



Written by [Annalisa Pesek](#) on May 6, 2022

Published in the May 30, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 10

DeSantis Shocks the System! He No Longer Is Playing Defense

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis — what a hero, to *most* conservatives! The RINOs say he is “over the line,” though when have they had the courage to stand up to the bullies, much less tackle them? DeSantis is on offense, and he’s making the right play by retaliating against the Walt Disney Corporation, not for its “woke” viewpoints, but because nowhere in the U.S. or Florida Constitutions does it say that Disney, or any corporation, has a right to special tax breaks. Period.



AP Images

In fact, as per the Florida Constitution, Section 11, “There shall be no special law or general law of local application pertaining to: private incorporation or grant of privilege to a private corporation.”

Further, the children’s entertainment giant publicly attempted to “commandeer the democratic process” by announcing its goal to overturn Florida law, demanding the new “Parental Rights in Education” bill “be repealed by the legislature or struck down in the court,” all the while threatening to withhold political donations if that didn’t happen.

Defending the rights of parents to make appropriate decisions for *their* children, DeSantis is also standing against a company exposed for its “not-at-all-secret gay agenda” and regularly “adding queerness” to its children’s programming. The governor will not allow the grooming of children in Florida, and conservatives are grateful.

Don’t Mess With Florida!

“This company had a deal unlike any other company in the state of Florida or in the United States,” explained DeSantis, appearing on *Tucker Carlson Tonight*. “They were self-governing, had extraordinary powers, they could build nuclear power plants, no permitting processes, a lot of tax benefits.”

He continued, “that’s just inappropriate and it’s certainly inappropriate that they pledged themselves to mobilize their considerable corporate resources out of the coffers of this Burbank, California, corporation to overturn the rights of parents in Florida, effectively [to] commandeer our democratic process. That is something we object to.”

DeSantis signed Senate Bill 4C, stripping Disney of its special districting status on April 22, shocking some prominent members of the conservative movement. Constitutional lawyer and former Trump advisor Jenna Ellis and former Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly both say Disney was exercising its right to free speech by opposing the so-called Don’t Say Gay bill, and question the legality of DeSantis’s move to disband the special district.

Yet as commentator Matt Walsh incisively remarked on *The Matt Walsh Show*, “you don’t have a First



Written by [Annalisa Pesek](#) on May 6, 2022

Published in the May 30, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 10

Amendment right to tax privileges. We're so used to Republicans just being milquetoast and just being speed bumps lying down on the road and hoping they can slow the progress of the Left slightly as they run right over you. If you're used to that, it becomes a shock to the system when you don't see it."

Disney has long been running over us, using its expansive resources to support child indoctrination and abuse. Now, having been sent the message that it is not in the interest of Floridians for Disney to maintain special privileges, perhaps it will change course.

Unanswered Questions

However, the disbanding of the Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID), which houses the Disney World Resort, may be a complicated endeavor.

Epoch Times reporter John Haughey asserted that "disbanding the 55-year-old RCID could have significant impacts on Orange and Osceola County taxpayers." Haughey quoted Orange County tax collector Scott Randolph, who claimed, "Reedy Creek collects about \$105 million a year to provide services inside Disney World, essentially taxing itself. Once the special taxing district is dissolved, that special taxing power is defunct." Randolph further suggested, "the counties would also absorb between \$1 billion and \$1.7 billion in RCID bond debt."

Yet how would shutting down tax privileges for Disney increase taxes for other Reedy Creek residents? Why is Disney not responsible for these debts? These questions remain unanswered as the saga continues to develop.

Christina Pushaw, DeSantis' press secretary, tried to provide some clarity, tweeting on April 28: "Disney will pay its fair share of taxes. Floridians, including residents of Orange and Osceola Counties, will not be on the hook. Do not fall for another partisan political lie amplified by the media."

Exposing the Disney Agenda

Christopher Rufo, a fellow and director of the initiative on critical race theory (CRT) at the Manhattan Institute, reported in early April that "Disney executives organized an all-hands meeting, called the 'Reimagine Tomorrow Conversation Series,' and pledged to mobilize the entire corporation in service of the 'LGBTQIA+ community.'"

In the wake of Rufo's exposure of Disney's shameless "pro-queer" agenda, Disney stocks have plummeted and protests against the company are occurring at the theme parks.

The *Washington Examiner* reported that Disney has lost a whopping \$50 billion since early March. "Disney's stock was down more than two percent on Friday [April 22] and by more than 8.5 percent over the past few days as Florida lawmakers work to punish the company for wading into the state's politics," read the report. Moreover, "the stock's market cap has declined by about \$46.6 billion since March 1, just days before the company came out against the legislation."

Not surprisingly, Disney executives, both former and current, responded to the controversial Florida bill but remained silent about the company's "woke" campaign and its loss of capital. Bob Eiger, former head of Disney, tweeted that the Florida law was immoral. In an interview with anchor Chris Wallace of the now-defunct CNN+, Eiger said, "To me it [the bill] wasn't about politics. It is about what is right and what is wrong, and that just seemed wrong. It seemed potentially harmful to kids."



Written by [Annalisa Pesek](#) on May 6, 2022

Published in the May 30, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 10

Notably, polling by Public Opinion Strategies found that two-thirds of voters believe it is inappropriate for teachers or school personnel to discuss gender identity with children in kindergarten through third grade.

But current Disney CEO Bob Chapek heard from those employees who want sexual politics jammed down children's throats. He wrote in a March 7 memo that "corporate statements do very little to change outcomes or minds," yet ultimately caved to employees of Disney who agreed with Eiger's statements and were spurred on by his stance.

"I pledge to be a better ally," said Chapek at a town hall with workers who pressured him to take on the Florida Legislature. "I know that our silence wasn't just about the bill in Florida, but about every time we didn't stand up. Your words have made a real impact on me. Your words have changed my mind."

DeSantis Is Moving Forward

If DeSantis has Disney pay taxes as does everyone else, the largest employer in the Sunshine State will no longer operate as its own independent country.

Reacting to the move, Walsh said, "I've never seen anything like it. To see people going on the offense is somewhat of a shock to the system. The Right isn't used to it."

With Disney stocks plunging — now sitting at just \$115.77 per share (down from \$145.70) — and protests ongoing, the "woke" kingdom is losing its magic. Yet DeSantis is moving forward, and the battle continues to rage.



Written by [Annalisa Pesek](#) on May 6, 2022

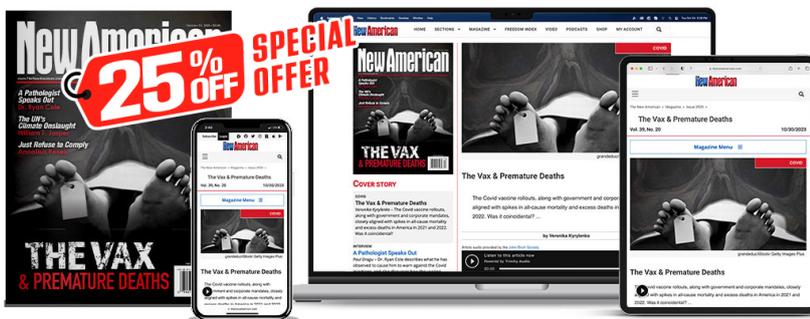
Published in the May 30, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 10

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.