

# STATE VMA

## Sample Voter Guide

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## ELECTION 2006

As we prepare for election 2006, we urge all of our members to vote: it our most basic civic duty. We have compiled this voter guide to assist you in identifying the candidates who support the issues important to veterinarians, and encourage you to consider these candidates as you determine who will best serve your District in the Senate and House.

The pages of this guide contain contact information, voting history and responses to the State VMA Candidate Questionnaire. Please feel free to contact me with your comments on this voter guide, or any other topic.

*Elaine*

Elaine Cooper, State VMA Director

## Message from VMA President

I am excited to introduce State VMA's first voter guide. This is an excellent resource for reviewing candidates for public office. I hope that you find it useful. Please feel free to contact me or Elaine with any ideas to improve this publication or with any questions that you would like to see posed to candidates when we distribute candidate questionnaires for the next election cycle.

If you'd like to become more involved in the political process, please contact our office and let us know. We have information as to the various activities that are available to you and can help you coordinate with planned campaign activities.

Please remember that the last day to register to vote for this year's election is October 1<sup>st</sup> and absentee ballots may be obtained after October 10<sup>th</sup> from your County Clerk. This year's election date is Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and a listing of the polling places can be found on our website: [statevma.org/polling\\_places](http://statevma.org/polling_places).

I hope to see all of you at the 2006 Election Day Luncheon!

George Forman, DVM, State VMA President

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*The right of voting  
for representatives is  
the primary right by  
which other rights  
are protected.*

*- Thomas Paine*

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**Senator Jones**

Elected 2002  
15<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

**District Office:**

1234 Street  
City, State, Zip  
Phone: (708) 756-0987  
Fax: (708) 876-9857  
*District Coordinator:*  
George Green

**Committees:**

Agriculture, Economic  
Development, Urban  
development and  
Education.

**Other:**

Caucus Leader, Women's  
Caucus Leader, Agriculture  
Committee, Chair.

**Campaign Office**

Fifth Street  
Cite, State, Zip  
Phone: (687) 678-0964  
Fax: (654) 345-5689  
*Contact:* Matt Brown

**State VMA position:**  
**SUPPORT**

### *2005 Legislative Session*

SB 67, passed House. Died in Senate.  
Banning pit bulls statewide.  
Vote: N

SB 90, Passed House. Sine die.  
Deleting certification requirement for euthanasia technicians.  
Vote: N

SB 235, Enrolled.  
Animal license plate revenue for pet shelters.

**Sponsor**

Vote: Y

SB 789, Enrolled.

**Chief Sponsor**

Tax credits to veterinarians donating 15 hours a month for twelve consecutive months to county shelters.  
Vote: Y

### *Answers to Candidate Questionnaire*

Q: What small business initiatives do you plan to introduce if re-elected?

A: I plan to introduce a program to assist small business owners in offering health insurance to their employees. I will also be introducing a grant program for businesses with less than 10 employees that expand by at least three employees.

Q: What veterinary issues do you expect to come to the forefront next legislative session? What is your position on these issues?

A: The Practice Act is due to be renewed next year and some additions to the Act are already in the works. For example, some are talking about including homeopathic remedies and artificial insemination in the Practice Act. I support requiring a veterinary license for the performance of these procedures.

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*Sink or swim, live or  
die, survive or perish, I  
give my hand and my  
heart to this vote.*

*- Daniel Webster*

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## Issues Affecting the Profession

Several issues have surfaced this legislative session that seriously impact the practice of veterinary medicine. We were fortunate to defeat increased licensing fees, guardianship language and several other measures that would adversely affect the profession.

While we managed to defeat quite a few bad bills with the assistance of House and Senate members that we are supporting this election cycle, we also got several key measures through the legislature. The small business tax credit and the tax credit to volunteer veterinarians will assist all of us in maintaining a financial sound practice.

I have included two charts below. These charts indicate the bills introduced this session that impact veterinary medicine, as well as each incumbent candidate’s position on those bills.

### Bill Summaries

Bill	Summary	Status
HB 33	Tax credit to facilities boarding animals.	Passed House. Died in Senate.
HB 49	Increased licensing fees for veterinarians (and other professionals).	Sine die.
HB 575	Animal ownership changed to guardianship.	Passed House. Died in Senate.
SB 58	Deletion of dental procedures from practice act.	Sine die.
SB 3	Small business tax credit.	Passed.
SB78	Licensure requirement for teeth floating.	Passed.
SB 67	Statewide pit bull ban.	Passed House. Died in Senate.
SB 90	Deleting certification requirement for euthanasia technicians.	Passed House. Sine die.
SB 50	Animal license plate revenue for pet shelters.	Passed.
SB 798	Tax credits to veterinarians donating 15 hours a month for twelve consecutive months to county shelters.	Passed.

### Vote Summaries

Names in **bold** indicate State VMA supports their campaign.

		HB 33	HB 49	HB 575	SB 58	SB 3	SB 78	SB 67	SB 90	SB 235	SB 798
<b>Senator</b>	<b>Jones</b>	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N
	Hoffman	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
<b>Representative</b>	Gregory	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y
	<b>Smith</b>	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y

## Voting

If you haven't already, please register to vote, you can do so at any of the following locations:

- County Clerk's Office
- Driver's License Facility
- Senior Service Center
- University Commons
- Any State Agency Office

For a listing of polling places, please visit our website at [statevma.org/polling](http://statevma.org/polling) or the County Clerk's website at [countyclerk.gov](http://countyclerk.gov).

If you have any questions about registering to vote or obtaining an absentee ballot, please contact County Clerk, Ed McMahon.

Address: 2359 Main Street  
 Your Town, Your State, Your Zip  
 Phone: (000) 875-3432

## Upcoming Events

Please help out the State VMA by assisting in planning or by attending the following events. Please contact the point person for each event for more information.

- Seminar: Practice Pointers**                      September 2  
 Grace Meyer  
 (000) 876-8874 or [Grace@vetmed.org](mailto:Grace@vetmed.org)
- Seminar: Support the Profession**            September 3  
 Grace Meyer  
 (000) 876-8874 or [Grace@vetmed.org](mailto:Grace@vetmed.org)
- Vet PAC Fundraiser**                              September 27  
 Grace Meyer  
 (000) 876-8874 or [Grace@vetmed.org](mailto:Grace@vetmed.org)
- Representative Smith Luncheon**            October 1  
 Grace Meyer  
 (000) 876-8874 or [Grace@vetmed.org](mailto:Grace@vetmed.org)
- Senator Jones Luncheon**                        October 17  
 Grace Meyer  
 (000) 876-8874 or [Grace@vetmed.org](mailto:Grace@vetmed.org)
- Election Day Luncheon**                        November 4  
 Grace Meyer  
 (000) 876-8874 or [Grace@vetmed.org](mailto:Grace@vetmed.org)

SEPTEMBER 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OCTOBER 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

NOVEMBER 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Election 2006 Important Dates

- January 9**                      Petition filing deadline
- March 6**                        Primary
- October 1**                      Last day to register to vote
- October 10**                    Absentee ballots available
- November 4**                  Election Day

## Using this Guide

This guide has been developed to assist State Veterinary Medical Associations in grassroots advocacy. Please feel free to alter this guide in any way to suit your purposes. The language used in this guide is just a guideline for the type of content that could be included in various sections of the newsletter.

References to PACs, fundraisers and support of candidates may not be appropriate for your newsletter and you may desire to delete those provisions.

Also, prior to using this guide, you should check any applicable state laws, including campaign laws, to make certain that any publication you

## Obtaining Information on Votes and Positions

This guide is predicated on the creation of a candidate questionnaire and a review of incumbent candidate's votes.

There are two ways to create questions for your questionnaire: 1.) create essay questions or 2.) create yes/no questions. E.g. 1.) Explain your position on SB 435 or describe your position on non-veterinarians performing acupuncture on domestic animals or 2.) Did you support HB 324 or Do you support including teeth floating in the State practice act.

Questionnaires should be mailed at least two months prior to the election so that there will be adequate time for candidates to return them and for the state VMA to format the responses in the newsletter.

A review of candidates' voting records is typically available through the clerk's office in your legislature and may be on-line.