State & Federal Political Update and Legislative Preview

Adam Basford
John Walt Boatright
Gov. DeSantis elected by 32,463 votes (0.4%)

Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried elected by 6,753 votes (0.08%)

CFO Jimmy Patronis elected by 279,681 votes (3.4%)

Attorney General Ashley Moody elected by 487,620 votes (6%)
2018 Legislative Election Results

Florida Senate
Composition of the 2019-2020 Term
23 - R  17 - D

Florida House of Representatives
Composition of the 2019-2020 Term
71 - R  46 - D  3 - Vacant
It Never Ends...

2019 Special Elections
- HD 7 (Beshears), HD 38 (Burgess), HD 97 (Moskowitz)
  - Primary Election: April 9, 2019
  - General Election: June 18, 2019

2020 Election Cycle
- President
- 27 Congress
- 120 State House
- 20 State Senate Seats
- Constitutional Amendments
2019 Legislative Priorities

**Hurricane Michael Relief & Recovery**

- Sales Tax Exemptions to repair buildings, structures and fences
- Secure clean-up and restoration funding
- Increase BMP cost-share funding to help replace damaged irrigation systems
- Provide less-than-perpetual conservation easements for timber and pasture land
2019 Legislative Priorities

**Water Policy**
- Funding for Office of Agricultural Water Policy
- Funding for water storage and treatment
- Funding for solutions to blue-green algae and red tide

**Environment**
- Cost-share funding for septic-to-sewer conversion and/or replacement of existing systems
- Proper septic system maintenance
- Funding to expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike
2019 Legislative Priorities

**Constitution**
- Increase threshold to pass a constitutional amendment from 60% to 66%
- Eliminate the Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC)
- Limit all amendments to a single-subject

**E-Verify**
- Oppose a mandatory requirement for private businesses to use the federal E-Verify system
2019 Legislative Priorities

- Fresh From Florida
- Office of Ag Water Policy
- Rural and Family Lands
- Immokalee Student Research Fields
- Stem, Workforce & Student 4-H Programs
- Aquaculture, Geomatics & Horticulture Research and Education
- Tropical Research & Education Center (TREC)
## HOW LIKELY ARE THE FOLLOWING METHODS TO INFLUENCE LAWMAKERS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Very Likely</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Person Visits</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<td>Contact from Constituent</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>Protest</td>
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<td>Form Postal Letters</td>
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<td>Robocall</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
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**KEVIN CATE COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTS**

**Communicating with the Florida Legislature**
Legislative Days

- Tuesday, March 5 & Wednesday, March 6
- Member Welcome Reception at the Florida Farm Bureau Legislative Office Building
- Legislative Briefing Breakfast & “Taste of Florida Agriculture” Reception
- Register today at www.FloridaFarmBureau.org/legislative-days
Visit www.FloridaFarmBureau.org or email Lance Pierce at Lance.Pierce@ffbf.org to be added to the mailing list.
2018 Congressional Results

- FL: 2 House seats and 1 Senate seat flip
  - Murcarsel-Powell (D) defeats Curbelo (R)
  - Rooney, Ross replaced by Steube, Spano
  - Rick Scott unseats three-term Bill Nelson

- Democrats flip the House
  - 235 Dems, 198 GOP, 2 vacancies (NC & PA)

- GOP retains Senate
  - 53 GOP, 47 Dems (includes 2 Indies)
2018 Farm Bill
December 20, 2018
Farm Bill Achievements (#107)

- Preservation/Enhancements of Current Funding
  - Safety net programs/crop insurance (#205)
  - Sugar policy unaffected (#88)
  - MPP renamed DMC with changes (#52)
  - $125M in citrus greening research (#199)

- New Funding
  - Establishment of Animal Vaccine Bank (#181)
  - $75M pilot program for feral hog eradication (#178)
Hurricane Disaster Relief (#204)

• Irma - September 2017
  • $2.5B in total ag losses
    ▫ $800M in citrus losses

• March 2018: Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (WHIP)
  ▫ $2.4B for FL, TX, CA, PR
  ▫ $340M citrus block grant

• Issues with USDA implementation
  ▫ Legislative interpretation
  ▫ FSA processing

• Michael - October 2018
  • $1.5B in total ag losses
    ▫ $1.2B timber losses

• 2018 WHIP?
  ▫ 2017 WHIP with modifications
  ▫ Increasing $1.1B to $3B for SE U.S., CA, HI
  ▫ Including forgotten commodities (dairy, blueberries, aquaculture)

• Shutdown politics has delayed progress
Electronic Logging Devices (#231)

- Livestock/insect haulers exempt “until further notice”
  - 2018 Farm Bill modifies definition of livestock to include live fish and crawfish

- Other commodities fall under the rule as of Dec. 17, 2018
United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) (#226)

• Trump admin. (USTR) proposed seasonality provision in formal negotiations

• Staunch Mexican opposition and conflicted ag messaging contributed to proposal’s defeat

• What now?
  ▫ Ongoing conversations with USTR
  ▫ Rubio/Buchanan/Lawson introduce DDPP Act
FFBF Field to the Hill
May 14-16, 2019
Questions?

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