



# PRESS RELEASE



## **Rocky Rochford Responds to Rep. Kathy Castor's Latest Newsletter: After 20 Years of Failure, Tampa Can't Afford More Excuses**

**TAMPA, Florida, December 20, 2025** – Today, Republican congressional candidate Rocky Rochford issued a blistering response to U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor's latest newsletter, which touts meaningless procedural stunts while Tampa families drown in skyrocketing costs after nearly two decades of her failed leadership.



"Rep. Castor's latest email is the perfect snapshot of everything wrong with Washington career politicians: endless words, nonstop blame, and zero accountability. After almost 20 years in Congress, Tampa families are being crushed by record-high rent, crippling utility bills, outrageous grocery prices, and vanishing opportunities to get ahead. If speeches, floor statements, and self-congratulatory newsletters actually fixed anything, these crises would have been solved decades ago. They haven't, because she hasn't delivered.

"Castor brags about procedural gimmicks like discharge petitions and teases votes 'sometime in January,' but families aren't paying their crushing bills with parliamentary tricks; they need results. Her record is a disaster, plain and simple."

### **On Health Care**

Rep. Castor attacks Republicans while stubbornly defending a broken system she helped create, one where costs explode every single year, and access gets worse for hardworking families. Vague promises of future votes do absolutely nothing for the Tampa parents skipping doctor visits or rationing prescriptions right now. Premiums are through the roof, deductibles are punishing, and too many neighbors are one medical emergency away from financial ruin. This is a catastrophic failure, not leadership.

"I will fight for immediate, aggressive reforms: massively expanding telehealth across Florida, forcing drug manufacturers to the table for direct price negotiations, and flooding Tampa clinics with incentives for preventive care. These bold actions will slash out-of-pocket costs fast, delivering real relief now, not empty promises for sometime in January."

### **On Energy**

She claims she's fighting for lower utility bills, but the reality is brutal: Tampa Electric customers are getting hammered with record-high rates, with typical bills jumping to \$145.58 for 1,000 kWh starting January 2025, another painful increase rubber-stamped on her watch. Decades of suffocating regulations and ideologically driven energy policies have driven instability, punished reliable sources, and slammed low- and fixed-





income families with bills they can barely pay. This is an energy crisis hitting Tampa kitchens and budgets every month.

"I will push an aggressive all-of-the-above strategy: fast-tracking permits for natural gas and renewables, slashing bureaucratic red tape strangling our grids, and forcing partnerships with utilities like TECO for immediate rate caps and substantial efficiency rebates. We will drive bills down in months, not decades of failure."

### **On Venezuela**

Castor correctly labels Nicolás Maduro a brutal dictator, then stops there, offering nothing but more criticism and partisan blame-shifting. Her weak approach ignores how failed border enforcement and foreign policy disasters have supercharged the fentanyl flood, destroying Florida communities and empowering thugs like Maduro. Deadly drugs are pouring across the border, ripping apart Tampa families with addiction and overdose deaths, while Venezuelan refugees here watch their homeland collapse without real American strength.

"I will lead with decisive action: coordinating with allies for crippling targeted sanctions on Maduro's inner circle, locking down the border to stop fentanyl dead in its tracks, and ramping up direct humanitarian support for Venezuelan families rebuilding lives in Tampa. We will turn tough talk into real victories with law enforcement and global partners."

### **On Accountability**

Castor demands accountability on war powers and distant foreign issues, but when it comes to the devastating cost-of-living catastrophe exploding on her watch right here in Tampa, she dodges all responsibility. She lectures about oversight abroad while refusing to own the inflation, housing collapse, and economic pain crushing local families and never admitting failure, never offering real fixes.

"I will demand accountability starting at home: hosting no-frills town halls with zero cameras to hear straight from struggling residents, ruthlessly auditing billions in wasteful Washington spending, and redirecting every possible dollar to Tampa priorities like aggressive housing subsidies and high-impact job training. We will measure success by families thriving, not by press releases or excuses."

"This contrast couldn't be starker: Career politicians like Kathy Castor survive on talk, blame, and photo-ops while Tampa suffers. I will fight relentlessly, showing up without cameras, listening without lecturing, and delivering the bold, immediate results families desperately need."

"Her 20-year record proves the status quo is crushing our community. Tampa families are at a breaking point. We can't wait any longer, it's time for real change, now!"

**Contact:** Campaign Press Office - Rocky Rochford for Congress  
Jaime Arellano Harding | 786.223.4653 | Email: [Jaime@rocky4congress.com](mailto:Jaime@rocky4congress.com)  
Website: [www.rocky4congress.com](http://www.rocky4congress.com)

