



Charles Bronson... Qualified to Serve as Agriculture Commissioner

*Charles
Bronson
Incumbent
Candidate for
Commissioner of
Agriculture*

*The Florida PBA
has endorsed
Charles Bronson
for
Commissioner of
Agriculture.
If you would like
to help with
his campaign,
see page 3.*

The Top Ten Signs You Got The Wrong Lawyer

1. Instead of "Objection!" he keeps yelling, "Bingo!"
2. She keeps asking you things like, "Would it kill you to say you did it?"
3. Your legal team is suing each other because someone ate the last bagel.
4. The only motion he's made has been rubbing his crotch.
5. He giggles uncontrollably every time anyone says the word "briefs."
6. He's incredulous that he lost the case and says, "Well, it worked on Judge Judy!"
7. Instead of "Your Honor," your attorney addresses the judge as "Player."
8. She's drinking rum and cokes for breakfast in the parking lot.
9. Half of his previous clients have tried to kill him.
10. His law degree is from the University of Baghdad.

Charles H. Bronson is a fifth-generation Floridian, serving as Florida's 10th Agriculture Commissioner. Bronson manages the largest state Department of Agriculture in the country with more than 3,700 employees, and his 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, and managing about one million acres of state forests.

In addition to heading Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bronson serves on the Florida Cabinet—a body that includes Florida's three statewide elected officials, including the Governor, and oversees state land-buying programs, clemency issues and directs the operations of several state agencies. He is a member of the Governor's Council on Efficient Government and a former President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Born into a ranching family in Kissimmee in 1949, Bronson 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. He attended Osceola County public schools and received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education and engineering, animal and meat sciences from the University of Georgia in 1972. He worked in the fertilizer, chemical and sod business and ultimately managed the family's cattle business in Central Florida.

Bronson is a certified law enforcement officer and served as a reserve deputy in both Miami-Dade and Brevard counties. He was elected to the Florida Senate in 1994, representing a district that encompassed both Brevard and Osceola counties, and was reelected in 1998. He has served as chairman of both counties' legislative delegations, and chairman of the Florida Senate's Agriculture and Consumer Services Committee and its Natural Resources Committee.

Bronson is proud to have received the endorsement from the PBA and works hard to protect our families and values the hard work and sacrifices that law enforcement officers make each and every day to ensure the safety of all Floridians.

Being the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services is a big job and every day is different. One day, he may be promoting Florida's homegrown agriculture products to the world and the next day he may find himself wearing his consumer-protector hat, tracking down gas gougers or scam artists trying to cheat Floridians out of their hard-earned money in the aftermath of a hurricane.

The office is diverse and Bronson has many responsibilities, a lot of which most people don't realize. As Florida's leading consumer advocate, Bronson has:

Made sure you have a safe, wholesome and nutritious food supply.

- By monitoring all 48,000 food stores and processing plants throughout the state for cleanliness and safety;
- Last year alone—his Department detected and destroyed nearly 16 million pounds of unsafe or unfit food. He seized it from the marketplace, kept it off your table, and cited nearly 3,000 individual food businesses for bad practices;
- Bronson was the first state agricultural leader to take aggressive action and develop nutritional programs to

tackle the Type-2 diabetes epidemic among African Americans and other minorities;

- Bronson expanded two Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs for senior citizens and expectant mothers so they can benefit from healthy fresh fruits and vegetables;
- And he led the United States Food and Drug Administration to ban all products containing ephedra, a dietary supplement that has been linked to heart attacks and strokes.

Fought for consumers and came down hard on unscrupulous businesses.

- By prosecuting price gougers during natural disasters, investigating auto repair rip-offs and operating Florida's "Do Not Call" telephone solicitation program;
- As the state's leading consumer advocate, he's levied nearly \$3 million in fines against bad businesses and launched investigations that put a million dollars right back into the pockets of victimized consumers.

Been tough on crime, seizing contraband and protecting Florida's borders.

- By operating 23 agricultural inspection stations—24-7... 365 days-a-year—his law enforcement officers annually inspect over 10 million vehicles coming in and out of the Sunshine State;
- Aggressive enforcement has recovered \$17 million in seizures from criminal activities—everything from stolen goods to truck hijackings – marijuana seizures and the transport of illegal immigrants.

Strengthened Florida's economy.

- Since taking office, Bronson has aggressively expanded domestic and international marketing programs and increased sales of Florida agricultural products by over a billion dollars;
- His "Fresh From Florida" promotional program can be found in multiple languages and in more than 17,000 stores throughout the world; as a result Florida's agricultural sector is now valued at \$84 billion annually—the second largest industry in the state.

Been good for the environment.

- As a strong voice on Florida's Cabinet, Bronson has worked to acquire nearly 380,000 acres of conservation lands for environmental and recreational purposes;
- His agency manages a million acres of forestland to provide recreation, conservation and economic value for all Florida citizens.

As your Commissioner of Agriculture, Bronson will continue to work hard and serve you to the best of his ability. He is someone who grew up actually working the farm before pursuing several degrees in agriculture and his experience, insight and commitment to consumers makes him the best candidate to continue serving as Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture. Agriculture is not just a political career or stepping-stone to another office—it's a way of life for Charles Bronson. Please vote on November 7th for Charles Bronson as *your* Commissioner of Agriculture. ●

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