



**Florida Credit Union League**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FCUL ORGANIZES CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS**

Tallahassee—The Florida Credit Union League’s Government Affairs Department has concluded an extensive round of interviews with candidates seeking office in the Florida Legislature. Mark Landreth, the League’s Director of Legislative Development, spearheaded the interview sessions, not only for the League but also the Florida Society of Association Executives and the Florida Association of Professional Lobbyists.

The legislative candidates’ interviews took place in various locales throughout Central and South Florida. Five interview sessions were held in: Altamonte Springs, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. Interviews in Punta Gorda were canceled due to Hurricane Charley’s untimely appearance. A total of 40 candidates were interviewed.

According to Landreth the interviews were most educational. “The interviews were enlightening because several candidates had banking connections that had not been apparent beforehand. One candidate had been general counsel for, and helped form, a bank, while another is currently employed by a bank. A couple of candidates claimed no knowledge of the credit union difference, giving the League a great educational opportunity. Some of the candidates were very familiar with credit unions and even personally knew credit union CEOs and volunteers, while one candidate’s step-daughter is employed by a credit union.”

The League for the past several election cycles conducted research on candidates for various offices to determine the level of support the League may or may not offer candidates. In 2002, League backed candidates were successfully elected at a 93.6% pace. Interview sessions, such as those just held, are one element the League uses to help make the determination as to which candidates to back.

FCUL’s Executive Vice President Aletta Shutes said that the League involvement in the electoral process is on-going.

“We are constantly researching candidates and potential candidates,” said Shutes. “It is our goal to back the very best candidates we can. It is equally important that candidates hear from us to learn what issues are important to credit unions and what concerns them.”

The Florida primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 31, although early voting has already begun throughout the state at local supervisor of elections offices.