

CAPITAL REPORT

FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

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EARLY VOTING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

As active members of our communities, dentists often participate in civic events. One of the most important of all civic duties available is the right to vote. Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. Given professional and personal demands, some dentists find it difficult to go to the polls and vote on Election Day.

There are two voting alternatives to casting your ballot on Election Day, absentee balloting and early voting. In order to receive an absentee ballot in the mail, a form must be requested from the office of your Supervisor of Elections. Regulations require that the completed form be returned to the office of Supervisor of Elections by a certain time in order for the vote to count.

More recently, Floridians have relied upon early voting opportunities. This process allows you to physically show up at precincts designated for early voting and cast a ballot in the same manner you would on Election Day. Contact your Supervisor of Elections Office for locations offering early voting opportunities.

FLADPAC PRIMARY ELECTION REPORT
Primary Election results were favorable for FLADPAC/DENTPAC supported candidates. Twenty-two of the thirty-two dental PAC supported candidates appearing on the Primary ballot were successful, a winning percentage of 69%. When these Primary candidates are combined with dental PAC supported candidates facing opposition in the General Election, 56 of the total 66 candidates (84%) continue in their election bid.

FLADPAC also posted Primary victories in both of its statewide endorsements: Charlie Crist for Governor and Tom Lee for CFO. Charles Bronson, the incumbent and FLADPAC endorsed candidate for Agriculture Commissioner, faces only General Election opposition.

LIST OF SUPPORTED GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

A complete list of all General Election candidates supported by FLADPAC and DENTPAC will be published in the fall issue of *PACPower*, coming to FLADPAC members shortly. The candidate districts are divided by FDA Component for your convenience. Please take time to review the candidates in your area before casting your ballot. Other FLADPAC member outreach programs such as an electronic newsletter will also be forthcoming.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PILOT PROJECT CONTRACT RENEWED

In spite of requests by the FDA and several legislators, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) has negotiated a new two-year contract with Atlantic Dental Incorporated (ADI) for the managed care dental pilot project in Miami-Dade County. In an attempt to address our concerns, AHCA requires ADI to submit a Performance Improvement Project (PIP) to AHCA which addresses provider participation and satisfaction. The contract will run until August 31, 2008. FDA staff will continue to monitor this pilot project closely.

MEDICAID REFORM IN BROWARD AND DUVAL COUNTIES

Medicaid reform is well under way in Broward and Duval Counties. Eligible Medicaid recipients are going through the

process of choosing plans that best fit their health needs. The Agency has made available Choice Counselors to assist Medicaid recipients in choosing their plans. Additionally, the Agency has rolled out the Enhanced Benefit Account Program, which will allow Medicaid recipients to earn up to \$125 to purchase specific over-the-counter supplies and medicines for practicing healthy behaviors. For example, taking children to their scheduled dental/wellness appointments would be considered a healthy behavior qualifying and individual to earn \$25 worth of credit.

DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL 2007

Mark your calendars! Dentists' Day on the Hill will be on Tuesday, April 17 and Wednesday, April 18, 2006 in Tallahassee. Dentists' Day provides members the opportunity to learn the FDA's legislative issues and discuss the issues with their state senators and representatives. The FDA has secured a room block for the night of Tuesday, April 17th at the Courtyard Marriott and Quality Inn & Suites both located on Appalachee Parkway. To reserve a room at Courtyard Marriott, call (850) 222-8822. To reserve a room at Quality Inn & Suites, call (850) 877-4437. For more information or to register for Dentists' Day on the Hill, call the FDA Governmental Affairs Office at (800) 326-0051 or visit

<http://www.floridadental.org/pro/members/governmental/hill.html>.

FLORIDA SENIOR CARE WAIVER APPLICATION APPROVED

This month, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Florida's request for new concurrent Medicaid waivers to establish an integrated, long-term care, capitated delivery system to Medicaid recipient. The waiver will be piloted in two areas of the state, Panhandle (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties) and Central Florida (Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties). The Panhandle has been identified as mandatory enrollment, while Central Florida will allow seniors to participate on a voluntarily basis. The proposed implementation of the Florida Senior Care pilot program is pending approval from the Florida Legislature

STATE OPENS PROGRAM INCREASING PROPERTY INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR DENTAL OFFICES

Responding from pleas by business groups and professional associations, such as the FDA, commercial insurance options were limited and in some cases impossible to obtain, prompted the State of Florida to recently open the Commercial Florida Property and Casualty Underwriting Association. FDA Services has been approved to write "wind coverage" in all Florida localities. Interested parties should contact FDAS at (800) 877-7597.

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