PRESS RELEASE

Fact-Checking Kathy Castor Has Become a Full-Time Job: Lies, Hypocrisy, and Disconnection Exposed

Tampa, FL – January 27, 2026 – Rocky Rochford, retired U.S. Navy Captain and candidate for Florida's 14th Congressional District, today released a point-by-point fact-check of U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor's January 24, 2026 "HouseWatch" newsletter, labeling it a "shameful mix of distortions, selective facts, and outright lies" that ignores her own record of 20 years of failure in Washington. "Castor's newsletter is pure partisan spin, blaming everyone else while she has caused the very problems she pretends to decry," said Rochford. "Tampa Bay families deserve truth, accountability, and real solutions, not more excuses from a disconnected incumbent."

Fact-Check & Counter: Castor's Key Claims vs. Reality

1. **Claim: Kathy Castor shamelessly lies by claiming Trump is "not focused on the right priorities" and has caused "tight wallets" with "chaos of tariffs" and $2 trillion in debt, blaming him for high costs while ignoring her own role in the mess.**
   - **Truth**: This is pure deception. Recent polls, like Gallup's January 2026 survey, show 48% approval for Trump's economic handling, with inflation now at a stable 2.7%, which is a sharp drop from the 9% peaks under the Biden-Harris policies that Castor rubber-stamped 100% of the time. Her party's $1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which she voted for, directly fueled 20%+ spikes in health care and grocery prices, saddling families with real pain. As for tariffs, they added just 0.3-0.5% to inflation in 2025 according to Goldman Sachs, while generating $300-400 billion in revenue to offset costs. The $2 trillion debt increase under Trump pales compared to the $7 trillion explosion during Biden's term, which Castor enthusiastically supported. She's not just wrong, she's lying to distract from her failed record of enabling the very inflation and chaos she now pretends to fight.
   - **Rochford Solution**: Unlike Castor, I'll deliver real relief with the Tampa Bay Affordability Act. We need to slash wasteful spending, enforce fiscal discipline, and cut red tape to lower housing, insurance, and energy costs for working families. No more excuses, time for accountability and results.

2. **Claim: "Billionaires get tax cuts, Americans are saddled with $2 trillion more in debt, and Trump stamps his name across more stuff at your expense."**
   - **Truth**: President Trump delivered real results in his first year back, including tariffs that generated substantial revenue: U.S. Customs and Border Protection collected over $200 billion from January 20 to December 15, 2025 alone, with full FY 2025 customs duties reaching $195–$217 billion (per CBP and Treasury data), a 150–250% increase over 2024. This revenue has helped offset costs and fund priorities without further burdening taxpayers. The national debt rose approximately $2.25 trillion during this period (to $38.4 trillion), driven largely by ongoing mandatory spending and bipartisan appropriations. Yet Castor voted for Biden's $7 trillion+ debt explosion through the American Rescue Plan and

Inflation Reduction Act. She backed policies that spiked electricity prices by 30% and housing costs by 50% under Biden-Harris, while Trump focused on results, not vanity. "Stamping his name" is a rhetorical exaggeration; Castor's hypocrisy ignores her role in fueling the very costs she now complains about.

- **Rochford Solution**: Enforce accountability (ban congressional insider trading), eliminate waste, and prioritize working families over billionaire bailouts. If we don't cut spending, the national debt will continue to rise by at least $2T every year. The interest payment alone on #38.4T is over $1T per year, which is 14% of the debt. Let's ask Castor to submit to a forensic audit so we know where her millions came from on a $174K salary per year? Let's find out where the money went. America first!

3. **Claim: "No matter your political stripes, no one wants to see a reckless Gestapo-like force harassing innocent Americans. That's why I did not vote to approve the Department of Homeland Security funding bill this week."**

   - **Truth**: Castor voted against H.R. 7147 (DHS Appropriations Act, 2026), passed 220-207 (House) and later reconciled. The bill funds border security, disaster response, and law enforcement, not "Gestapo" tactics. The Renee Nicole Good incident (January 7, 2026, Minneapolis) involved self-defense (video shows Good ramming an SUV at agents); DHS labeled it domestic terrorism. Castor's inflammatory rhetoric endangers law enforcement and ignores facts.
   - **Rochford Solution**: Fund secure borders and law enforcement, reform immigration fairly (legal entry prioritized, criminals removed), and hold abusers accountable, without smearing officers. My Immigration Reform Act will help resolve these issues and bring normalcy to immigration.

4. **Claim: "We will celebrate America's 250th birthday this year - a time that we can recommit to standing up for our values - as I commit to making your life better."**

   - **Truth**: Castor's "commitment" rings hollow after 20 years of failed leadership: opposition to school choice, support for gender-affirming care for minors, and alignment with policies that raised costs and weakened security.
   - **Rochford Solution**: Deliver real results, Children's Bill of Rights to protect children and parental rights, fiscal discipline, veteran support, and America First policies to protect families and communities and reduce our national debt.

"Castor's newsletter is deflection, not leadership," Rochford added. "Tampa Bay needs a fighter who tells the truth and delivers results. Someone who has served before and is ready to serve again. FL-14 is flippable; let's flip it for accountability, affordability, America First and for Tampa Bay."

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