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2006 Elections Special Edition

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Time for Final Choices

By Barney T. Bishop III

The 2006 election season is about to come to a close, and the private enterprise system that has been the foundation of America since our beginning over 225 years ago is going to once again survive and prosper.

For the first time in the last four decades, and perhaps for the first time ever, AIFSC endorsed statewide candidates for public office. This was not an easy step to take, (as evidenced by the fact so few business groups have done so), and I am so proud that our organization took this important step. In fact, you can go to our website at www.aif.com and select the "Endorsement" button on the right side and you can see who AIFSC and affiliated companies endorsed in the statewide races and in the state Senate and House races.

Most people expect that within a few days Charlie Crist and Jeff Kottkamp are going to be elected as the next Governor and Lt. Governor of Florida. This is important because these two gentlemen offer the best hope for our collective future. They have both served in the Florida legislature in their career and collectively boast an average of 90% on our voting records. So, take comfort in the fact that we have candidates on the GOP team that understand our issues and have proven their understanding of the value of the private enterprise system consistently.

I've felt for some time that the sleeper race this cycle is the under-publicized race for Attorney General: GOP lawyer-candidate Bill McCollum versus Democrat personal injury

trial lawyer-candidate Walter "Skip" Campbell. The stark contrasts in this race are unavoidable. Central Florida versus South Florida. Button down versus flamboyant. Consumer advocate versus corporate basher. This is an important race because these two candidates bring starkly different attributes to the table. McCollum has proven to be a valuable leader during his time in Congress and has proven his understanding of how important a prosperous business climate is to our citizens.

Sen. Campbell is one of the nicest individuals in the legislature and I've known him for many years. Even more so, he is competent. The problem is his ideology. Just as an example, last year he advocated a bill that would MANDATE health insurance for large employers! It would take a much larger column than this to tell you how bad that would be for Florida employers. The combination of his trial lawyer background and the anti-business bills he has pushed in the legislature, make the prospect of him becoming AG one of great concern to our business community.

Hopefully, this edition of *Employer Advocate* will be useful in helping you gather information on all the statewide candidates. Remember, above all else go and cast your vote on election day, nothing is more important than that! ■

Barney T. Bishop III is President & CEO of Associated Industries of Florida and affiliated companies (e-mail: bbishop@aif.com).



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2006 Election Season Brings About Many Changes

By Leslie Dughi

The 2006 election cycle will bring major changes to Florida's political environment which is a result of several factors. In 1992, Floridians approved the "Eight is Enough" constitutional amendment which changed the political environment forever. This initiative limited members of the Cabinet as well as Florida state legislators to serving no more than eight years in the same seat. The result is the entire Cabinet is up for election in 2006 .

The Democrats believe this election holds a unique opportunity to regain some of their lost power. As a result, they fielded two strong gubernatorial candidates as well as two viable candidates for Attorney General and Chief Financial Officer. Further, more Democratic candidates have filed to run for the Legislature this cycle, even in seats that historically vote Republican.

The Republican Party has continued to outraise the Democratic Party this season. Last reporting period, the Republicans raised a little over \$5 million for a total amount raised of \$28 million. In contrast, the Democratic party has raised a total of \$15 million overall. With less cash on hand, the Democrats will work to leverage what they consider to be a slump in Republican approval ratings to win seats in November. These issues and the specific details affecting individual races have made the 2006 cycle one of the most active election seasons in recent history.

When the dust settles following the November 2006 General Election, Floridians will have a new Governor, Attorney General and

Chief Financial Officer. The key race, is who will take over the Governor's mansion.

Governor

With Attorney General Charlie Crist's (R-Tampa) win over Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher (R-Miami) for the Republican nomination, the Republican party enters the general election with a moderate candidate who will most likely have crossover appeal with Democrats and Independents. With the primary election behind them, all Republicans have rallied around Crist, including Gallagher and the conservative voting block. In the last reporting period, Crist raised just over \$1.2 million for a total of \$17.5 million (another \$3 million in in-kind contributions).

Crist's choice for Lt. Governor, Rep. Jeff Kottkamp (R-Cape Coral) had a 93% AIF voting record during the last session. He has supported many important issues facing the business community during his time in the legislature.

On the Democratic side, Congressman Jim Davis (D-Tampa) bested Sen. Rod Smith (D-Gainesville) for that party's nomination. Smith has endorsed Davis for the general election. Davis raised approximately \$350,000 in the last reporting period for a total of \$5.6 million (\$3 million in in-kind contributions).

Jim Davis' choice for Lt. Gov. is former Florida Senator Daryl Jones (D-Miami). Jones is now a real estate investor and colonel in the Air Force Reserve. While serving in the Legislature, Jones had a 75% voting record with AIF.

Chief Financial Officer

Current Senate President Tom Lee (R-Brandon) beat Rep. Randy Johnson (R-Celebration) for the Republican nomination. If Crist performs as well as most insiders believe, Lee may very well see an advantage in this race.

Former Bank of America President Alex Sink is most likely the Democrat's strongest statewide candidate this cycle. The wife of

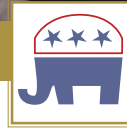
The 2007 Legislature

When the 2007 Legislative Session convenes on March 6, 2007, there will be a large number of new members who have not held legislative office and will make important policy decisions for Florida. This high number of "freshman" members is the continuing result of the eight-year term limits Florida voters approved in 1992. Overall, seven of the 40 Senators and 33 of the 120 House members will be Freshmen.

Following the General Election, the Legislature will hold its Organizational Session on November 21st for the purpose of swearing in new members and organizing their leadership team.

In an election year, the House and Senate typically hold meetings from December to February to receive reports on staff interim projects conducted over the summer and deliberate on legislation.

(continued on back page)



Charlie Crist

REPUBLICAN

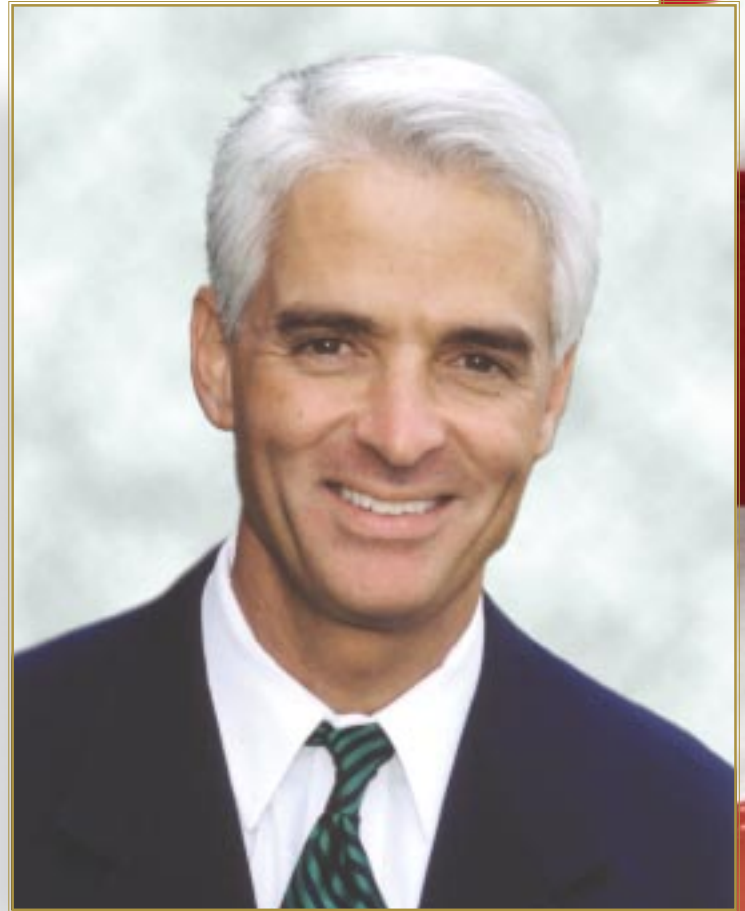
The path of Charlie Crist's life actually began more than four decades before he was born. Now, in a story straight out of the American dream, Charlie Crist is running for Governor of Florida, committed to the core principles of less taxes, less government and more freedom.

Nearly 100 years ago, a young man came to America from Cyprus seeking the promise of a better life that only America could provide. Starting out nearly penniless, this young man named Adam would shine shoes and come to own a small business, eventually raising a family of seven children. One of those would become a doctor who, together with his wife, would raise four children here in Florida. One of those four is Adam's grandson, Charlie Crist, who now seeks to serve as the next Governor of Florida.

Charlie Crist is a student of the lessons taught through his heritage and upbringing. Today he is a public servant defined by his tireless devotion to the citizens of Florida, his fundamental belief in the goodness of people, and his rock-solid commitment to the values that have made America the envy of freedom-loving people for more than two centuries.

Charlie Crist was born in 1956 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, but the family soon settled in St. Petersburg, where his father is a respected family physician. Charlie learned the importance of public service from an early age, beginning with his father's tenure on the Pinellas County School Board. As a public school student Charlie quickly learned the value of participation, leading him to serve as class president at St. Petersburg High School and, later, as student body vice president at Florida State University.

His leadership qualities carried into other pursuits. He was the starting quarterback in high



school and played at Wake Forest University before transferring and receiving his undergraduate degree from Florida State in 1978. Charlie then earned his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

Crist received invaluable experience in Florida's criminal justice system while interning in the State Attorney's Office, before accepting a position as general counsel for the minor league division of the Baseball Commissioner's Office. Charlie began his government service as state director for U.S. Senator Connie Mack before later returning to the private practice of law with the Tampa firm of Wood and Crist.

The desire to serve the public remained strong. In 1992, he campaigned for, and won, a seat in the Florida Senate, where he represented the interests of citizens concerned about such issues as education, crime, the environment and elder affairs. During his six years in the Senate, Crist served as Chairman of the Senate Ethics

and Elections Committee and as Chairman of the Appropriations Criminal Justice Subcommittee. A strong voice for public safety, he sponsored, among other legislation, the Stop Turning Out Prisoners (STOP) bill requiring prisoners to serve at least 85 percent of their prison sentences. This earned him numerous honors, including appointment as an Honorary Sheriff by the Florida Sheriffs Association—only the third person to receive the honor in the organization's long history.

After Charlie completed his Senate service, Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him as Deputy Secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. In 2000, Charlie won a special election and became Florida's last elected Commissioner of Education, where he worked with Gov. Bush to implement reforms in school accountability and directing more resources into Florida classrooms.

Charlie's path of public service next led him to seek election as Attorney General in 2002. He won a clear majority against two opponents in the Republican primary, and then carried the general election by more than one-third of a million votes to become Florida's first elected Republican Attorney General.

As Attorney General, Charlie Crist has been a tireless advocate for consumers, for law-abiding citizens, for innocent crime victims, and for those who have nowhere else to turn for help. Under his leadership, the Attorney General's Office has recovered millions of dollars for consumers ripped off by scam artists; prosecuted or sustained the convictions of hundreds of murderers, rapists and other criminals; crafted agreements that have protected the state's environmental resources and taxpayers; and promoted effective new tools to combat domestic violence, stop child abductions, prevent Medicaid fraud and address numerous other problems.

Charlie has worked with the Legislature to pass new laws that dramatically toughened the penalties for identity theft and counterfeiting or dealing in prescription drugs. He proposed and worked to pass Florida's landmark civil rights legislation, the Marvin Davies Civil Rights Act of 2003, to pursue those who engage in willful discrimination against others. He also won approval for legislation targeting those who

distribute illegal spam on the Internet.

Charlie Crist has long believed that the best way to earn the people's confidence is to do the job they have asked him to do. In offices ranging from the Legislature to the Cabinet, Charlie has done exactly that. Now he is asking his bosses—the people of Florida—for their vote to serve as their Governor.

The path that led Charlie Crist to this moment began in Cyprus more than nine decades ago. Today, he is ready to lead Florida onward down new paths of opportunity. Charlie Crist, the embodiment of the American Dream, is ready to be Governor. *(Bio provided by the Crist campaign.)*

Questionnaire

One of the most important issues to both Florida's businesses and its residents is affordable property insurance. What is your plan on how to lower the cost?

We have learned over the past two years that Florida will be hit by hurricanes. The only question is who will pay for their destruction—the government or the insurance industry. It is my fundamental belief that the insurance industry should assume the financial risk for hurricanes.

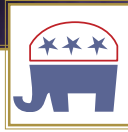
With that principle in mind, as a member of the Financial Services Commission, I have already taken steps to make insurance more affordable by seeking to lower the costs of reinsurance, approving a plan to help Florida's businesses obtain more affordable property insurance, and requiring Citizens Property Insurance Company to be more accountable and responsive to its policyholders.

In addition, I propose the following four-prong approach to begin bringing stability, integrity, and hope back for Florida's property owners:

1. Lower costs.

I will accomplish this goal by allowing insurers to access cheaper reinsurance through the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund more quickly.

Florida also needs a national catastrophic fund to bring stability to the market. I will work



with our congressional delegation, our partners in Washington and with other Governors to achieve that goal.

2. *Provide financial incentives to homeowners to adequately prepare their homes for natural disasters.*

I believe that investing more money to protect homes before storms means that Floridians will spend less to recover after storms.

As part of this proposal, I will require insurance companies to provide meaningful discounts on insurance premiums if homeowners adequately prepare their homes before storms.

3. *Demand transparency and accountability for insurance companies.*

I will work to ensure that Florida subsidiaries will not continue to demand record rate increases while their national parent companies make record profits.

I will require annual "report cards" for insurance companies, containing information on claims handling, consumer complaints, discounts for mitigation, and profit margins, to be published by the Insurance Consumer Advocate.

4. *Bring insurers to Florida and increase competition in the marketplace.*

I will work to end the practice where an insurance company is already in the business of selling homeowners insurance in other states but refuses to sell it here while continuing to sell more profitable lines like auto insurance to Florida consumers.

I will fight against this practice in order to bring more insurance companies to the marketplace. More insurers competing for business will ultimately lower prices.

Providing affordable insurance will require both Republicans and Democrats to work together to consider all good ideas, implement those ideas, and ensure that Florida is an affordable place for Florida's families.

Another important issue for everyone is education. What is your plan for expanding educational and workforce development opportunities in our state?

I will align Florida's education goals with the business community's needs.

Under my Administration, all high school

Lt. Governor



Jeff Kottkamp

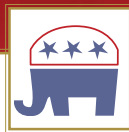
REPUBLICAN

Jeff Kottkamp lived in Indiana until 1977. He then moved to Southwest Florida in the Cape Coral area.

Jeff started his educational career first at Edison Community College in SW Florida where he received an A.A. degree in 1982. He then moved on to Florida State University where he received his B.S. in 1984. He then received a J.D. from the University of Florida in 1987, and was later admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

In 2000, he ran for the 74th district of Florida and won. During his time in the Legislature, Kottkamp has been Chairman of the following committees: Judiciary Appropriations, Government Operations and Judiciary. As a state legislator, Representative Kottkamp has received many distinguished honors throughout his career.

Recently, Jeff Kottkamp accepted the challenge that the Republican Gubernatorial nominee Charlie Crist bestowed upon him, when he agreed to be on the ticket as his Lt. Governor.



students in Florida should graduate from high school fully prepared to accomplish one of the following goals:

- enter the workplace;
- to pursue further career education, or
- to enter a post-secondary degree program.

To meet that goal, my administration will work with all sectors of Florida's academic community to foster cutting-edge research in critical subject areas and then will facilitate the transfer of that research to commercially viable sectors where a skilled workforce will be ready, willing and able to make those ideas a reality in Florida's economy. My initiatives include the following:

- Promote the development of public universities that will focus or increase their focus on math, science and engineering programs;
- Foster education and economic clusters through Centers of Excellence;
- Seamless implementation and continued support of Career and Professional Academies and the Ready to Work Certification Program;
- Grants to encourage the creation of public-private partnerships to develop charter technical centers to address workforce shortages in the cities they serve; and
- Encourage the academic and business communities to create regional workforce development centers to react quickly to market demand

The cost of health insurance continues to rise. Some believe Florida should implement the "fair share" health plan. Do you believe employers should be mandated to provide health insurance to their employees?

No. Instead, my administration will make it a top priority to increase the access and affordability of health insurance for all Floridians.

(A) Free-market solutions for small businesses: I will work to increase the flexibility and affordability of health plans for small groups by: Permitting more flexible plan and benefit designs: Floridians should not have to choose between "all or nothing." Rather than requiring rigid plan structures, I believe that Florida should allow the market to sell individualized

benefits packages that will serve health needs while being more affordable.

Permitting small groups to join together to leverage purchasing power: I will work on improving the efficiency for small businesses to achieve lower employee premiums when they join together to leverage their buying power.

(B) Consumer-driven healthcare options for all Floridians: I will move Florida in a direction where consumers gain more control over their healthcare decisions and spending, and where market dynamics keep costs affordable. As Governor, I will promote the expansion of Health Savings Accounts, through increased awareness about how the plans work and how Floridians may benefit from these options.

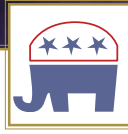
(C) Achieving federal participation in providing for the uninsured: The problem of covering the uninsured is not just a matter for individual states. I will take the lead nationally to bring federal funding to states that develop strategies for covering the uninsured. These coordinated federal and state efforts must:

Encourage personal responsibility and consumer-driven healthcare; Strengthen the private insurance market and offer free-market solutions; Cover catastrophic events and preventative care; and Redirect state dollars toward primary care medicine.

Further, I support interstate purchasing pools, called Association Health Plans, which would allow organizations to negotiate on an interstate basis on behalf of their members.

A recent development affecting employers statewide is the availability of affordable or "workforce" housing. As the next Governor of Florida, what policies would you advocate to address the lack of affordable housing across the state?

I will not promote an arbitrary cap on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund but will seek a solution that balances demands for affordable housing statewide. I will also work closely with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation as it implements the Community Workforce Housing Innovation Pilot Program. My Administration will support public-private partnerships that leverage private capital and public re-



sources, reduce the costs of developing affordable housing through regulatory incentives, and create housing opportunities for essential services personnel like nurses, police officers, and teachers.

“Hometown Democracy” is an initiative that is being supported by those who want to vote on every change to a land use plan in a community. Do you favor this initiative?

No. I believe in our representative form of democracy and oppose a referendum on every local land use decision because it would effectively constitute a moratorium on growth.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and/or goals for your administration?

1. *Education.* I will work to make Florida’s schools the best in the nation by

- maintaining high standards, accountability, and transparency;
- increasing the high school graduation rate to 95 percent by 2015;
- ensuring that every high school graduate is ready for the workforce, additional career training, or college when he or she graduates;
- increasing teacher salaries;
- providing every school in Florida with reading coaches; and
- working to ensure that Florida has no failing public schools.

2. *Lower Taxes.* I will work to keep taxes low and ensure that Florida is an affordable place for families to live by

- allowing counties to choose by referendum to double the Homestead Exemption;
- making the Save Our Homes cap portable statewide;
- reducing the state sales tax on telecommunications; and
- making Florida’s sales tax holidays permanent.

3. *Public Safety.* I will protect the safety of Floridians by passing the Anti-Murder Act to require violent felony offenders who violate probation to stay locked up; increasing penalties for soliciting children; sentencing repeat

sexual predators to life in prison; increasing the number of state officers and prosecutors who protect children from these predators; and improving law enforcement’s ability to monitor sexual predators.

What will be some of the first changes you will make to Florida after being elected?

I will seek to lower property taxes, hold the costs of property insurance down, continue to instill high expectations in Florida’s schools so that every child can succeed, and secure passage of the Anti-Murder Act that will require violent felony offenders who violate probation to remain in jail until a judge finds that they do not pose a danger to the community.

Why should the business community in Florida support your campaign for Governor?

I believe that government’s role is not to create jobs but to create a business-friendly environment by taking the following actions:

- Keeping taxes low and limiting government’s growth and power;
- Ensuring that Florida’s education infrastructure meets the private sector’s needs with world-class research institutions and a skilled workforce, and
- Protecting the Sunshine State’s vibrant quality of life with communities where Floridians can afford to work and play.

Finally, what is your message to Florida employers as they prepare to go to the polls in November to cast their vote for Governor?

I will create a robust, diverse economy that will attract and retain the best and brightest academic minds, the courageous entrepreneurs and risk-takers that create jobs and a highly skilled and savvy workforce. I will further stimulate the economy by reducing taxes, spending cash instead of creating debt, limiting the growth of government and setting aside savings for times of emergency.

Simply put, as Governor, I will nurture an economic climate that encourages diverse, high-wage businesses to expand and locate in Florida.

Farewell

By Liz Hirst

In just a few short months, Floridians will bid farewell to the state's 43rd Governor. The New Year marks the end of Jeb Bush's second term governing a place he so fondly describes as... "The Great State of Florida."

Championing great causes for the good of all Floridians has been the very foundation of Governor Bush's administration. He has been passionate and steadfast in his dedication to foster a strong and vibrant economy for Floridians today and for those of future generations. This commitment will be a fundamental ingredient in the great legacy this Governor will leave behind.

Over the past eight years, Governor Bush has been a shameless and tireless promoter of Florida and its business climate. He has taken bold steps to bolster business and economic interests that would improve the quality of life in Florida. He has tirelessly pursued bringing better paying jobs to the state and employer incentives to spur business growth. Bush understands the value that quality education — his number one priority — brings to the state's economy; often remarking that "an educated workforce is the foundation for a vibrant, diversified economy."

Bush has created a place where entrepreneurs are enticed and nurtured, attracting countless new and innovative companies to the Sunshine State. His outreach hasn't been limited to expanding companies already established within Florida or even the U.S. He also has worked to fuel global business development through trade missions as far away as South Africa, Israel, Latin America and Canada.

Jeb Bush, without a doubt, has been this state's most business savvy Governor. He has been a strong advocate for the business community over the years, standing particularly strong with AIF on two of its toughest legislative battles — tort reform and workers compensation.

We see his savvy in Florida's robust economy. Under Bush's leadership, Florida has been touted as the world's economic hot spot, creating more jobs than any other state in the

nation, an unemployment rate that is consistently lower than the national average and reputed as a haven for high-tech industry.

We see it in this year's historic repeal of joint and several liability. Bush was one of the strongest advocates behind meaningful tort reform to provide predictability and fairness to Florida's civil justice system and to prevent abusive litigation.

We see his savvy in the billions of dollars in tax relief he has brought to Floridians, most notably the repeal of the fundamentally unfair Intangibles Tax which penalized people for preparing for retirement by saving and investing over a lifetime.

We see it in his passion to protect Florida's more than seven-million workers and the business owners who employ them. Bush pushed for a workers compensation reform package that would increase benefits for injured workers and create incentives for employers to improve safety in workplaces.

Thank you Governor Bush; you have created a climate of success and an opportunity for greater prosperity for all Floridians. Associated Industries of Florida, and its members, salute Governor Bush for his bold and innovative leadership. Jeb Bush — a true "Champion for Business." ■

Liz Hirst is the Managing Director of CoreMessage, a Tallahassee public relations firm (e-mail: liz@coremessage.com).



Thank you Governor Bush; for supporting AIF's efforts to lower workers' comp rates and provide a balanced legal system for Florida's employers.



Governor Jeb Bush congratulates AIF's Jose Gonzalez, Barney Bishop, Keyna Cory, and Florida Coalition for Legal Reform Co-Chairs Tammy Perdue and John Thrasher on the historic passage of HB 145 — the repeal of Joint & Several Liability.



Jim Davis

DEMOCRAT

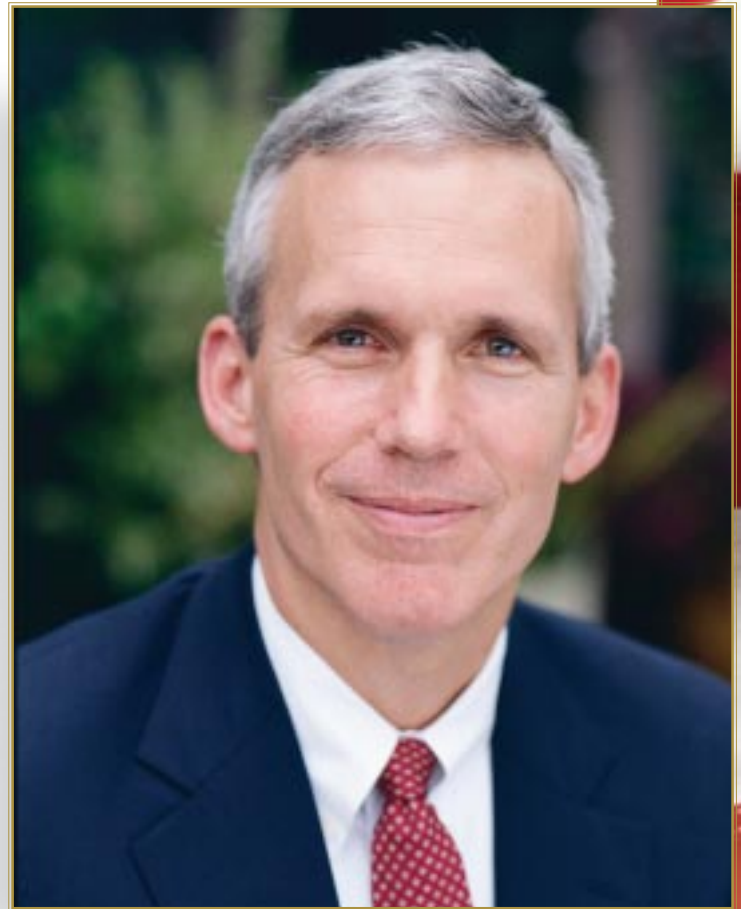
Jim Davis is an experienced, effective leader who listens to the needs and concerns of Floridians and gets results that make a difference to our families.

From the State House to Congress, Jim has earned a reputation as a smart, principled fighter for common sense solutions to the problems of ordinary people.

A fourth-generation Floridian, Jim learned early on the values of hard work, community service, and accountability. An important figure in Jim's childhood was his grandfather, Cody Fowler, a Tampa community leader who stood up for civil rights in the 1950's and fought to rid local government of corruption. From him, Jim learned the importance of standing up for what you believe is right, even if it's not the popular thing to do. He also learned that it is every citizen's right to be treated with respect — by their neighbor, by their community and by their government.

As an elected leader, Jim believes that respect means giving everyone a seat at the table and a voice in their own government. He understands that the best ideas and best solutions to the problems families face come from the people. That's how Jim has approached his job as state legislator, Florida House majority leader, and congressman. He brings people together to forge common sense solutions, and he gets results. That's what he will do as Governor.

As Majority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives in the mid-1990's, Jim brought together teachers, principals, parents and community leaders to address a growing



problem in Florida's schools — increasing class size. The result was a class size law that set manageable student-teacher ratios based on the input from people closest to the issue, and, most important, gave schools the resources they needed to meet these goals.

The class-size law was repealed by the current administration in Tallahassee. One reason Jim is running for Governor is to bring the voices of teachers, parents, principals and students back to the discussion of improving education and put our schools back on a path to success.

Jim brought the same approach of listening to Floridians and getting results to Washington when he was elected to Congress in 1996. When a Tampa postal worker told Jim that his mother was being kicked out of a nursing home be-

cause she was on Medicaid, Jim wrote and passed legislation to stop nursing homes from evicting low-income seniors. When Florida's schools started feeling the squeeze of a teacher shortage, Jim wrote and passed legislation helping schools recruit and train new teachers from the private sector. When oil companies tried to open up Florida's coastline for drilling, Jim led the bipartisan coalition that stopped them.

Jim is effective because he speaks up for Floridians and stands up for his principles. As Governor, Jim will open the doors of government in Tallahassee to all Floridians. He will make sure everyone's ideas are heard and fight for common sense solutions that move all Floridians forward to a brighter future. *(Bio provided by the Davis campaign.)*

Questionnaire

One of the most important issues to both Florida's businesses and its residents is affordable property insurance. What is your plan on how to lower the cost?

DAVIS: I've proposed a "Policyholders Bill of Rights" to protect the interests of Florida homeowners and business owners by holding insurance companies accountable for paying claims and charging fair rates. Florida policyholders must have access to affordable property insurance policies. Instead, policyholders are currently facing soaring insurance premiums with no relief in sight.

First, under my proposal I will appoint a Policyholder Advocate General who will be an advocate for homeowners and business owners. Second, we will also form public-private partnerships to make it easier for homeowners and business owners to get access to capital to hurricane-proof their property. Property that's better prepared to withstand a hurricane is

cheaper to insure. Third, I'll team up with governors around the country and continue the work that I've started in Congress to lobby for the creation of a national catastrophic fund. By distributing the risk associated with natural disasters, whether it's wildfires in the Mountain West, flooding in the Northeast or hurricanes in the Gulf Coast, we can reduce the cost of property insurance for policyholders across the country, especially in Florida.

Another important issue for everyone is education. What is your plan for expanding educational and workforce development opportunities in our state?

DAVIS: I'm running for governor to invest in our schools, teachers and students and build a highly skilled workforce here in Florida to attract good jobs to our state. Florida's promise to our children is a first-rate education that allows them to reach their highest potential and gives them the tools to compete in a global economy. We need a governor who will work every day to build that kind of world-class education system.

I've proposed Achieve Florida, a plan to overhaul the FCAT, raise standards and help struggling schools. I'll bring true accountability to Florida schools and make sure our children are exposed to the critical thinking and analytical skills they'll need to fill the high-quality, high-paying jobs of the future.

We need an education system that does more than teach to the test. I'm proposing to improve the quality of Florida's public schools by bringing true accountability and teaching kids critical thinking and analytical skills.

The cost of health insurance continues to rise. Some believe Florida should implement the "fair share" health plan. Do you believe employers should be mandated to provide health insurance to their employees?

DAVIS: We need to strengthen our health care system and increase access to affordable,



quality health care for millions of working Floridians. I've proposed a couple of ideas to lower the cost of health care and increase the number of working people who have access to affordable health care. First, we'll fully fund Florida KidCare so more working parents can get quality health care for their children. Second, I've proposed Florida join with other states to pool our purchasing power and negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to lower prices for Florida's state employees and retirees. Third, I've proposed establishing a program to allow seniors to purchase safe prescription medicine from licensed pharmacies in Canada. Fourth, I've proposed allowing small businesses to form purchasing co-ops that can negotiate better rates from insurance companies to cover their employees and their families. As governor, I'll make it a priority to see that Florida is no longer a state where wealth equals health. Working families shouldn't have to choose between paying their bills and getting needed medical care. Our families deserve better and as governor, more

Florida families will have access to quality, affordable health care.

I am opposed to mandating that employers provide health insurance and believe we should focus on making health care more affordable and increasing access to health care.

A recent development affecting employers statewide is the availability of affordable or "workforce" housing. As the next Governor of Florida, what policies would you advocate to address the lack of affordable housing across the state?

DAVIS: We need a serious commitment to address the affordable housing crisis. We should start by fully utilizing the housing dollars in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

In addition, I'll stop the raids on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and put the trust back in the trust funds. I'll make affordable housing a priority and fully use all allocated dollars for its intended purpose — providing housing for Florida's families. I'll work with the diverse coalition of organizations, businesses, and

Lt. Governor



Daryl Jones

DEMOCRAT

Daryl Jones was born in Jackson, Miss., at the height of the Civil Rights movement. He was part of the first group of students to attend integrated schools in his hometown. He was valedictorian of his high school and president of the Mississippi State Association of Student Councils.

Jones became the first African-American from Mississippi to attend any United States military academy when he was accepted to the Air Force Academy; he later graduated from the Academy with honors. He graduated cum laude from the University of Miami law school and was awarded the Iron Arrow Award, the school's highest honor.

He was elected to the Florida House in 1992 where he served two years and in 1994 he was elected to the Florida Senate where he served until 2002.

Jones was the first African-American to be nominated to be secretary of the Air Force. Jones is also the first African-American in Florida to be nominated as Lieutenant Governor .



advocates who are increasingly concerned about affordable housing to come up with innovative and effective ideas such as public-private partnerships and community land trusts.

“Hometown Democracy” is an initiative that is being supported by those who want to vote on every change to a land use plan in a community. Do you favor this initiative?

DAVIS: I’m opposed to the Hometown Democracy initiative. I believe voters should have a voice in growth plans, but putting up each plan to vote in a local election is not the best way to go about it.

If elected, what are your top three priorities and/or goals for your administration?

DAVIS: My top three priorities are simple: One, invest in Florida’s schools in order to build a world class education system to protect Florida’s place in the global economy. Two, lower property taxes by \$1 billion next year and offer tax relief to every Floridian. Three, stand up to the insurance companies and hold them accountable for paying claims and charging fair rates.

What will be some of the first changes you will make to Florida after being elected?

DAVIS: From the beginning, my administration will be fighting for the interests of Florida’s families on the most important issues facing our state. Right away, we’ll begin working to lower property taxes, stand up to the insurance industry, improve our public education system and strengthen our economy. These are the issues that are most important to the future of our state, and these are the changes that are long overdue.

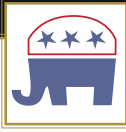
Why should the business community in Florida support your campaign for Governor?

DAVIS: The next Florida governor can do three important things to help Florida busi-

nesses: lower taxes, reduce health care costs and do something about the skyrocketing costs of property insurance. I’ll do all three. First, I’ve laid out a “Contract with Florida Taxpayers” that will do something my opponent won’t — lower property taxes for Florida businesses. Not only will I reduce property taxes by \$1 billion, we’ll cap annual property tax increases for businesses at ten percent. These caps will make it easier for businesses to make long-term plans and determine a worst-case scenario for their future property tax liability. Second, too many businesses in Florida can’t grow as quickly as they would like, because they are saddled with the rapidly rising cost of health insurance. I’ve proposed a Small Business Works program to allow small businesses to pool their resources and negotiate for lower prices from the health insurance companies that offer benefits to their employees and their employees’ families. Third, because many small businesses are struggling in an environment of higher health care costs, higher energy costs and rising taxes, they simply can’t afford soaring property insurance rates. As governor, I’ll hold the insurance companies accountable for charging fair rates and I will use the resources and authority of the Governor’s office to fight for the interests of Florida’s business owners who are struggling to pay for property insurance.

Finally, what is your message to Florida employers as they prepare to go to the polls in November to cast their vote for Governor?

DAVIS: I’m running for governor to change Florida for the better. We need new solutions and new ideas to address the skyrocketing property insurance crisis, lower property taxes for all Floridians, including businesses, improve our schools and strengthen our economy, to name a few.



Attorney General



Bill McCollum

REPUBLICAN



A native Floridian, Bill McCollum was born on July 12, 1944, in Brooksville, Florida. He graduated from Hernando High School and earned his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Florida. He was a member (and President in 1968) of Florida Blue Key, and is a member of the University of Florida Hall of Fame.

McCollum served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1972. In 1992, he retired from the Naval Reserve as a Commander, having served 23 years as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. He is a member of the American Legion, the Reserve Officers Association, the Naval Reserve Association and the Military Order of the World Wars.

Bill represented the people of Central Florida in the United States Congress for 20 years, retiring from the House of Representatives in 2001.

(continued on page 18)

Skip Campbell

DEMOCRAT



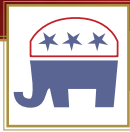
Senator Walter G. "Skip" Campbell, Jr. was born in Rockaway Beach, New York on November 12, 1948. Skip began at St. John Vianney Seminary and continued at the University of Florida, where he was inducted into Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Medical Honor Society. Skip graduated from the University of Florida in 1970 and University of Florida Law School in 1973. Skip joined with Jon Krupnick in Broward County and in 1975 they became known as Krupnick & Campbell.

In 1996, Skip was elected to the Florida Senate. Senator Campbell is an accomplished legislator and he proudly serves the communities of the western portions of central and northern Broward County. He has received many awards and recognition for his involvement with consumer issues and law enforcement, too many to mention. Senator Campbell

(continued on page 18)

Attorney General:

The Attorney General is the constitutional, statewide elected official who serves as the attorney for the State of Florida. The Attorney General is responsible for the enforcement of state consumer protection and antitrust laws as well as civil prosecution of criminal racketeering. In the area of criminal law, the Attorney General represents the State when those convicted appeal their convictions, including capital murder cases. The Attorney General is authorized to issue formal legal opinions at the request of various public officials on questions relating to the application of state law and defends the constitutionality of statutes duly enacted by the Legislature.



Commissioner of Agriculture



Charles Bronson

REPUBLICAN



Charles H. “Charlie” Bronson became the 10th Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services on May 14, 2001 after being appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to fill a vacancy in the office. Commissioner Bronson was elected to a full four-year term on November 5, 2002 with over 57% of the vote to become the first Republican elected to the office of Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Managing the largest state Department of Agriculture in the country with more than 3,700 employees, Bronson’s priorities include overseeing the state’s vast agriculture industry and helping to promote its products, safeguarding the state’s food supply, protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive trade practices, controlling plant and animal disease, and managing nearly one million acres of state forests.

(continued on page 19)

Eric Copeland

DEMOCRAT



Eric Copeland is not afraid to fight: he has made a professional and political career of fighting for small businesses, progressive issues and Democratic values.

A 22 year resident of Florida, Copeland grew up in Illinois ten minutes from corn fields and forty minutes outside of Chicago. His grandfather owned a family farm.

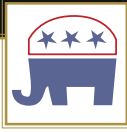
Eric came to South Florida when he received a Henry King Stanford academic scholarship to attend the University of Miami. He enjoyed the sunshine so much he stayed for law school and settled to raise his family.

Eric Copeland is an attorney and tax professional who has fought for thousands of home owners and small businesses. Eric Copeland is ready to be our Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services because he understands the relationship between consumers, producers,

(continued on page 19)

Commissioner of Agriculture:

The commissioner’s priorities include overseeing the state’s vast agriculture industry and helping promote its products, safeguarding the state’s food supply, protecting consumers from unfair and deceptive trade practices, assisting Florida’s farmers and agricultural industries with the production and promotion of agricultural products; and conserving and protecting the state’s agricultural and natural resources by reducing wildfires, promoting environmentally safe agricultural practices, and managing approximately 1 million acres of state forests.



Chef Financial Officer



Tom Lee

REPUBLICAN



Tom Lee was unanimously voted by his colleagues to serve as the President of the Florida Senate in November 2004; the Senate's first elected presiding officer from Hillsborough County in over 70 years.

In his first run for public office in 1996, he was elected to the Florida Senate. Since then, President Lee has been reelected subsequently to Senate District 10, which includes portions of Pasco County, Polk County, and Hillsborough County.

President Lee brings many years of experience in the business world and a strong commitment to his community. He is the Vice-President of Sabal Homes, a family owned and operated homebuilding company in Florida. His service in the community includes one term as the President of the Board of Directors for the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce; a trustee on the Brandon Regional Hospital

(continued on page 20)

Alex Sink

DEMOCRAT



Alex Sink is a dynamic financial and civic leader whose professional experience and community service have molded her into a champion for fiscal responsibility and accountability and prepared her for statewide public leadership.

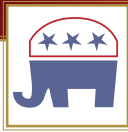
For nearly 25 years, Alex has been a trail-blazer in the financial profession. Her distinguished career began with service as a teacher in West Africa and culminated in her rise to President of Florida's largest bank. Sink served as Florida President of Bank of America, where she managed more than \$40 billion in assets while supervising more than 9,000 employees in 800 branches and earning a reputation for credibility, integrity and fair dealing.

Alex's accomplishments in the financial world have been complemented by her strong commitment to public service and civic and community leadership. Her record demon

(continued on page 20)

Chief Financial Officer:

The Chief Financial Officer oversees the Department of Financial Services, which is responsible for assisting consumers who need information and help related to financial services, including banking, securities and insurance. In addition, the department keeps track of all money coming into and going out of state government — an amount that totals more than \$63 billion annually. The CFO also serves as the State Fire Marshal.



U.S. Senate



Katherine Harris

REPUBLICAN



A former IBM marketing executive and vice president of a commercial real estate firm, Congresswoman Harris earned a Master's Degree from Harvard University with a specialization in international trade and negotiations, and a Bachelor's Degree in history from Agnes Scott College. She studied abroad at the University of Madrid and at L'Abri outside Geneva, Switzerland.

During her term in the Florida state senate, Congresswoman Harris served as chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities and as vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Banking and Insurance and the Senate Committee on Governmental Reform. Her legislative achievements included an economic development package that helped fuel Florida's dramatic rise from 42nd place to 1st place in the nation as a state to start a new business or grow an existing business; a

(continued on page 20)

Bill Nelson

DEMOCRAT



Bill's roots in the Sunshine State run deep. He was born in Miami and attended public schools in Melbourne. In 1971, Bill met Grace Cavert, of Jacksonville, at the Key Club youth state convention. That evening, Grace went home and woke her parents to tell them: "I've met the man I'm going to marry." Indeed, Bill and Grace were married a little more than a year later. And for 34 years now, they have been a devoted, loving couple. During Bill's years in Congress, Grace was President of the International Club, which promotes friendship and understanding among women worldwide.

Bill and Grace have two grown children, Bill Nelson, Jr., and Nan Ellen Nelson.

Bill served six years in the Fla. Legislature. He sponsored a law to take on racketeering, and passed into law one of the nation's earliest statutes against computer crimes. In the U.S.

(continued on page 21)

U.S. Senate:

U.S. Senators are elected by a statewide vote. Senators are responsible for representing the people of their state in the United States Senate. Part of this responsibility is writing and voting on bills in the U.S. Senate. In addition, Senators vote on confirmation hearings for a variety of high ranking government officials including cabinet directors, ambassadors, and Supreme Court Justices. US Senators serve 6 year terms that are staggered so elections are held for approximately one-third of the seats every two years.

Bill McCollum (R)

While in Congress, Bill founded the U.S. House Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, chaired it for six years, and is recognized as an expert on terrorism.

Bill also served three terms on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, two of which he served as Chairman of its Subcommittee on Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence. In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, Governor Jeb Bush appointed McCollum to serve on the eleven member Florida Domestic Security Advisory Panel.

In addition, Bill was Vice Chairman of the House Banking Committee and served on the Judiciary Committee where he was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, and a member on the Immigration Subcommittee.

While serving the U.S. House, McCollum was selected for a variety of leadership positions, including three terms as Vice Chairman of the House Republican Conference. Bill was one of 15 Members selected to serve on the House Committee to investigate the Iran Contra Affair, and served as one of the House Managers in the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

Today, former Congressman Bill McCollum is a partner with Baker & Hostetler LLP practicing in the federal policy area. He serves as President and Chairman of the Healthy Florida Foundation, chartered in 2002 to find consensus on long-term solutions to the nation's health care system. Bill is also on the Board of Directors of the James Madison Institute, Florida's most prestigious conservative think tank. In addition, Bill is a member of the Board of Governors of the University System of the State of Florida 2005-2006. Bill also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Security Council (ASC) and the ASC Foundation.

Bill has been married to Ingrid Seebomh McCollum for 35 years. They have three sons: Douglas, Justin and Andrew and two grandsons: Nathan and Stephen. *(Bio provided by the McCollum campaign.)*

Skip Campbell (D)

has been outspoken about rising gas prices and gas price gouging as well as identity theft and privacy protection.

Senator Campbell, has been routinely recognized by newspapers throughout the state as one of the most effective legislators in Tallahassee. Skip has been very effective at working with both parties in the Senate and has been awarded three Chairmanships despite being a member of the minority party. Senator Campbell is currently in the Senate leadership, serving as the Minority Leader Pro-Tempore.

Skip was board-certified as a civil trial lawyer by The Florida Bar in 1983. He is also a licensed helicopter and fixed wing pilot and a member of the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, United States Supreme Court and the United States Court of Federal Claims.

He has consistently received an AV rating by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, which is the highest rating given by this publication. He is also among a select group included in the book, Best Lawyers in America, and the publication Leading American Attorneys.

Academically, Skip has served as an adjunct professor of law at Nova Southeastern Shepard Broad Law Center and has been a review editor for Matthew Bender and James Publishing Companies. He has also hosted a popular television show, "You and the Law."

During his legal career he has been a leader within the profession. He has served as President of the Broward County Bar Association, President of the Broward County Young Lawyers Association, and President of the Federal Bar Association of Broward County. He was elected to the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar from 1988 through 1996, and was the recipient of The Florida Bar Meritorious Service Award.

Senator Skip Campbell's dedication to his

community is well demonstrated by his civic involvement. He has served as local chairman of the Broward Chapter National Multiple Sclerosis Society, as a board member for Kids in Distress, and on the Legal Advocates Committee of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. He has been actively involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation and the Emerald Society. Skip has received numerous awards for his civic, professional and legislative efforts including the Hope Award of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the Distinguished Community Service Award of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League of Coral Springs/Parkland. *(Bio provided by the Campbell campaign.)*

Charles Bronson (R)

In addition to leading Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bronson serves on the Florida Cabinet — a body that includes Florida's three statewide elected officials, as well as the Governor, and oversees state land-buying programs, clemency issues and directs the operations of several state agencies. Bronson recently completed his term as President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Born into a ranching family in Kissimmee in 1949, Bronson is a 5th generation Floridian and comes from a family that traces its long agricultural roots to 1635 as each generation of the family has been in farming since that date. The Commissioner attended Osceola County public schools and earned his A.S. in Agricultural Sciences from the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in 1970, and his B.S.A. in both Animal Science and Agricultural Education from the University of Georgia in 1973.

Before becoming Florida's Agriculture Commissioner, Bronson served as a sworn law enforcement officer in Dade and Brevard County and, all the while, stayed actively involved in the family's cattle business. From 1994 to 2001 he was a Florida State Senator, serving as Chairman of the Natural Resources

Committee (1998 to 2001), as well as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee (1996 to 1998), among other committee assignments.

He has received numerous awards, including the Brevard County Farm Bureau "Distinguished Farm Service Award" in 2000, the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida Legislative Conservation Award in 1999, as well as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Legislative Appreciation Award in 1999 and both Florida Sheriff's and Florida Police Chief Association's Legislative Awards. He has also been an agri-business owner and operator in Florida since 1973.

Bronson's responsibilities are wide and diverse. And he will be the first to tell you that three key people, his wife, Regina, and daughters, Michelle and Melanie keep everything in perspective. *(Bio provided by the Bronson campaign.)*

Eric Copeland (D)

taxes, investments and our economy.

Copeland married Argentinean-American, Claudia, and is raising two bilingual daughters, Lara and Stefania — both in public schools. In addition to running his business, Copeland has made politics his business too.

Now Copeland had entered the race to be Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services. *(Bio provided by the Copeland campaign.)*



Tom Lee (R)

Board; and a member of the Board of Directors for the Hillsborough Community College Foundation.

Lee is best known for his straightforward leadership style and has earned a reputation as an independent thinker and a results-oriented leader. His legislative priorities include championing comprehensive reforms meant to promote openness and integrity in state government, updating Florida's growth management laws, with a particular focus on reducing the deficiencies in infrastructure: Florida's schools, roads and water supply. He has also been a strong advocate for the establishment of mid-range financial planning in the state's budgeting process, and a private sector "Government Efficiency Task Force" to review service delivery systems in the state. *(Bio provided by the Lee campaign.)*

Alex Sink (D)

strates a firm belief in public accountability, economic growth, fiscal discipline and a devotion to future generations of Floridians.

Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Alex to the Commission on Government Accountability to the People, where she helped lead efforts to make state government more responsive. As vice chair of Florida TaxWatch, she advocated fiscal responsibility in state government. She has worked diligently for Florida's children through her service on Governor Chiles' Commission on Education and the Hillsborough Education Foundation Board of Directors, and as Chair of Take Stock in Children.

Alex has also been a dedicated community leader. Her civic involvements have included service with the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Beth El Farm Workers Ministry, and as Chairman of the Board of the United Way of Hillsborough County.

Alex, who grew up on a farm, currently resides in Thonotosassa with her husband, Bill McBride, and their two children, Bert and Lexie, who attend Armwood High School. The family is active in the Presbyterian Church of Seffner. *(Bio provided by the Sink campaign.)*

Katherine Harris (R)

significant increase in teacher salaries; and stiffened penalties for white collar crime and for crimes committed against the elderly.

As Florida's 23rd and last elected secretary of state, Congresswoman Harris jointly exercised responsibility for clemency, education, law enforcement and the environment with the governor of Florida as a member of Florida's unique Executive Cabinet. She also served as head of the Florida Department of State, a multifaceted agency that managed Florida's state-level responsibilities in international affairs, elections, corporate and business registrations, licensing, historic preservation, libraries, and culture and the arts.

As secretary of state, Congresswoman Harris concurrently served as the head of Florida's Office of International Affairs and led the development of a wide variety of innovative programs that sought to employ diplomatic, humanitarian, educational and cultural tools to provide economic opportunities at home while building understanding, prosperity and stability abroad.

While serving as secretary of state, Congresswoman Harris laid the strong foundation for Florida's preeminent campaign to win the Permanent Secretariat for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). She worked intensively to ensure Florida as the lead location among all candidates for the Secretariat in the Western Hemisphere by obtaining the unanimous vote of both houses of the United States Congress expressing a preference for Florida's candidacy over any other potential site in the United States, as well as securing funding from Congress to assist Florida's bid for the Secretariat.

Congresswoman Harris is a member of the House Financial Services Committee, the House International Relations Committee and the Homeland Security Committee. Katherine has also been appointed to serve on the leadership team as a deputy whip.

Congresswoman Harris also led the transformation of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord into a vibrant partnership that has made tremendous strides towards its objective of unifying the Gulf region through the enhancement of investment, trade and tourism, as well as through the promo-

tion of economic, transportation, academic and cultural exchanges between its member states. Launched in 1995, the Gulf of Mexico States Accord had lapsed into near dormancy when then-Secretary of State Harris negotiated the location of the Accord's Secretariat in Tampa. During the four months following the establishment of the Secretariat, the Tampa Bay region's trade with Mexico grew by \$30 million, inspiring Chrysler to reroute the shipping of the automobiles manufactured in Mexico through the Port of Tampa, and establishing a pilot program ferry service between Tampa and the Yucatán.

In the aftermath of the 2000 election controversy, Congresswoman Harris' leadership provided a driving impetus for election reform. In 2001, she testified before the U.S. House Administration Committee and proposed legislation that became the blueprint for Florida's nationally acclaimed Election Reform Act. In 2002, she successfully proposed and achieved passage of historic civil rights legislation in Florida that forcefully addresses the exclusion of persons with disabilities from full and equal participation in the electoral process.

Congresswoman Harris has received numerous honors for her dedicated work on behalf of Florida including: the Mel Fisher Award for International Trade Advocacy; the Florida Economic Development Council Legislator of the Year Award; the Florida United Business Association Outstanding Legislator Award; the Florida Arts Advocacy Award; the Sarasota Manatee Jewish Family and Children Service's Philanthropy Award; the Sarasota Humanitarian of the Year Award and the Sarasota Statesman of the Year Award.

Congresswoman Harris was born in Key West, Florida. She returns to the district every weekend to spend time with her husband Anders Ebbeson and his 24-year-old daughter, Louise and the constituents of District thirteen. *(Bio provided by the Harris campaign.)*

Bill Nelson (D)

House of Representatives, where Bill served for 12 years, he was a leader in the fight to balance the federal budget, and successfully fought to

stop oil drilling off Florida's coast. Bill rose to the chairmanship of the Space Subcommittee of the Science, Space and Technology Committee.

Bill was elected to the Florida Cabinet in 1994 and served six years as Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal. As Insurance Commissioner, he fought successfully against life insurance sales abuses that targeted senior citizens and minorities and chaired the board of the state's Healthy Kids program that provides health coverage to tens of thousands of previously uninsured Florida children. He also helped pass legislation that assured breast cancer patients' adequate hospital stays. And, he fought for people who most needed help by initiating a major investigation of insurers who exploited minorities by selling junk burial policies and playing a key role in forcing European insurers to honor unpaid claims from the Holocaust. Nelson continued his record as a leader in government reform by putting medical malpractice claims on the Internet so patients could review them when choosing a doctor.

Since January of 2001, Bill Nelson has served Florida and the nation in the U.S. Senate, where he's been a member of the Armed Services, Foreign Relations, Budget and Commerce committees. He led the fight to stop plans to scrap the USS Kennedy and worked to protect veterans by closing the illegal loophole that allows companies to exploit profit from unsuspecting veterans by charging outrageous interest rates for instant cash loans. Throughout his service in the Senate, Bill Nelson has consistently put Florida first, fighting relentlessly to stop offshore oil drilling, opposing efforts to privatize Social Security and cut benefits, working for funding for health studies and clean-ups of Superfund sites around the state, and taking on the federal disaster relief agency (FEMA) to ensure Florida residents got the funding they needed in the wake of the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005. A product of public schools, Bill supported education initiatives calling for an increase in accountability and additional public school investment. He also has been a leader in the fight to stop the government from arbitrarily seizing private property for private developments, such as shopping malls and condominiums.



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

TO BE VOTED ON NOVEMBER 7, 2006

No. 1

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE III, SECTION 19 (Legislative)

Ballot Title:

STATE PLANNING AND BUDGET PROCESS

Ballot Summary: Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to limit the amount of nonrecurring general revenue which may be appropriated for recurring purposes in any fiscal year to 3 percent of the total general revenue funds estimated to be available, unless otherwise approved by a three-fifths vote of the Legislature; to establish a Joint Legislative Budget Commission, which shall issue long-range financial outlooks; to provide for limited adjustments in the state budget without the concurrence of the full Legislature, as provided by general law; to reduce the number of times trust funds are automatically terminated; to require the preparation and biennial revision of a long-range state planning document; and to establish a Government Efficiency Task Force and specify its duties.

NO. 3

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE XI, SECTION 5 (Legislative)

Ballot Title:

REQUIRING BROADER PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS

Ballot Summary: Proposes an amendment to Section 5 of Article XI of the State Constitution to require that any proposed amendment to or revision of the State Constitution, whether proposed by the Legislature, by initiative, or by any other method, must be approved by at least 60 percent of the voters of the state voting on the measure, rather than by a simple majority. This proposed amendment would not change the current requirement that a proposed constitutional amendment imposing a new state tax or fee be approved by at least 2/3 of the voters of the state voting in the election in which such an amendment is considered.

NO. 4

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE X, SECTION 27 (Citizen Initiative)

Ballot Title:

PROTECT PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY YOUTH, FROM ADDICTION, DISEASE, AND OTHER HEALTH HAZARDS OF USING TOBACCO

Ballot Summary: To protect people, especially youth, from addiction, disease, and other health hazards of using tobacco, the Legislature shall use some Tobacco Settlement money annually for a comprehensive statewide tobacco education and prevention program using Centers for Disease Control best practices. Specifies some program components, emphasizing youth, requiring one-third of total annual funding for advertising. Annual funding is 15% of 2005 Tobacco Settlement payments to Florida, adjusted annually for inflation. Provides definitions. Effective immediately.

NO. 6

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 ARTICLE XII, SECTION 26 (Legislative)

Ballot Title:

INCREASED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Ballot Summary: Proposing amendment of the State Constitution to increase the maximum additional homestead exemption for low-income seniors from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and to schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2007, if adopted.

NO. 7

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 (Legislative)

Ballot Title:

PERMANENTLY DISABLED VETERANS' DISCOUNT ON HOMESTEAD AD VALOREM TAX

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead of a partially or totally permanently disabled veteran who is age 65 or older who was a Florida resident at the time of entering military service, whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged; to specify the percentage of the discount as equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability; to specify qualification requirements for the discount; to authorize the Legislature to waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years by general law; and to specify that the provision takes effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

NO. 8

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ARTICLE X, SECTION 6 (Legislative)

Ballot Title:

EMINENT DOMAIN

Ballot Summary: Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit the transfer of private property taken by eminent domain to a natural person or private entity; providing that the Legislature may by general law passed by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature permit exceptions allowing the transfer of such private property; and providing that this prohibition on the transfer of private property taken by eminent domain is applicable if the petition of taking that initiated the condemnation proceeding was filed on or after January 2, 2007.

2006 FBU Candidate Interviews



Attorney General Candidate Bill McCollum (R) was the featured luncheon speaker at the Sarasota Candidate Interviews.



The Incumbent Fundraisers give FBU members a great opportunity to interact with members of the legislature. Here we see Rep. Faye Culp (R-Tampa) and FBU member Jim Brainerd.

Founded in 1994, Florida Business United (FBU) takes responsibility for educating Florida's business community on our state's political environment. One of FBU's primary functions is the organizing and conducting of candidate interviews. During the 2006 campaign season, FBU traveled the state holding candidate screenings in five cities (Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale, Sarasota, and Tallahassee). FBU members met and interviewed over 100 candidates representing 56 Senate and House races. During each tour stop FBU held Incumbent Fundraisers for area legislators. This new addition to the candidate interview experience proved to be very popular for FBU members as well as legislators. In addition, FBU members were able to meet with several statewide candidates including: Bill McCollum, Tom Lee, Skip Campbell, Randy Johnson, and Alex Sink just to name a few.



Rep. Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) enjoys some camaraderie with AFCD President Bill Hunter during the Orlando Incumbent Fundraiser.



Rep. Mike Grant (R-Port Charlotte) took some time off from his busy schedule to attend the Sarasota Incumbent Fundraiser. He is pictured here with FBU members Robert Schemel, President of American Eldercare and FAIA's Kyle Ulrich.



House District 76 candidate Garrett Richter (R) answering questions during his interview in Tampa.



FBU's Candidate Interviews are a completely paperless process. Members use laptops to view questionnaires, district maps, and other important election data.



Rep. Matt Meadows (D-Lauderhill) addresses the group after receiving his 2006 Champion for Business Award at the Ft. Lauderdale Incumbent Fundraiser. Rep. Meadows was honored for his work on passing legislation that eliminated the sales tax on machinery and equipment used in manufacturing.



Rep. Susan Goldstein (R-Sunrise), who scored a 100% on her 2006 AIF Voting Record, chats with AIF President and CEO Barney Bishop.

For up-to-date information on business issues, visit <http://aif.com>



(continued from page 3)

2002 gubernatorial candidate Bill McBride, she hails from the burgeoning Central Florida area. During the last reporting cycle, Sink reported raising \$86,000 for a total raised of \$3 million (with \$623,000 in in-kind contributions). Sink did not have a primary which allowed her to keep her money for the general.

Attorney General

What many consider the most important Cabinet race for the business community is undoubtedly the race for Attorney General. As the state's "head attorney," the person in this position has the power to initiate legal actions against organizations and individuals.

Former Congressman Bill McCollum (R-Orlando) holds a small lead over Campbell in the polls due to his high name recognition among voters. The Republicans originally opposing McCollum in the primary — House

Appropriations Chair Joe Negron, Sen. Burt Saunders and Rep. Everett Rice — withdrew in order to provide a united front against Campbell. To date, McCollum has raised \$2.3 million (with \$372,000 in in-kind contributions).

Skip Campbell, a south Florida trial lawyer, spent 9 years in the Florida Senate where he was a vocal leader for the minority party. To date Campbell has raised a total of \$1.7 million (with \$243,000 in in-kind contributions).

Agriculture Commissioner

Current Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Bronson's race for re-election is small compared to the other Cabinet races. It is expected that Bronson will handily beat Miami Democrat Eric Copeland in November. ■

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