scheme. His campaign explicitly makes	Uthmeier's record is more directly centered on enforcement against allegedly deceptive or misleading commercial communications. His office has brought actions involving TikTok, OpenAI, Robinhood and other companies, generally under

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	transparency and accountability central themes and promises to combat fraud and corruption. (*R-D11)*	consumer-protection/deceptive-practices laws. However, there have also been instances in which Uthmeier's own public statements have been challenged successfully as inaccurate. *(U-D13, U-D14)*
Make Democracy Deliver	See Defend Rule of Law, Accountability & Transparency	See Defend Rule of Law, Accountability & Transparency

2. Civil & Human Rights

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Reproductive Rights	**Generally pro-reproductive freedom.** His legislative record shows support for contraception and opposition to abortion restrictions. He co-introduced a bill establishing a reversible contraception pilot program and opposed the parental-consent abortion legislation considered in 2020. His current campaign emphasizes defending Floridians' constitutional and individual rights, although reproductive rights are not among the prominently listed standalone AG priorities. (JJR Vote) *(R-C1, R-C2, R-C3)*	**Uthmeier strongly opposes expanding abortion rights and supportive of Florida's abortion restrictions.** Before becoming AG, Uthmeier played a major role in the campaign against Florida's 2024 constitutional amendment that would have established a constitutional right to abortion before fetal viability. As AG, he intervened in a case involving a 17-year-old seeking a judicial waiver of Florida's parental-consent requirement for an abortion. His office defended Florida's abortion restrictions, and Uthmeier has publicly attacked medication abortion, falsely claiming that evidence suggested 1 in 25 women taking abortion pills were hospitalized. *(U-C1, U-C2, U-C3)*
Immigrant Rights	**Strongly pro-immigrant-rights relative to Florida's Republican majority.** He opposed SB 168, Florida's 2019 "sanctuary cities" legislation, arguing that it would turn local governments and police into immigration agents and harm immigrant communities, students and crime victims. He also sponsored legislation concerning detained/unaccompanied minors and driver's licenses/ID cards. In 2026 **he criticized the use of immigration raids and 287(g) agreements** as political theater and said the AG should enforce law rather than use governmental power to generate conflict. *(R-C4, R-C5, R-C6)*	**Aggressive immigration enforcement and opposition to sanctuary policies is one of the clearest positions on Uthmeier's record.** Before becoming AG, Uthmeier was deeply involved in DeSantis's immigration policies, including the controversial 2022 transportation of migrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard. As AG, he became one of Florida's most prominent advocates for cooperation between state/local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities. His most prominent immigration initiative was **"Alligator Alcatraz,"** the immigration detention facility in the Everglades. *(U-C4, U-C5, U-C6)*
Freedom of Religion	**Rodríguez's documented record is not extensive on religious liberty but his legislative record is more useful for understanding his approach to the boundary between religion, government and individual rights.** His support for repealing Florida's statutory same-sex-marriage ban, for example, is consistent with a position that government should not impose a particular religious definition of marriage through law. His co-sponsorship of the **2021 Safety of Religious Institutions** bill is also concrete evidence that he supported protections specifically benefiting churches, synagogues and other religious institutions. *(R-C7)*	**Uthmeier has made religious liberty a prominent part of his work as Attorney General.** His 2026 Attorney General opinions argue that religious organizations should not be excluded from generally available government benefits merely because they are religious, that public schools must accommodate off-campus religious instruction, and that government may not discriminate against religious expression. He goes further by concluding that Florida's constitutional restriction on government funding of religious organizations is unconstitutional, and that the 1st Amendment does not prevent states from "encouraging" religion. *(U-C7)*
LGBTQ+ Rights	Rodríguez sponsored legislation repealing Florida's statutory same-sex-marriage ban and was identified by Equality Florida as the primary Senate co-sponsor of **SB 254** in 2019. That position reflects a	**Uthmeier's public record and campaign website show he has taken an active legal position against gender-affirming medical care for transgender minors and has made his opposition to**

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	view that government should not enforce a religiously based definition of marriage against same-sex couples. He received the endorsement of LGBTQ-rights organization SAVE in 2026. *(R-D10, R-C8)*	**gender-affirming care has become an ongoing litigation priority of his office.** In addition, he publicly supports and his office has supported sex-based restrictions on bathroom access, opposition to drag performances, and challenged organizations and policies associated with trans rights. His record reflects a broader effort to use the Attorney General's office to challenge policies or practices he regards as promoting gender identity or diversity initiatives contrary to Florida law. *(U-C8, U-C9)*

3. Kitchen Table Issues

Area / Component	Jose Javier Rodriguez (D)	James Uthmeier (R)
Cost of Living & Inflation	**Rodríguez's record and campaign position place explicit emphasis on household affordability itself—particularly wages, utility bills, insurance and housing.** As senator, he sponsored a minimum-wage increase; as an AG candidate, he has proposed using the office to challenge utility rate increases, address insurance costs and pursue problematic corporate landlords. In 2025 he criticized FPL's proposed increases and said, if elected AG, he would challenge abusive rate hikes, demand transparency and fight unfair fees. He also repeatedly introduced legislation to raise Florida's minimum wage to $15/hour and later sponsored broader wage-and-employment-benefit legislation. *(R-K1, R-K2)*	**Uthmeier's actual AG record shows affordability-related work primarily through consumer-protection enforcement, fraud cases, antitrust litigation and recovery of money for consumers or the state**. Examples include the MV Realty homeowner case, the insurance-fraud recovery and the Live Nation/Ticketmaster litigation. **At the same time, there is a significant counterpoint concerning utility affordability**: Uthmeier did not intervene when FPL's rates were increased by nearly $7 billion, when it is common for other state attorneys general to intervene in major utility-rate cases. *(U-K1)*
Healthcare Access & Affordability	**Strongly supportive of expanding healthcare access.** Rodriguez supported Medicaid expansion, ACA protections, dental and prescription-drug access, and programs addressing healthcare needs of vulnerable populations. His Senate record includes **S302, Federal Waivers for Health Insurance**, and **S1296, Health Access Dental Licenses**, as well as **S1338, Prescription Drug Coverage**. He co-introduced **S716, Dental Services** and **S756, Donor Human Milk Bank Services**. In 2020 he argued that Florida should expand Medicaid to cover nearly one million uninsured Floridians during the COVID crisis. *(R-K3, R-K4, R-K5)*	**Uthmeier's emphasis is on fraud enforcement, consumer protection and parental/religious rights rather than expanding government healthcare. There is no evidence he supports Medicaid expansion or broader government-funded healthcare.** The AG's office has prosecuted providers accused of defrauding Medicaid and has also investigated pharmaceutical and healthcare-market practices, focusing on whether those practices reduce competition and raise costs for consumers. *(U-K2, U-K3)*
Affordable Housing	**Supportive of affordable housing and stronger renter protections.** He has supported fully funding Florida's affordable-housing trust fund and sponsored legislation concerning residential tenancies,	**No substantial documented policy position located; insufficient evidence to characterize him as either pro-tenant or pro-affordable-housing expansion.** As he is not a legislator,

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	landlords/tenants and housing discrimination. His current AG campaign also promises action against corporate landlords and relief for homeowners. His 2020 legislative record includes **S1362, Rental Agreements** and **S1086, Residential Tenancies**. He co-introduced **S958, Housing Discrimination**, and **S1794, Landlords and Tenants**. His campaign says he would "go after" corporate landlords and protect Floridians from bad actors exploiting renters or homeowners. *(R-K6, R-K7, R-K8)*	determining a position on this issue is not possible. However, his campaign-finance records show substantial contributions from real-estate interests. *(U-K4)*
Public Education	**Strongly pro-public education and increased access to higher education.** He opposed diverting voter-approved school funding toward private schools, supported teacher raises, sponsored scholarships for public higher education, and proposed measures dealing with English-language learners and school personnel. He sponsored **S1354, Sunshine Scholarship Program, S458 and English Language Learner Advisory Council**, **and S1364, School Board Employees.** In July 2026 the Florida Education Association endorsed him, specifically citing his record of standing up for public schools, educators and students. *(R-K9, R-K10, R-K11)*	**Strongly favors parental control, school choice and restrictions on what he considers ideological indoctrination; supportive of accountability for education providers. He is not primarily focused on increasing traditional public-school funding or strengthening teachers' unions.** In April 2025, Uthmeier created a first-of-its-kind **Office of Parental Rights** within the AG's office to litigate complaints from parents concerning public schools. He has supported Florida's broader school-choice framework and has used his office to defend parents' religious and educational rights within schools receiving state scholarship funds. *(U-K5, U-K6)*

References

All sources cited by marker throughout this guide, grouped by section. An asterisk (*) marks a general campaign platform page or biography rather than a discrete, dated action.

1. Pillars of Democracy

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2. Civil & Human Rights

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U-K4 Uthmeier, Transparency USA
U-K5 Uthmeier, Florida Politics
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