

Adam H. Putnam

Adam Putnam was elected to serve a second term as Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture on November 4, 2014, and was sworn into office on January 6, 2015. In this capacity, he oversees the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and serves as one of Florida's four-member state Cabinet.

Commissioner Putnam's priorities include fostering the growth and diversification of Florida agriculture; expanding access to Florida's abundance of fresh produce, seafood and other products; securing a stable, reliable and diverse supply of energy; protecting the quantity and quality of the state's water supply; and safeguarding consumers from deceptive business practices.

In this capacity, Commissioner Putnam continues to be a strong advocate for Florida-based water solutions. He petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to fight the addition of Numeric Nutrient Criteria specifically for Florida's water ways, successfully arguing that the state does a better job of protecting the quality of our vital springs, rivers and lakes than the federal government could. Since the formulation of the Waters of the United States policy, Commissioner Putnam has spoken out about the lack of clarity in the rules and the enormous costs that could be associated with little gain for Florida's environment. The rule would also be a setback for successful programs currently in place that are benefiting our state's critical waterways.

Previously, Commissioner Putnam served five terms as Congressman for Florida's 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was recognized as a leader on a variety of issues, including water, energy and government transparency and efficiency. Commissioner Putnam was acknowledged for his efforts to bring comprehensive restoration to the Everglades, reform food safety laws, modernize programs to ensure Florida agriculture remains a leader throughout the nation and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables to counter childhood obesity.

While in Congress, Commissioner Putnam was elected by his peers to serve as the Republican Policy Chairman during the 109th Congress and Chairman of the House Republican Conference for the 110th Congress, the highest elected leadership position any Floridian of either party has held in Washington. Commissioner Putnam also served as a member of the House Committees on Government Reform, Agriculture, Rules and Financial Services.

Before he was elected to Congress, Commissioner Putnam served in the Florida House of Representatives from 1996 to 2000. He graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Food and Resource Economics.

Commissioner Putnam is a fifth generation Floridian who grew up in the citrus and cattle industry. He and his wife, Melissa, have four children.