

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, October 10, 2008

State Senator Rosalind Kurita’s Federal Court lawsuit against Democratic State Senate nominee Tim Barnes, the Tennessee Attorney General, the Tennessee Secretary of State, the Tennessee Coordinator of Elections and each member of the Democratic State Primary Board (“Defendants”) will be heard by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Echols on Friday, October 10th. The lawsuit challenges Defendants’ actions following the August 7th primary election and seeks to place Kurita’s name on the general election ballot as the Democratic nominee for Tennessee’s 22nd Senatorial District. Election officials contend that it is too late to change the ballots.

Senator Ted Stevens’ federal corruption trial progressed this week too. In spite of the proceedings, Democratic challenger Mark Begich’s lead over Stevens has decreased to statistical insignificance. However, both candidates’ favorability ratings remain above fifty percent.

The U.S. Senate races in Colorado, New Hampshire and North Carolina continue to fluctuate. According to the polls, Colorado’s Democratic candidate Mark Udall’s lead over Republican Bob Schaffer has increased to five percentage points. Previous numbers placed Udall and Schaffer within two points of each other.

Meanwhile, the lead in New Hampshire’s U.S. Senate race has shifted since last month. Incumbent Republican Senator John Sununu pulled ahead by seven during September. This week’s poll numbers, however, show Democratic challenger Jeanne Shaheen leads Sununu by eight points. It is reported that a third party candidate may be drawing seven percent of votes from Sununu as a means of protesting the Economic Rescue Plan.

While the poll numbers in the North Carolina U.S. Senate race between incumbent Republican Elizabeth Dole and Democratic challenger Kay Hagan continues to shift, the margin is now statistically insignificant; whereas, Hagan trailed Dole by eight percentage points one month ago.

TENNESSEE STATE SENATE		
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State	Candidate	Information of Interest
TN	Kurita (D) (Incumbent)	Election officials respond to Kurita’s filing...
	Tim Barnes (D)	http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081007/NEWS0206/810070331/1009/NEWS02

U.S. SENATE

State	Candidate	Information of Interest
AK	Mark Begich (D)	Stevens' leads Begich by one point despite corruption trial... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/alaska/election_2008_alaska_senate
	Ted Stevens (R) (Incumbent)	
CO	Mark Udall (D)	Udall lead expands to five percentage points... http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_10639255
	Bob Schaffer (R)	
KY	Mitch McConnell (R) (Incumbent)	McConnell's favorability rating at fifty-six percent... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/kentucky/election_2008_kentucky_senate
	Bruce Lunsford (D)	
LA	Mary Landrieu (D) (Incumbent)	
	John Kennedy (R)	
ME	Tom Allen (D)	Collins continues to lead over Allen... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/maine/election_2008_maine_senate
	Susan Collins (R) (Incumbent)	
MN	Norm Coleman (R) (Incumbent)	Franken is down ten points from previous survey... http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=7ba45926-59fc-419d-84b3-c114dcb828d7
	Al Franken (D)	
NC	Elizabeth Dole (R) (Incumbent)	Dole up by one in race... http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=30346fbd-c1c5-4a14-a552-8578cdf7c31f
	Kay Hagan (D)	
NH	Jeanne Shaheen (D)	Shaheen gains eight point lead... http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=01742385-40ee-4b48-86b3-aff1db3d821d&c=24
	John Sununu (R) (Incumbent)	
NM	Tom Udall (D)	Poll gap jumps to 14 percentage points... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/new_mexico/election_2008_new_mexico_senate
	Steve Pearce (R)	
OR	Jeff Merkley (D)	
	Gordon Smith (R) (Incumbent)	
VA	Mark Warner (D)	Most recent poll indicates Warner sweeps Gilmore two to one... http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=e7dc1b60-536e-444e-82bd-64634282de72
	Jim Gilmore (R)	

The materials contained herein have been abridged from the statutory sources and should not be construed or relied upon for legal advice. Readers are urged to consult legal counsel concerning particular situations and specific legal questions.

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