

Ron DeSantis enters 2024 presidential race

■ **1978:** Born to parents of Italian descent in Jacksonville, Florida

■ **1997-2003:** Studies history at Yale, going on to graduate with honours from Harvard Law School

■ **2004:** Commissioned into U.S. Navy – service includes work with Guantanamo Bay detainees and assignment as legal adviser for elite Navy Seals in Iraq

■ **2010:** Marries TV reporter **Casey Black** (right) – couple have three children

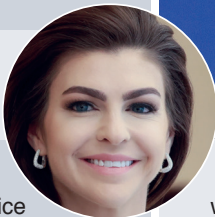
■ **2011:** Becomes federal prosecutor after end of active naval service

■ **2012:** Elected to House of Representatives. Co-founds “Freedom Caucus” of hard-right conservatives

■ **2019:** Becomes governor of Florida after election campaign fully endorsed by then-President **Donald Trump**

■ **2020:** Covid-19 pandemic – DeSantis controversially lifts restrictions much earlier than other state governors

■ **Mar 2022:** “Don’t Say Gay” bill, banning discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools, sparks legal battle between **Disney** and DeSantis



■ **Apr:** Signs bill allowing gun owners to carry guns in public without government-issued permit

■ **Sep:** Accused of “weaponising” migrants after flying undocumented immigrants to Martha’s Vineyard – liberal enclave in Massachusetts

■ **Nov 8:** Re-elected as Florida governor in landslide victory

■ **Apr 2023:** Signs “Heartbeat Protection Act”, banning most abortions after six weeks

■ **May 24:** DeSantis announces presidential bid in online appearance with Twitter CEO **Elon Musk**

