



## FLADPAC AND DENTPAC SUPPORTED MANY WINNING CANDIDATES IN GENERAL ELECTION

The general election was held on Tuesday, November 4. The Florida Dental Political Action Committee (FLADPAC) and the Dentists Political Action Committee (DENTPAC) contributed to many successful races this election year. In the Senate there were 15 general election races. Your PACs successfully contributed to all 15 Senate winners. In the House your PACs contributed to 67 races and only lost four of the 67 races. The 40 member Senate will have seven new senators and the 120 member House will have 35 new house members.

Congratulatory letters have been sent to all of the winners. For a list of general election results, visit <http://enight.dos.state.fl.us/>.

FDA staff would like to thank all FLADPAC members, members who contributed to campaigns and members who hosted or attended local fundraisers. Your efforts made this election year a success.

## SENATE AND HOUSE LEADERSHIP TEAM ANNOUNCED

Senate President Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach) and House Speaker Ray Sansom (R-Ft. Walton Beach) announced their leadership team for the 2009 and 2010 legislative sessions.

Sen. Atwater appointed Sen. Mike Fasano (R-New Port Richey) as the Senate President Pro Tempore and Sen. Alex Villalobos (R-Miami) as Chair of Senate Rules Committee.

Rep. Sansom appointed Rep. Larry Cretul (R-Ocala) Speaker Pro Tempore; Rep. Bill Galvano (R-Brandenton) Chair of Rules and Calendar; Rep. Elyn Bogdanoff (R-Ft. Lauderdale) Vice Chair of Rules and Calendar; Rep. Adam Hasner (R-Delray Beach) Majority Leader; Rep. Anitere Flores (R-Miami) Deputy Majority Leader; and Rep. Ron Reagan (R-Sarasota) Majority Whip and Floor Leader.

Additional leadership appointments, as well as Senate and House committee assignments, will take place sometime in December 2008.

These members will serve as the “eyes and ears” for the Senate President and the House Speaker during session. It is extremely important for all legislative contact dentists to help educate and inform them, as well as all members of the Legislature, on the importance and significance of potential legislation affecting dentistry.

## AHCA'S LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST PROPOSES CUTS TO ADULT DENTAL MEDICAID

Each year all governmental agencies are required to put a suggested budget proposal together for review by the Governor. These documents are called Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) and they are submitted individually by each agency for the Governor to consider. The Governor's budget request, which includes his own separate spending priorities and may or may not include items from the LBRs, is then provided to the Legislature. Unfortunately, due to the slump in the economy, Florida's budget will have to be cut by several billion dollars once again during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

In the recently released LBR from the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) there are two troubling proposals recommended for potential cost savings. The first proposal eliminates the recently added Medicaid coverage for partial dentures from the adult program for a cost savings of approximately \$706,000. The second proposal eliminates the entire adult dental Medicaid program for a cost savings of approximately \$14 million dollars. Dentists should not feel singled out however, there are also LBR proposals that eliminate chiropractic, podiatric, vision and hearing services completely.

It is too early to say whether the Governor will support these reductions when he compiles his own budget in early 2009. The Legislature has the final say in creating the budget during this very difficult year.

## HEALTH CARE ESTABLISHMENT PERMIT NOTICE

The 2008 Legislature adopted HB 7049 by House Healthcare Council that creates a health care establishment permit. The bill has been called a “clean-up” by drug manufacturers and the Department of Health and focuses on corrections to pedigree paper requirements contained in s. 499.01212, F.S.

Within the bill is a new requirement that a health care clinic establishment permit be obtained by any "place of business at one general physical location owned and operated by a professional corporation or professional limited liability company" for the purchase of a prescription drug. This new requirement is effective on Thursday, January 1, 2009. It will cost \$255 annually.

There is uncertainty surrounding the interpretation of the new law and who must get a permit to continue ordering prescription drugs. The conservative reading of the law suggests that any dentist who runs their business as a professional corporation or a limited liability company (LLC), regardless of the size of the practice, must have this permit to continue to order drugs. The liberal reading of the law suggests as long as you have a "qualified practitioner" (i.e., a DDS or DMD) on the billing invoice, you may or may not need the permit. This could be determined on a case-by-case basis.

We understand the need for the state to guarantee that prescription drugs are only shipped to qualified receivers; however, we hope it will not require all legitimate health care businesses to purchase yet another government permit. We will continue to monitor this issue very carefully and will provide periodic updates as necessary.

#### COVER FLORIDA PLAN SELECTS INSURANCE CARRIERS

During the 2008 session, the Governor pushed forth an initiative to provide cheaper health insurance for Florida's uninsured, which has been estimated to be close to four million people. The final product, "Cover Florida", was adopted in CS/CS/SB 2534 by Sen. Durrell Peadar (R-Crestview).

The Cover Florida plan was designed to cost less than \$150 per month for the basic option and more for the comprehensive plans. An invitation to bid was offered in early summer by the state seeking all interested insurance carriers who wanted to participate in these plans. Several companies made bids, some of which were recently approved. They will be available in early 2009 for Floridians ages 19-64, who have been without insurance for at least six months.

A press statement was released in late October from the Governor which in part stated, "The selected insurance companies have designated Cover Florida plan proposals that provide an affordable, quality health insurance product for Florida's uninsured citizens and maximize consumer choice. All approved carriers will offer consumers at least two plans, one with catastrophic and hospital coverage, and one without. Each Cover Florida plan will include a robust set of benefits, including – at a minimum – coverage for preventative services, screenings, office visits, outpatient and inpatient surgery, urgent care, prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, and diabetic supplies. The selected plans contain no

mandates for participation and no tax dollars are required to make the plans available to Floridians."

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida and United Healthcare were the two plans chosen for a statewide offering. Florida Health Care Plan has been approved for Volusia and Flagler Counties. Total Health Choice and Medica Health Plan of Florida were approved for Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. JMH Health plan was approved for only Miami-Dade.

Included in CS/CS/SB 2534 was an additional opportunity to provide coverage under "Cover Florida Plus", which could possibly include dental services as well as other services. FDA staff continues to monitor the Cover Florida Plus. At this time, no invitation to bid has been developed for the Plus plan, but we will keep you informed as it progresses forward.



#### LEGISLATORS IN NEED OF DENTAL CONTACTS

As the 2009 legislative session nears, there are many legislators who are in need of a legislative contact dentist. The Florida Dental Association's (FDA) Legislative Contact Dentist (LCD) program is designed to facilitate communication between legislators and local dentists. When a legislator is paired with a local dentist it provides a direct contact for essential information related to FDA policy to be delivered appropriately on behalf of the dental profession. By volunteering to be a LCD you become part of a team that legislators can trust as an important link to organized dentistry.

The following is a list of legislators who need a LCD:

- Sen. Nancy Detert (R-Venice)
- Sen. Rudy Garcia (R-Hialeah)
- Sen. Christopher Smith (D-West Palm Beach)
- Rep. Janet Adkins (R-Fernandina Beach)
- Rep. Esteban Bovo (R-Hialeah)
- Rep. Ronald Brise (D-Miami)
- Rep. Dwight Bullard (D-Miami)
- Rep. James Bush (D-Miami)
- Rep. Gwyn Clarke-Reed (D-Deerfield Beach)
- Rep. Chris Dorworth (R-Lake Mary)
- Rep. Brad Drake (R-DeFuniak Springs)
- Rep. Eric Eisnaugle (R-Orlando)
- Rep. Adam Fetterman (D-Port St. Lucie)
- Rep. Keith Fitzgerald (D-Sarasota)
- Rep. Erik Fresen (R-Miami)
- Rep. Luis Garcia (D-Miami Beach)
- Rep. Bill Heller (D-St. Petersburg)
- Rep. Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee)
- Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples)
- Rep. Dorothy Hukill (R-Port Orange)
- Rep. Kurt Kelly (R-Ocala)
- Rep. John Legg (R-Port Richey)
- Rep. Marlene O'Toole (R-Lady Lake)
- Rep. Scott Plakon (R-Longwood)
- Rep. Scott Randolph (D-Orlando)
- Rep. Lake Ray (R-Jacksonville)
- Rep. Betty Reed (D-Tampa)

- Rep. Ronald Renuart (R-Ponte Vedra Beach)
- Rep. Kenneth Roberson (R-Port Charlotte)
- Rep. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg)
- Rep. Darren Soto (D-Orlando)
- Rep. Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland)
- Rep. Dwayne Taylor (D-Daytona Beach)
- Rep. Nick Thompson (R-Fort Myers)
- Rep. John Tobia (R-Satellite Beach)
- Rep. Baxter Troutman (R-Winter Haven)
- Rep. Charles Van Zant (R-Keystone Heights)
- Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda (D-Tallahassee)
- Rep. John Wood (R-Winter Haven)

If you are interested in volunteering as a LCD, contact the FDA Governmental Affairs Office at 800-326-0051 or email Christine Mortham at [cmortham@floridadental.org](mailto:cmortham@floridadental.org). Florida dentists need your help in keeping our legislators informed; with your presence in the Capitol the voice of organized dentistry can be heard.

#### LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT

Rep. Marcelo Llorente (R-Miami) was first elected to serve House District 116 in 2002 and has been re-elected subsequently. His district covers part of Miami-Dade County. Rep. Llorente served as chair of the Constitution & Civil Law Committee and served as a member on the Education Innovation & Career Preparation Committee and the Safety and Security Council. His legislative contact dentist is Dr. Faustino Garcia of Coral Gables.



FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
 GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICE  
 118 E. Jefferson St. • Tallahassee, FL 32301  
 850.224.1089 • 800.326.0051 • Fax: 850.224.7058  
 • [gao@floridadental.org](mailto:gao@floridadental.org)

- Dan Buker, FDA Executive Director
- Joe Anne Hart, Director of Governmental Affairs
- Ron Watson, Lobbyist • Mary Edenfield, Lobbyist
- Christine Mortham, Administrative Assistant