



# FNA4Action



## 2016 State and National Election Information Guide

This informational guide is produced by FNPAC, a political action committee representing the interests of nurses and patients in the State of Florida. FNPAC is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing wise health policy in Florida and across our nation.

Online Version: <http://www.FNA4Action.com>

# ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

**“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of their right to vote; except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”**

**-Franklin D. Roosevelt.**

**“The right to vote is the right upon all of our rights are leveraged-and without which none can be protected.”**

**-Benjamin Jealous**

Voting is an essential responsibility of all citizens to ensure democracy and the most powerful tool citizens have to influence the direction of their nation. With each election voters select legislators at the local, state and national level who will make decisions that will effect every aspect of their lives. It is through the process of selecting representatives democracies ensure that the government represents the needs and priorities of the governed.

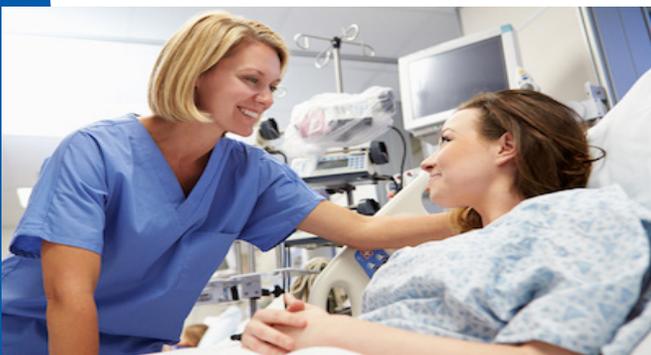
According to the United States Election Project the percentage of eligible voters who actually vote in the United States is the lowest it has been since the Second World War. In 2014 only 1 in 3 eligible voters made it to the polls, and in Florida on 34.5 % of registered voters actually practiced this constitutional right.

In the 2016 election citizens of Florida have the opportunity to elect officials who will guide our state and our nation into the future. In the 2016 election all State and Federal Representative seats are up for election. All Florida State Senate seats and one National Senate seat are up for election, and there is the election of the next President of the United States. In addition to these important elections, there are also several local and county elections and several Florida Constitutional Amendments on the ballot.

This election will decide the direction our state and our nation take on issues such as Medical Marijuana, nurse staffing, work place safety, the Affordable Care Act and health care access. This election will also decide the direction our nation takes on health care reform, gun control, climate issues, who serves on the Supreme Court of the United States and many other issues. This election will have clear, and long lasting, impact on Florida, the nation, and the world.

Now it is your opportunity to help guide that future. You have the ability to help select those individuals who will make decisions regarding health care delivery, nurse staffing, scope of practice and workplace environment.

This booklet is provided to you to help decide which legislators can most effectively represent our profession, our patients and our community. This booklet provides information regarding how to vote, and how to encourage others to vote.

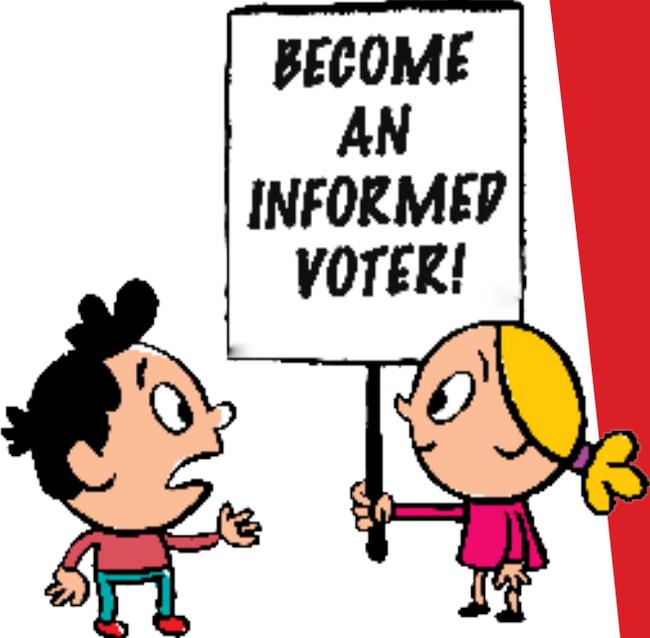


# TAKING ACTION

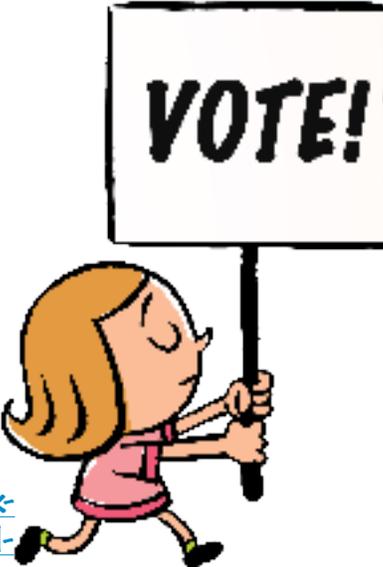


**REGISTER  
TO VOTE**

Don't know how to register?  
Go to:  
<http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voter-registration/register-to-vote-or-update-your-information/>



**BECOME  
AN  
INFORMED  
VOTER!**



**VOTE!**



**EDUCATE  
OTHERS  
ABOUT  
THE  
ISSUES!**

Don't know where to Vote?  
Go to:  
<http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/check-your-voter-status-and-polling-place/>



**STEP 5  
Mobilize!**

Encourage your friends, family, coworkers and neighbors to vote. Help those with transportation problems to the polls. Use Facebook, Twitter and social media to get others out to vote!

Below is a list of important dates to remember:

**Primary Election: August 30, 2016**

(Selection of individuals who will run for National and State offices including United States Senate Candidate for Florida for the Democratic and Republican Parties. (Must register to vote before August 1, 2016 to participate in this election)

General Election: November 8, 2016

**2016 Voter Registration/Bookclosing Deadline**

The deadline to register to vote for an upcoming election is 29 days before the election. The registration deadlines for the 2016 election cycle are:

**2016 Absentee Ballot Deadline**

Primary Election: July 26 – August 2, 2016

General Election: October 4 – 11, 2016

**2016 Early Voting Period**

The early voting period consists of a minimum mandatory period of 8 days. It starts on the 10th day and ends on the 3rd day before Election Day:

Primary Election: August 20 – 27, 2016

General Election: October 29 – November 5, 2016

In addition, each county Supervisor of Elections may at his or her own discretion offer additional days of early voting on any or all days during the 15th through 11th day and the last Sunday before Election Day.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

The following Amendments to the Florida Constitution have been approved by the Supreme Court of Florida to be included on the 2016 ballots

**August 30:**

Type	Title	Subject Description
LRCA	Amendment 4	Energy Provides property tax exemptions for renewable energy devices

**November 8:**

CICA	Amendment 1	Energy Grants Florida residents the right to own or lease equipment that produces solar energy for personal use
CICA	Amendment 2	Marijuana -Grants the right to use marijuana for the treatment of certain ailments when recommended by a physician
LRCA	Amendment 3	Taxes Provides property tax exemptions for first responders disabled in the line of duty
LRCA	Amendment 5	Taxes Locks home values in place for senior citizens eligible for property tax breaks

# VOTE!

With each election cycle there are significant issues or legislation that coming legislators will have to address. Below is a brief summary of some of the issues the American Nurses Association and the Florida Nurses Association are monitoring and feel are priority issues for health care delivery in our state.

NOTE: There is presently no pending legislation before the Florida Legislature, but we expect significant activity in 2017. (Session begins in March 2017)

If you want to become involved in making a difference in any of these issues contact the Florida Nurses Association at [info@floridanurse.org](mailto:info@floridanurse.org).

#### NURSING SCOPE OF PRACTICE

-ANA and FNA support efforts to allow all nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and training. These efforts include supporting legislation that would expand advanced practice roles within the Veterans Administration, allows advanced practice nurses to authorize home healthcare services and removes unnecessary and costly restrictions on the ability of advanced practice nurses to provide care to their patients. (See Home Healthcare Improvement Act S. 578/ H.R. 1342)

#### SAFE HEALTHCARE STAFFING

-Inadequate or inappropriate nurse staffing compromises patient care and contributes to the nursing shortage as nurses leave the bedside. ANA and FNA promote legislation that holds hospitals and health care facilities accountable for developing and implementing valid, reliable unit-by-unit nurse staffing plans. (See The Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act H.R. 2083/S. 1132) sponsored by ANA)

#### MEDICAID EXPANSION

The American Nurses Association and the Florida Nurses Association support all efforts to extend affordable quality healthcare to all citizens.

#### SAFE PATIENT HANDLING & MOBILITY

-ANA and FNA supports efforts and legislation that protect patients and nurses by eliminating manual lifting, moving and repositioning of patients by nurses and care workers. (See Nurse and Health Care Worker Protection Act H.R. 4266/S. 2408)

#### FUNDING FOR THE FLORIDA CENTER OF NURSING

-The Florida Center for Nursing plays an important role in providing legislators and community leaders with essential data regarding the nursing workforce in Florida. The FCN has been without State funding for several years. It is time for Florida's leaders to reinstate the funding for this invaluable community service.

#### QUALITY OF NURSING EDUCATION

The Florida Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association recognizes the importance of quality nursing education. On July 14, 2016, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) introduced the Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016 in bipartisan fashion. ANA was instrumental in the introduction of this legislation, which would reauthorize, update, and improve nurse workforce programs under Title VIII, which supports nurses practicing in rural and medically underserved communities, advanced education nursing, diversity grants, National Nurse Service Corp, nurse faculty loan forgiveness, as well as geriatric education.

#### WORKPLACE SAFETY

-The Florida Nurses Association and the American Nurses Association recognize that violence in the workplace has become a substantial concern for many nurses across the country. Both organizations are actively working to develop strategies that will help to reduce violence in the workplace. This includes the many forms of violence that occurs including bullying, physical violence and hazardous work environments.

# VOTE!

# THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Since 2010 the Republican Majorities in the US House and Senate have attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act on multiple occasions with the intention to replace it with an alternative healthcare law. In June 2016 Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Representative Fred Upton (R-Mich) released a comprehensive Republican proposal to replace the ACA. Their proposal, called the Patient Choice, Affordability, Responsibility and Empowerment Act (CARE), if passed and signed by the President, could replace the ACA.

Listed below are a summary of the changes that would be brought about with the implementation of the CARE Act.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT	CARE ACT												
<b>INDIVIDUAL MARKET REFORMS</b>													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Requires individuals, with certain exceptions, have health insurance</li> <li>-Requires health insurers to offer coverage regardless of pre-existing conditions. Annual open enrollment period. Rates are limited to considering age, place of residence and smoking status</li> <li>-Older adults can be charged no more than 3 times as much as younger adults (3 to 1 banding)</li> <li>-Eliminates annual and lifetime limits within health insurance policies.</li> <li>-Mandates preventative care is covered</li> <li>-Mandates that health insurance covers the diagnosis and treatment of certain conditions and illnesses</li> <li>-Allows families to keep children on insurance until they are 26 years of age.</li> <li>-Limits out of pocket expenses for health insurance policy holders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Does not require individuals have health insurance</li> <li>-Requires health insurers to offer to coverage to buyers at standard rates based on age and place of residence so long as they maintain continuous coverage for at least 18 months. If individuals lose coverage for any period they are no longer guaranteed insurance accessibility.</li> <li>-One-time enrollment period for all without health insurance.</li> <li>-Older adults can be charged no more than 5 times as much as younger adults (5 to 1 banding)</li> <li>-After the onetime open enrollment period insurers may refuse to offer health insurance to individuals with pre-existing conditions or adjust rates based on prior health conditions if they have interrupted health insurance coverage</li> <li>-Eliminates lifetime health insurance limits but allows annual limits</li> <li>-Eliminates the requirement that preventative care is covered.</li> <li>-Eliminates mandate of what insurance covers</li> <li>-Eliminates out of pocket limits.</li> </ul>												
<b>INSURANCE ASSISTANCE</b>													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ACA offers tax credits paid directly to health insurers to individuals between 100 and 400% of the federal poverty level who do not have Medicaid, VA Care or employer based insurance.</li> <li>-ACA offers tax credits to small businesses who offer health insurance to employees.</li> <li>-To receive tax credits individuals are required to pay a percentage of their insurance premium based on income and insurance plan chosen (varies between 2% and 9.5%).</li> <li>-The amount individuals receive is based on the cost of the insurance premium, income and family status.</li> <li>-Individuals between 100% and 250% of federal poverty level also qualify for assistance to pay copays and share of cost.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-CARE Act offers tax credits to small businesses and individuals who do not work for a large business or who do not have other access to health insurance.</li> <li>-Fixed Tax credit varies with age, income and family status. See below*:</li> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>Individual</th> <th>Family</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18-34</td> <td>\$1970</td> <td>\$4290</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-49</td> <td>\$3190</td> <td>\$8330</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-64</td> <td>\$4690</td> <td>\$11,110</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <li>-Those at 200% of FPL would qualify for 100% of tax credit.</li> <li>-Tax credit would adjust between 200 and 300% of FPL (0% tax credit at 300% of FPL)</li> <li>-Medicaid recipients could opt to receive tax credit in lieu of Medicaid</li> <li>-Tax credits increase annually fixed to Consumer Price Index</li> </ul>	Age	Individual	Family	18-34	\$1970	\$4290	35-49	\$3190	\$8330	50-64	\$4690	\$11,110
Age	Individual	Family											
18-34	\$1970	\$4290											
35-49	\$3190	\$8330											
50-64	\$4690	\$11,110											

MEDICAID	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows states to expand Medicaid to individuals making 138% of less of FPL.</li> <li>• Share of cost between federal government and the states</li> <li>• Federal government sets conditions for how Medicaid is provided and what services must be covered under Medicaid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Converts Medicaid to a capped allotment to the state based on pre-2014 spending in each state adjusted for inflation and demographic change</li> <li>• Eliminates funding for Medicaid expansion to individuals making between 100-138% of FPL but allows these individuals to access tax credits</li> <li>• Eliminates federal mandates for services and coverage of Medicaid and allows states more flexibility in what services would be covered under Medicaid.</li> </ul>
HIGH RISK POOLS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not necessary as insurers must accept all individuals desiring health insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would create funds for state run high risk insurance pools. These pools would move the most expensive individuals out of the individual market place thereby reducing premium for the remaining population. **</li> </ul>
MALPRACTICE INSURANCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides for funds for states to try “Demonstration Projects” to experiment with malpractice reform to see what works.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not provide specific plan but refers to implementing caps on non-economic damages (pain and suffering), limiting attorney’s fees, dispute resolution committees and payment</li> </ul>
TAX EXCLUSION FOR EMPLOYER INSURANCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imposes a 40% excise tax on employer provided health insurance plans in excess of \$10,200 for the individual or \$27,500 for a family. (Not expected to take effect until 2020)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imposes a 40% excise tax on employer provided health insurance plans in excess of \$12,000 for the individual or \$30,000 for a family.</li> </ul>

**ASPECTS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT NOT INCLUDED IN THE CARE ACT**

- Penalties on hospitals for excessive readmission rates and hospital insurance tax on individuals with high income. (Congressional budget office estimates these changes will reduce deficit by \$802 million between 2016 and 2025.)
- Funding for nursing and medical education.
- Funding for community health clinics and health centers.

**REFERENCES**

\*Average National Annual Health Insurance Premiums for lowest level Bronze Plan 2014 (Source: <https://spe.hhs.gov/report/health-insurance-marketplace-premiums-2014-september-2013>) and E-health Insurance.

Note: Health insurance premiums are very variable based on location. These are national averages only for comparison

25-34 year old	Single adult: \$2652 (\$221/month)	Family: \$5112
35-44 year old	Single adult: \$3312 (\$276/month)	Family: \$6834
45-54 year old	Single adult: \$4308	Family: \$9804
55-64 year old	Single adult: \$6228	Family: \$12,688

\*\*Analysis has found that high risk insurance pools are prohibitively expensive to administer, are prohibitively expensive for consumers to purchase and provide less than optimal coverage.

## POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

### FLORIDA NURSES POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

ORLANDO – The Florida Nurses Association Political Action Committee (FNPAC) released its first round of candidate endorsements in Florida House and Senate races for the 2016 elections.

FNPAC trustees took into consideration the candidates’ stated interest in and commitment to many issues that comprise the Association’s legislative agenda, including state employee pay and benefits, workplace safety, public health, safe staffing, and nursing roles in healthcare. The endorsements of candidates in open seats were based on interviews and surveys that addressed health care, workforce needs, state employees, and the nursing profession, among other issues. FNPAC also considered the records of incumbent legislators who voted on pro-nurse legislation during the 2016 session of the Florida Legislature. A second round of endorsements will follow next month in advance of the general election.

“FNPAC has a history of endorsing candidates on both sides of the political aisle who care about protecting patients and the nursing profession,” said FNPAC Chair Bonnie Sklaren. “We encourage our members and the tens of thousands of nurses to support these candidates due to their interest in advancing the role of nurses in the education, workforce, and healthcare arenas.”

DISTRICT	FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 8	Ramon Jermaine Alexander (D)
District 24	Paul Renner (R)
District 36	Amanda Murphy (D)
District 45	Gregory Allen Jackson (D)
District 48	Alex Barrio (D)
District 65	Chris Sprowls (R)
District 67	Chris Latvala (R)
District 70	Wengay Newton, Sr. (D)
District 110	Jose Oliva (R)
District 113	David Richardson (D)
District 120	Holly Raschein (R)



Ramon Alexander  
House District 8



Paul Renner  
House District 24



Amanda Murphy  
House District 36



Gregory Allen Jackson  
House District 45



Alex Barrios  
House District 48



Chris Sprowls  
House District 65



Chris Latvala  
House District 67



Wengay Newton Sr.  
House District 70



Jose Oliva  
House District 110



David Richardson  
House District 113

[click on the candidate image for more information](#)

# ENDORSEMENTS



**Holly Kaschen**  
House District 120

DISTRICT	FLORIDA SENATE
District 7	Travis Hutson (R)
District 8	Rod Smith (D)
District 11	Gary Siplin (D)
District 17	Debbie Mayfield (R)
District 19	Darryl Rouson (D)
District 28	Matt Hudson (R)
District 29	Kevin Rader (D)
District 31	Jeff Clemens (D)
District 37	Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R)
District 38	Daphne Campbell (D)



**Travis Hutson**  
Senate District 7



**Rod Smith**  
Senate District 8



**Gary Siplin**  
Senate District 11



**Debbie Mayfield**  
Senate District 17



**Darryl Rouson**  
Senate District 19



**Matt Hudson**  
Senate District 28



**Kevin Rader**  
Senate District 29



**Jeff Clemens**  
Senate District 31



**Miguel Diaz de la Portilla**  
Senate District 37



**Daphne Campbell**  
Senate District 38

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NURSING IN FLORIDA CONTACT:

**FLORIDA NURSES ASSOCIATION**

1235 E. Concord St. • Orlando, FL 32803 • Phone: (407)896-3261 • Fax:  
(407)896-9042 • Email: [info@floridanurse.org](mailto:info@floridanurse.org)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 536985 • Orlando, FL 32853-6985

