

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

Friday, March 5, 2010

Tennessee is a finalist in the competition to receive federal funding from the Obama Administration's "[Race to the Top](#)" education program. Changes made in Tennessee's K-12 education system in the special session that preceded the General Assembly's regular session were based on "Race to the Top" criteria. The next step for the state is a presentation to federal education officials in Washington later this month.

A [poll of Tennesseans by students at Middle Tennessee State University](#) shows that Governor Bredesen's job approval remains above 50 percent and that most Tennesseans have not heard of any of the candidates for governor. The gubernatorial primary elections are August 5. Bill Haslam, the mayor of Knoxville, is known by 12 percent of those polled after buying a million dollars of advertising time during the Winter Olympics.

Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris announced on Wednesday morning that all bills that senators desire to be heard in committee should be put on notice to be considered Monday, March 8. Norris also noted that his goal was to have all committees except the Finance Committee finish their business by the end of March. No one really expects that to happen.

We call your attention to the blogs of two veteran Nashville capital hill reporters, Tom Humphrey of the *Knoxville News Sentinel* and Andy Sher of the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. Both are seasoned observers of the Tennessee political scene and talented writers. Their blogs are noted below, and both contain a good review of the atmosphere and legislative considerations in Tennessee's Capitol.

<http://blogs.knoxnews.com/humphrey/>

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