



Florida Credit Union League

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
For Further Information Contact:
Mark Ivester—(850) 576-8171
or 1-800-342-1266
November 8, 2004

**FCUL ENJOYS CLEAN SWEEP IN STATE CONGRESSIONAL RACES; 97.6 PERCENT
WINNER IN ALL RACES**

Tallahassee—Florida's credit unions backed every one of the winners in last week's election to decide the state's congressional delegation for the next two years. The Florida Credit Union League, through its CUPAC and CULAC political action committees, enjoyed a huge electoral victory that positions credit unions well for the coming sessions in both Tallahassee and Washington.

Three electoral contests featured no incumbent and the League backed the winner in each race. Mel Martinez became the first Cuban-American elected to the United States Senate and is a big credit union supporter. Martinez, during the campaign, often told how it was a credit union that loaned him the money to buy a car shortly after he immigrated to Florida from Cuba.

Congressman-elect Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-20), backed by the League in her first run for Congress, called FCUL's Executive Vice President Aletta Shutes the day after the election to thank the League for its early support of her campaign. Wasserman-Schultz has enjoyed credit union support for all of her campaigns dating back to her first campaign for the state legislature in 1992.

Congressman-elect Connie Mack, III (R-14), son of former United States Senator Connie Mack, won the seat vacated by CIA Director Porter Goss. Mack also called FCUL's Shutes the day after the election to thank her for being supportive of his bid for Congress.

Once all the votes were tallied and the winners decided, League success ratio for backing the winners stood at 97.6 percent for the general election. This contrasts to the 93.6 percent pace set by the League in the 2002 elections, which was a record at the time. This year's success bodes well for credit unions, according to Shutes.

"Credit unions in Florida stepped up big-time this year," said Shutes, "and, as a result, now have elected more credit union supportive candidates than ever before. We can now state with confidence that credit unions are major players in the Florida electoral process."

Shutes expressed satisfaction of being included in the thank you calls by winning candidates.

"It is a unique thing for candidates the day after a hectic election taking the time to call us and thanking us for our support. This never used to happen to us. We can only believe that our visibility and efforts are truly being recognized as significant."