

# [***Is It Ron Dee-Santis Or Deh-Santis ? Trump Sees A Conspiracy Either Way***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68CD-9D21-JBCM-F085-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 547 words

**Byline:** Sara Dorn, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** DeSantis has switched between pronouncing his name Dee-Santis and Duh-Santis over the years, creating confusion among voters and media.

**Body**

**Topline**

Former President Donald Trump mocked Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) over his tendency to mispronounce his own name, a perplexity that has bewildered Floridians whohave saidfor years they re unsure how to say their governor s surname.

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Former President Donald Trump mocked his 2024 competitor Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) for switching up the pronunciation of his last name.

Alex Brandon/AP Photo

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**Key Facts**

Trump, using his own preferred name for DeSantis, Rob DeSanctimonious, told his 5.3 million Truth Social followers Thursday his former ally wants to change his name and is demanding that people call him DeeeSantis, rather than DaSantis.

Trump said he was happy that DeSantis appears to be shifting toward the Dee pronunciation, because Da has a nicer flow.

DeSantis hasn t actually pronounced his name Da-Santis, but has repeatedly shifted between Dee-Santis, which he used in a video announcing his candidacy for president last week, and Deh-Santis or Duh-Santis, as he called himself in multiple subsequent interviews.

According to Google's pronunciation tool, DeSantis is technically pronounced Duh-san-tuhs.

The confusion has been brewing since DeSantis entrance into national ***politics***: While running for Congress in 2012, DeSantis repeatedly used the Dee pronunciation, but is seen in videos during his time in Congress introducing himself as Deh-Santis.

In one particularly blatant display of contrast, the Florida Supreme Court judge who administered his oath of office in January pronounced his name Dee-Santis, only for DeSantis to say I, Ron Deh-Santis.

**Chief Critic**

DeSantis said Trump s criticism of the pronunciation issue was so juvenile and so petty in an interview with New Hampshire radio host Jack Heath on Thursday, adding: I think that's one of the reasons he's not in the White House now, because I think he alienated too many voters, for things that really don't matter. DeSantis campaign spokesperson Andrew Romeo directed**Forbes**to the Heath interview when asked how to correctly pronounce the governor s name.

**Tangent**

In 2018, the**Tampa Bay Times**made some headway on the mystery, sort of his nickname was Dee in high school, the paperreported, and his campaign spokesperson at the time, Stephen Lawson admitted the dilemma had been a little controversial on the campaign trail, explaining the then gubernatorial candidate uses Dee-Santis, but his wife Casey DeSantis prefers Deh-Santis.

**Surprising Fact**

DeSantis name was pronounced Deh-Santis at his 2009 Disney World wedding, Jacksonville news stationJax4 reported, citing a source who attended.

**What To Watch For**

How DeSantis will pronounce his name in the obligatory disclaimers featured at the end of video and radio ads authorized by his campaign. According to Federal Election Commission rules, candidates must deliver an audio statement identifying themself and stating that the candidate has approved of the communication, either through a voice-over accompanied by an image of the candidate or a direct video message.

**Further Reading**

Ron DeSantis Can t Decide How to Pronounce His Own Name (New York Magazine)

Dee-Santis or Deh-Santis? His team won't say (Axios)

Deh-Santis or Dee-Santis? Even He Has Been Inconsistent(Forbes)

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2023

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