

November Elections Will Be Critical in Florida

By Chris Hansen, FPMA Lobbyist

All eyes will be on Florida this election year; a U.S. Senate race, the Governor and Cabinet – all up, as well as many other critical legislative campaigns. The future of Florida politics will be determined on November 6, 2018. Our Florida State Senate should remain under Republican control, but the margins may tighten and the Florida House of Representatives will remain a near super-majority. The U.S. Senate race and Cabinet races will grab the spotlight.

The following candidates have received support from the Florida Podiatric Political Committee (FP-PC). The August 28th Primary results are set forth below.

FPMA Supports the following:

SENATE				
District	Name	Political Party	City	Comments/Results
4	Aaron Bean	(R)	Jacksonville	WINNER – 87.36%
16	Ed Hooper	(R)	Clearwater	Strong Supporter of FPMA WINNER – 79.43%
20	Tom Lee	(R)	Brandon	WINNER – 84.86%
30	Bobby Powell	(D)	West Palm Beach	Solid Democratic Supporter WINNER – 75.27%
34	Gary Farmer	(D)	Fort Lauderdale	Friend of FPMA WINNER – 70.23%

HOUSE				
District	Name	Political Party	City	Comments/Results
1	Rebekah Bydlak	(R)	Gonzalez	Panhandle open seat candidate; Race is a toss-up LOST – 45.19% (lost by 543 votes)
2	Alex Andrade	(R)	Gulf Breeze	Panhandle open seat candidate WINNER – 60.49%
10	Marc Vann	(R)	Lake City	Open seat candidate LOST – 44.51%
15	Wyman Duggan	(R)	Jacksonville	Open seat candidate WINNER – 40.24%
50	Rene Plasencia	(R)	Orlando	Solid vote for Podiatry WINNER – 63.78%

52	Thad Altman	(R)	Indialantic	Strong supporter of FPMA; has a tough primary WINNER – 55.83%
56	Melony Bell	(R)	Bartow	Open seat candidate WINNER – 66.59%
64	Jamie Grant	(R)	Tampa	Important member in Tampa region WINNER – 64.99%
69	Ray Blacklidge	(R)	Madeira Beach	Open seat candidate WINNER – 57.75%
74	James Buchanan	(R)	Venice	Congressman Vern Buchanan's son WINNER – 59.19%
79	Spencer Roach	(R)	Ft. Myers	Has strong support from local FPMA members WINNER – 58.72%
87	David Silvers	(D)	West Palm Beach	WINNER – 62.71%
89	Matt Spritz	(R)	Boca Raton	Open seat candidate LOST – 43.8%

Unopposed SUPPORTED Candidates

The following Florida Podiatric Political Committee Candidates were elected on June 22, 2018. The Senate Candidates were elected for 4-year terms and the House candidates were elected for 2-year terms. We look forward to working with each during the 2019 Legislative Session.

SENATE			
District	Name	Political Party	Results
6	Senator Audrey Gibson	(D)	Winner

HOUSE			
District	Name	Political Party	Results
7	Rep. Halsey Beshears	(R)	Winner
8	Rep. Ramon Alexander	(D)	Winner
9	Rep. Lorraine Ausley	(D)	Winner
18	Rep. Travis Cummings	(R)	Winner

41	Rep. Sam Killebrew	(R)	Winner
45	Rep. Kamia Brown	(D)	Winner
68	Rep. Ben Diamond	(D)	Winner
75	Rep. Mike Grant	(R)	Winner
99	Rep. Evan Jenne	(D)	Winner
101	Rep. Shevrin Jones	(D)	Winner
110	Rep. Jose Oliva	(R)	Winner
117	Rep. Kionne McGhee	(D)	Winner

The 2018 Florida Podiatric Political Committee lineup for the November 6, 2018 General Election:

SENATE			
District	Name	Political Party	City
4	Aaron Bean	(R)	Fernandina Beach
8	Keith Perry	(R)	Gainesville
18	Dana Young	(R)	Tampa
28	Kathleen Passidomo	(R)	Naples
HOUSE			
District	Name	Political Party	City
4	Mel Ponder	(R)	Destin
12	Clay Yarborough	(R)	Jacksonville
24	Paul Renner	(R)	Palm Coast

27	David Santiago	(R)	Deltona
34	Ralph Massullo	(R)	Lecanto
36	Amber Mariano	(R)	Hudson
40	Colleen Burton	(R)	Lakeland
42	Mike La Rosa	(R)	St. Cloud
44	Robert Olszewski	(R)	Winter Garden
48	Amy Mercado	(D)	Orlando
55	Cary Pigman	(R)	Avon Park
60	Jackie Toledo	(R)	Tampa
71	Will Robinson	(R)	Bradenton
72	Margaret Good	(D)	Sarasota
76	Ray Rodrigues	(R)	Estero
87	David Silvers	(D)	West Palm Beach
111	Bryan Avila	(R)	Hialeah
112	Nick Duran	(D)	Miami
116	Daniel Perez	(R)	Miami
118	Robert Asencio	(D)	Miami
120	Holly Raschein	(R)	Key Largo