

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

NEWS FOR THE CLIENTS AND FRIENDS OF BASS, BERRY & SIMS PLC

Tennessee Government Update Friday, August 15, 2008

Tennessee State Senate Races

As of today, it is possible, perhaps likely, that Tim Barnes, who lost to Democratic incumbent Rosalind Kurita (Clarksville) by 19 votes, will challenge the result. Likewise, Republican Senator Raymond Finney (Maryville) who lost to Doug Overbey by 139 votes has asked for a recount, and Bob Shutt who lost the Republican primary in rural southwest Tennessee to Dolores Gresham by 54 votes has not conceded. A formal appeal of a primary election is to the appropriate state party executive committee sitting as that party's primary board.

United States Senate Races

The government update this week focuses on races for the United States Senate, with particular emphasis on those races that could change the balance of political power in the Senate.

The United States Senate is currently composed of 49 Democrats, 49 Republicans and two Independents (Lieberman of Connecticut and Sanders of Vermont). There are 35 seats being contested, of which 23 are Republican and 12 are Democratic. Of the Republican seats, five are open seats due to the retirements of Allard (Colorado), Warner (Virginia), Hagel (Nebraska), Craig (Idaho) and Domenici (New Mexico). Two of those seats are generally considered to be safe Republican seats, Nebraska and Idaho. Conventional wisdom lists the other three as toss-ups or leaning Democratic. We will follow those three seats, plus others that seem to be seriously in play, the Alaska Senate seat held by indicted incumbent Republican Ted Stevens being a good example.

At this time, in addition to the Alaska race, the close incumbent races appear to be the other races listed in the chart below and particularly those in Louisiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire and Oregon.

United States Senate Elections

State	Candidate	Articles of Interest/Polling Information	Tidbits
AK	Mark Begich (D)	Stevens Requests Change of Venue to Continue Campaigning... http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/ap_alaska/story/490720.html	
	Ted Stevens (R) (Incumbent)		
CO	Mark Udall (D)	Udall 47% Schaffer 43%... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/colorado/election_2008_colorado_senate	Open seat
	Bob Schaffer (R)		
LA	Mary Landrieu (D) (Incumbent)	Senator Landrieu's Name Removed from Obama Fundraiser... http://www.examiner.com/a-1533124~Sen_Landrieu_s_name_removed_from_Obama_fundraiser.html	
	John Kennedy (R)		Formerly a Democrat
ME	Tom Allen (D)	Current projection shows Collins by 14.5%... http://www.electionprojection.com/premium/2008/me08.php	
	Susan Collins (R) (Incumbent)		
MN	Norm Coleman (R) (Incumbent)	Franken calls on U.S. to rescind \$7.1 billion for Iraqi reconstruction, spend it on US highways... http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/senate/26863164.html?elr=KArksUUUU	Whereas, Senator Coleman announced plan to rescind over \$1 billion in future U.S. reconstruction funding.
	Al Franken (D)		
NH	Jeanne Shaheen (D)	Rematch of 2002 Senate Race Finds a New Climate... http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/04/us/politics/04sununu.html?scp=8&sq=mark%20begich&st=cse	
	John Sununu (R) (Incumbent)		
NM	Tom Udall (D)	Retiring NM Senator Domenici to Endorse Pearce for Senate Seat... http://election.kob.com/article/stories/S540679.shtml?cat=10580	Open seat
	Steve Pearce (R)		
OR	Jeff Merkley (D)	Incumbent Smith Regains Lead, Still Receives Under 50% Support... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/oregon/election_2008_oregon_senate	
	Gordon Smith (R) (Incumbent)		
VA	Mark Warner (D)	Virginia's Warner to Deliver Keynote Address at DNC... http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/08/13/ST2008081301060.html	Open seat
	Jim Gilmore (R)		

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