

In May 2017, he announced he was running for Florida governor in the 2018 election. Putnam lost the Republican nomination to Governor Ron DeSantis.^[2]

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Early life, education, and career



representing parts of Polk County. At 22 years old, he was the youngest person ever elected to the Florida Legislature.^[3] He was reelected to a second term in 1998. While in the state house, he served as chair of the Agriculture Committee.^[4]

U.S. House of Representatives



Succeeded by Dennis Ross

In 2000, Putnam ran for the U.S. House seat being vacated by retiring Congressman [Charles Canady](#). The district, numbered the 12th, included all of Putnam's house constituency as well as other areas of Polk County and rural Central Florida. He faced no opposition in the Republican primary, and defeated Democrat Mike Stedem in the general election, 57 to 43%.^[5] Taking office when he was 26 years old, Putnam was the [youngest member of Congress](#) from 2001 to 2005. Putnam was reelected in 2002 to a redistricted seat that included most of Polk County as well as parts of neighboring [Hillsborough](#) and [Osceola Counties](#).^[6] He was reelected three more times after that, serving a total of ten years in Congress.

Committee assignments

- [Committee on Financial Services](#)
 - [Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises](#)
 - [Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity](#)

Tenure

On October 10, 2002, Putnam voted in favor of authorizing the [invasion of Iraq](#).^[7]

In February 2006, Putnam became a member of the House leadership, assuming the role of chairman of the [House Republican Policy Committee](#), the fifth-ranking Republican leadership position in the House. In November 2006, Putnam was elected by his colleagues as [House Republican Conference Chairman](#), the third-highest ranking position.^[8] Following House Republican losses in the 2008 general election, he resigned his post as Conference Chairman. In 2010 *The Florida Independent* reported that Putnam had earmarked \$100,000 for an abscission chemical used in citrus harvesting that *The Florida Independents* said would benefit his family's citrus business.^[9]

Putnam was a signatory to the [Taxpayer Protection Pledge](#).^[10]

Gonzales' ouster

After the numerous calls by Democrats, including Rep [Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-CA), [Speaker of the House](#) and [Senate Majority Leader](#) Sen. [Harry Reid](#) (D-NV), Putnam became the top Republican in either house to call for the ouster of former [U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales](#). "For the good of the nation, I think it is time for fresh leadership at the [Department of Justice](#)", Putnam said.^[11] This was met with surprise by many Republicans, who were remaining silent on the Gonzales issue. However, Putnam mentioned that there remained severe discontent within the GOP circle over Gonzales and as the Chairman of the [House Republican Conference](#), he thought that it was important to send this message out.^[11]

Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

In February 2009, Putnam declared himself a candidate for [Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#) in the 2010 election and that he would not seek a sixth term in Congress.^[12] Putnam won the election over Democratic opponent [Scott Maddox](#) with 56% of the vote. He was reelected in 2014.

As head of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Putnam was responsible for issuing concealed weapons permits after conducting background checks on applicants.^{[13][14]} An investigation by the Office of Inspector General found that from February 2016 until May 2017 the department stopped conducting national background checks on applicants for concealed weapons permits, because a worker could not log into an [FBI database](#). More than 100,000 concealed carry permits were issued during this period without full screening. Putnam later said that 365 applicants should have been further backgrounded, and that 291 permits ended up being revoked for noncriminal disqualifying factors (drug abuse, mental illness, fugitives).^[15] Putnam pointed out

Member of the Florida House of Representatives from the 63rd district	
In office	
November 5, 1996 – November 7, 2000	
Preceded by	Dean Saunders ^[1]
Succeeded by	Dennis Ross
Personal details	
Born	Adam Hughes Putnam <div></div> July 31, 1974 <div></div> Bartow, Florida, U.S.
Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Melissa Putnam
Education	University of Florida (BS)
Website	Official website

that concealed carry permits do not allow gun purchases, which require a background check at the time of purchase. Florida Governor Rick Scott said that the incident was "disturbing" and "concerning" adding, "People need to do their jobs. This is public safety."^[13] Additional failures in conducting proper reviews of gun permit applications were reported in a 2012 report of the inspector general, including the issuance of gun licenses to felons, which occurred during the first years of Putnam's tenure, although certain instances occurred before Putnam's tenure.^[16]

Gubernatorial campaign

In May 2017, Putnam announced his campaign for Florida governor in the 2018 election. He was one of eight candidates running for the Republican party nomination but was defeated in the 2018 primary by Ron Desantis^[2] As of April 2018, Putnam's campaign had acquired \$19.2 million in campaign contributions, far more than any other candidate.^[17] His PAC, Florida Grown, has received large contributions from Walt Disney Company (\$824,442), Publix (\$736,000), Florida Power and Light (\$587,060), and U.S. Sugar (\$560,000).^[18] The donations from Publix to Adam Putnam drew public protest, including a die-in at a Publix supermarket, resulting from Putnam's claim of being a "proud NRA sell-out."^{[49][20]}

Electoral history

Florida State House 63rd District Election, 1996			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam	23,717	57.26
Democratic	Bob Stein	17,703	42.74

Florida State House 63rd District Election, 1998			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	20,568	61.76
Democratic	Kim Grady	12,736	38.24

Florida's 12th Congressional District Election, 2000			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam	125,224	57.0
Democratic	Mike Stedem	94,395	43.0
Write-in	Rubye Harrison	3	0.0
Write-in	Don Kennedy	3	0.0

Florida's 12th Congressional District Election, 2002			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	n/a	100.0

Florida's 12th Congressional District Republican Primary Election, 2004			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	42,605	92.3
Republican	Robert Wirengard	3,546	7.7

Florida's 12th Congressional District Election, 2004			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	179,204	64.9
Democratic	Bob Hagenmaier	96,965	35.1

Florida's 12th Congressional District Election, 2006			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	124,452	69.1
No Party Affiliation	Joe Viscusi	34,976	19.4
No Party Affiliation	Ed Bowlin	20,636	11.5

Florida's 12th Congressional District Election, 2008			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	185,698	57.5
Democratic	Doug Tudor	137,465	42.5

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Election, 2010			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam	2,908,086	55.9
Democratic	Scott Maddox	1,983,277	38.1
TEA Party	Ira Chester	203,598	3.9
No Party Affiliation	Thad Hamilton	103,717	2.0

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Election, 2014			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Adam Putnam (inc.)	3,342,392	58.7
Democratic	Thaddeus "Thad" Hamilton	2,356,178	41.3
Write-in	Jeffrey Obos	213	0.0

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External links

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- Biography at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Profile at Vote Smart
- Financial information (federal office) at the Federal Election Commission
- Appearances on C-SPAN
- "Opie's All Grown Up Now", *US News and World Report*, December 3, 2006
- "Opie?" , *National Review*, July 30, 2007

<u>Florida House of Representatives</u>		
Preceded by <u>Dean Saunders</u>	<u>Member of the Florida House of Representatives</u> from the <u>63rd district</u> 1996–2000	Succeeded by <u>Dennis Ross</u>
<u>U.S. House of Representatives</u>		
Preceded by <u>Charles Canady</u>	<u>Member of the U.S. House of Representatives</u> from <u>Florida's 12th congressional district</u> 2001–2011	Succeeded by <u>Dennis Ross</u>
Honorary titles		
Preceded by <u>Harold Ford</u>	<u>Baby of the House</u> 2001–2005	Succeeded by <u>Patrick McHenry</u>
Party political offices		
Preceded by <u>John Shadegg</u>	<u>Chair of the House Republican Policy Committee</u> 2006–2007	Succeeded by <u>Thad McCotter</u>
Preceded by <u>Deborah Pryce</u>	<u>Chair of the House Republican Conference</u> 2007–2009	Succeeded by <u>Mike Pence</u>
Preceded by <u>Charles H. Bronson</u>	<u>Republican nominee for Agriculture Commissioner of Florida</u> 2010, 2014	Succeeded by <u>Matt Caldwell</u>
Political offices		
Preceded by <u>Charles Bronson</u>	<u>Agriculture Commissioner of Florida</u> 2011–present	Succeeded by <u>Nikki Fried</u> Elect

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