

## TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

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**April 2, 2010**

This week began with a spectacular win for the state and ended with candidates filing to run for governor and the General Assembly.

Monday, Tennessee was awarded \$500 million by the United States Department of Education in the Race to the Top grant competition. The money will not help the state budget situation, but will provide money to state and local systems to improve educational outcomes. The only other state to win in the first round was Delaware. [\*The Tennessean explains.\*](#)

In the governor's race, Kim McMillan dropped out of the Democratic primary to run for mayor of Clarksville. Mike McWherter, a Jackson business person and banker, is now the sole contender for the Democratic nomination. McWherter is the son of former Governor Ned McWherter. McWherter officially announced his candidacy yesterday on the steps of the capitol. His remarks included swipes at the Republican candidates. Andy Sher at the [\*Times Free Press has the story.\*](#)

In the Republican primary contest, Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey, Congressman Zack Wamp and Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam constitute the field. [\*Sher also explains\*](#) how Wamp has been drawn into the continuing controversy about the C Street Center in Washington where he lived for a time.

In the Nashville area, two races will dominate the state Senate primary elections.

In the Senate district immediately east of Nashville, State Representative Susan Lynn is running against incumbent Senator Mae Beavers for the Republican nomination. Beavers said last year that she would not seek re-election in order to run for Wilson County mayor. She changed her mind and announced her re-election effort two weeks ago, long after Lynn had begun campaigning for the seat.

In the Senate seat that includes West and South Nashville, Bass, Berry & Sims attorney Jeff Yarbrow, who, as *The Tennessean* says, "has not yet reached the age of forty" will run for the Democratic nomination against incumbent Douglas Henry, "a state senator

for nearly forty years." *The Tennessean* reviews the Middle Tennessee races [in a story by Michael Cass and Nate Rau](#).

To conclude election year commentary, a bill to require all driver's license tests be given in English is working through the legislature. The AP [has the story](#), and *The Tennessean* [has opined against the bill](#).

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