

2004 Florida Elections

The General Election will be here before we know it. Undoubtedly, with all the campaign advertising on TV between now and then, we'll be glad when it's over. As you know, the FAA endorsements are important to Florida Senate and House incumbents and candidates. I appreciate the time and attention FAA members give to the elections and candidates. FAA friendly legislators help us in the long run.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of some facts. Florida has now eliminated the second primary that had been in October. Now there will only be a primary election on August 31, 2004, followed by the general election on November 2. Qualifying for Florida House and Senate candidates to run this year will be noon, July 12, through noon, July 16. After qualifying, if only one party has candidates on the ballot for a particular seat, all registered voters will have an opportunity to vote in that race, i.e. there would be no general election and the election will be settled on August 31. (Please understand that a write-in candidate will force a race to the general election.)

The FAA has lots of friends up for re-election this year. In the Senate, odd numbered districts will be on the ballot, as well as two open seats where the respective Senators are seeking other offices. The following Senators are seeking re-election: Senators Alexander (R-Lakeland); Argenziano (R-Crystal River); Aronberg (D-Greenacres); Atwater (R-Palm Beach Gardens); Bennett (R-Bradenton); Bullard (R-Miami); Carlton (R-Osprey); Dawson (D-Ft. Lauderdale); Fasano (R-New Port Richey); Geller (D-Hallendale); Hill (D-Jacksonville); Jones (R-Seminole); Margolis (D-Miami Beach); Saunders (R-Naples); Siplin (D-Orlando); Webster (R-Winter Garden); Wilson (D-Miami); and Wise (R-Jacksonville). Senate Districts 20 and 34 will also be available.

In the House, very few seats will be "open seats" in that there will not be an incumbent seeking re-election. Every two years all 120 House members must be elected or re-elected.

As of this writing, there are only 17 seats where there will not be an incumbent in the race so there may not be many new faces in the House in November.

Your involvement with candidates will be important to FAA in the next legislative session. Call candidates you like. Volunteer to work on their campaign. You can answer phones, walk neighborhoods, put out yard signs or even lick envelopes. It takes a small army to win an election. Remember, the energy and skill of FAA members and employees are our best assets!

See you in Tallahassee!