

# A Message From Your Political Consultant



*Jim Spearing*

## A Campaign "Off Year"? Thanks A Lot, Charlie.

The late spring breezes were flowing gently across the water as I poured a frozen concoction from the blender, adjusted my lounge chair and settled in for a long, lazy "off" election year.

Then **Charlie Crist** went and did it.

Political ambition, like testosterone, is good but only in small doses. I'm afraid we will be witnessing a virtual explosion of aspiring politicians leaping like salmon up the electoral stream.

This "off year" will be truly historic. Florida will have the option of electing the first woman as governor, and a situation in which a governor and ALL cabinet seats are wide open hasn't occurred in decades.

Crist's decision has set off a chain reaction that stretches from the governor's mansion all the way to the lowliest city council in Florida. As the chart at right demonstrates, candidates will cascade like dominoes from the city and county commissions and the state house and senate (with a few rich folks jumping in with no political experience).

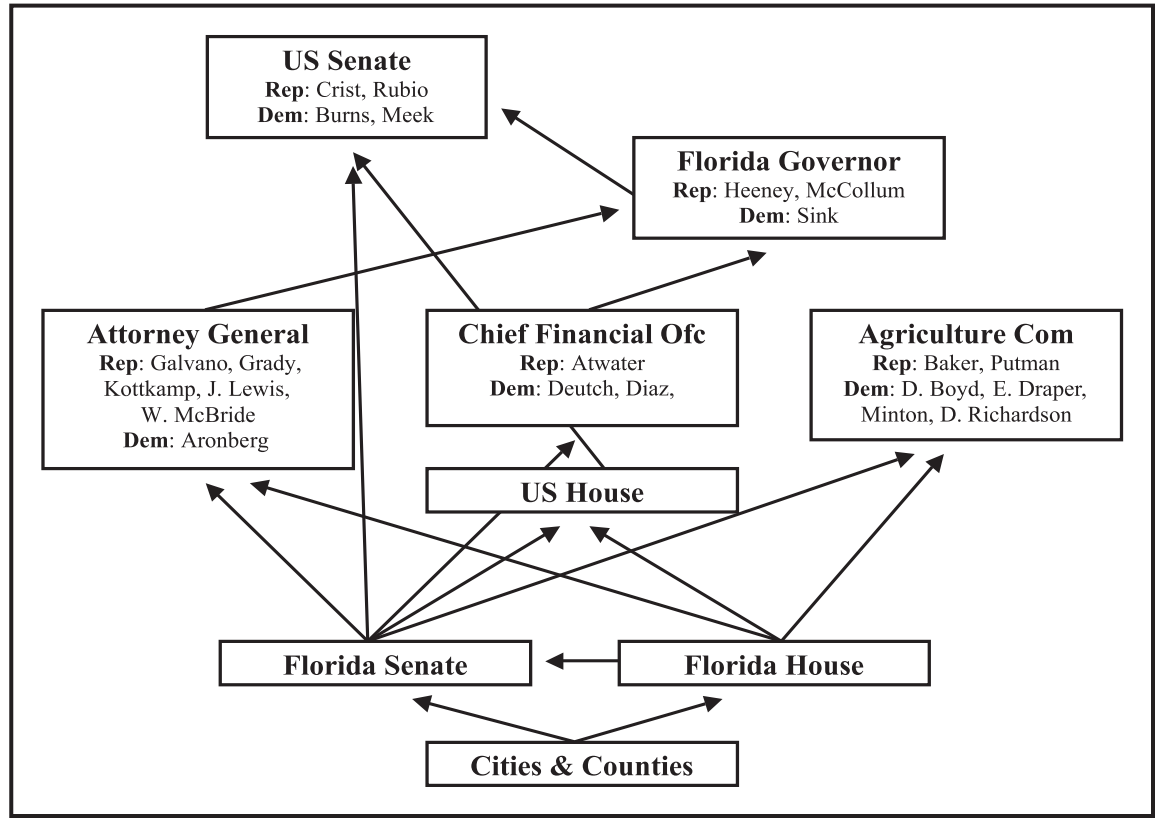
What does all this political maneuvering mean to you, the law enforcement professional?

More than you'd think. First, the leaders you depend upon on the local level may very well change. That steady vote on the city council may be moving up and we had better be ready and able to help elect a suitable replacement.

Multiply that effect up the political food chain and I think you'll get the picture. Your political team is going to be busy, very busy, making sure these dozens of races result in pro-law enforcement candidates winning.

You can help. As the spring campaigns get under way, we will sound the alarm asking our members to get involved in supporting our endorsed candidates. This will be a costly and exhausting campaign cycle and we'll need everyone on board.

That Mai Tai will just have to wait. 🍹



*Jim Wiggins*  
Director of Organizational Services

Please encourage non-members to join the 36,000 officers throughout Florida who belong to the Florida PBA!

## News from Around the State

# Organizational Update

## No Cuts To Public Safety!

Most of Florida's Law Enforcement Agencies are operating at, or below, their FY 2006 budget levels. To accomplish this they've had to freeze hiring and wages, eliminate positions, stop buying cars and equipment, and eliminate services like school resource officers. You get the idea; the list of cuts goes on and on. All of these cuts are in an effort to do their part to help cities and counties balance their budgets during these difficult economic times.

Everyone is currently going through their FY 2010 budget development process. Unfortunately, City and County commissions are continuing to ask for even deeper cuts to existing budgets. The Commissioners are saying that the cuts need to be shared equally across the board. A good example of this is the Sheriff in Broward County. How can he, in good conscience, cut 70+ million dollars out of his current budget? It just isn't possible without putting the citizens and deputies at risk. I think **Florida PBA President**

**John Rivera** said it best earlier this year during a press conference at the state capitol, "If the politicians continue to cut the budgets of Law Enforcement...then the citizens of this state need to be prepared to defend themselves."

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Every Sheriff, Chief, and Agency head needs to follow Sheriff Lamberti's lead and send a message back to these elected officials, that the time has come to decide which core functions of Government must be held harmless during these continuing difficult times, by submitting a budget that meets the minimum needs to provide adequate public safety that the citizens of this state want and deserve.

Every PBA member needs to do their part by calling and emailing their City and County Commissioners, telling them not to cut public safety any more. We also need to encourage our family and friends to do the same. If each of us does this one simple thing, we can make a difference. Don't wait, make that call today. Remember, working together means winning together. 🍹