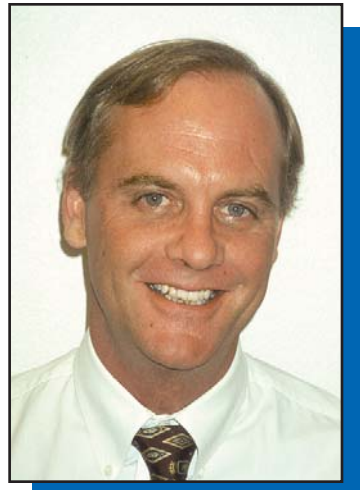


# PBA In Action With Your Political Consultant



*Jim  
Spearing*

## It's My Favorite Time Of The Year

Some look forward to Christmas, a birthday or an anniversary. I look forward to the political campaign season like a child waiting for Santa. I know how sick that is but, after 16 years in political campaigning, I still get the ultimate adrenaline rush as the season approaches. I know, professional help is in my future.

You, however, don't have to feel that way to make a significant impact on the political process and your own future.

First, we are beginning our rounds of candidate interviews across the state. If you have never sat in on these sessions, I strongly urge you to do so. The first thing that will strike you is how much these future politicians want our support. The second thing is how much they agree with just about everything we want. It's a wonder to me, given these promises, that we ever have anyone vote against us in Tallahassee.

But remember that during these interviews, one of these individuals will be the next Senator or House of Representatives member. While this may be the first time we get to meet

these prospective legislators, it is often their first opportunity to get to know us and our organization. It is critical that we make a good impression. I can't tell you how many times a successful candidate, even one we chose not to endorse, has told me how fair and professional our screening process is.

Finally, remember that the first and most important question that must be answered in choosing an endorsement is "Can they win?" I know that sounds mercenary, but even though they are a true blue law enforcement supporter, but aren't raising any money, have no professional help or support in the community, it is silly to place our prestige on someone who simply can't win.

The second consideration is "Can we do business with this person?" If the answer is yes, we do everything possible to get them elected. If the answer is no, we work equally hard to defeat them. It's that simple.

So get involved. Help us with our campaign activities and help yourself and your family to a brighter future.

Till next time, be safe out there. ●

## A Message From Your VP for Chapters



*James "Jim"  
Baiardi*

## Now Is The Time To Reward Friends

The biggest election cycle in years is here and PBA members and supporters can make a big difference in our future. As I stated in many prior *Roll Calls*, politics is rewarding our friends and destroying enemies. We do this at the polls by voting and working for PBA endorsed candidates who have supported law enforcement officers and our issues. Also, in some cases, we are working against those who have hurt law enforcement officers and are weak in public safety as shown by their voting record.

I call on the over 33,000 PBA members to get involved in this election cycle. Just giving a few hours of your time can make a big difference in getting PBA candidates elected. Many of our endorsed candidates have worked hard over the years

supporting police officers, correctional officers, and other law enforcement officers. They have earned our support! Now we must re-pay them for it. Get involved in your area. And remember, no check is too small to send. Sending money, no matter how big or small, is important to the candidate and the process of getting elected.

These actions will pay big dividends when our candidates win and support the PBA in getting better retirement benefits, better pay raises, and other items. In doing this, you also stop candidates who don't support law enforcement officer issues from getting into/back in elected office.

Let's get out there and get our voices heard. Our future depends on it! ●

## A Message From the President of the CPO Chapter



*Gil Fortner*

It's the time of year when we begin seeing candidates' election billboards and roadside signs that attempt to convince you to vote for them because they are the best candidates in the race. I hope that you will recognize and remember that everything that affects our jobs, from pay raises to who will run our Department, is determined by politics. While the thought of politics rather than principles may seem distasteful to most, the politics allow us the opportunity to influence decisions, based on principles, by our ability to dialogue with the politicians because we earned their respect. Because of this reality, elections have become the major focus of the Florida PBA and the past several years have borne the fruit of our efforts. We have amassed the largest lobbying force on a weekly basis of any group in Tallahassee during the legislative session. Our political endorsement is worth more than money to politicians, and we are very active in selecting qualified candidates who will support our issues once elected.

I ask that while we may become fatigued with the political process over the coming months, that you recognize the importance of supporting PBA endorsed candidates who have committed to support our officers and our issues. This is one case where paying your PBA dues is not enough if we want to have an influence in our future. Please attend rallies and volunteer to work in local races for candidates and let your support be known in your community. It is generally recognized that one law enforcement officer can influence the vote of five additional voters if we let our position be known. Your support is needed in this upcoming election, especially in the Governor's race, because the candidate who is elected stands a strong chance of directly influencing our futures for the next eight years. Just think what a good, or bad, eight years could mean in your life. Once again, thank you for your PBA membership and your support. ●