

## TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

**April 30, 2010**

The chair of the House Finance Committee announced yesterday that it will be two weeks before the House Finance Committee takes up any matters related to the budget.

Rumors in the capitol are that state tax revenues in the month of April are up for the first time in many months. The final numbers will not be available for a few days. Hence, the real reason for delay. Budget proposals from the Senate Republican leadership have not been forthcoming, and Governor Bredesen and legislative leadership seem content to wait until new numbers are available before moving forward on the budget.

In the meantime, Governor Bredesen and Lieutenant Governor Ramsey continued their discussion about the future of the state of Tennessee in the media. In a new television ad, Ramsey suggested that the number of state departments could be cut by a third. Governor Bredesen suggested that, as Speaker of the Senate, he could submit that proposal to the legislature now. [WPLN's Blake Farmer has that story.](#)

While not suggesting budget amendments, [Ramsey did say that he would not consider any changes in Tennessee's pre-kindergarten program as a way to balance the budget.](#)

The state Senate approved the hospital coverage fee on Thursday morning by a vote of 25-5. The five senators who voted against the proposal supported by the Tennessee Hospital Association are all running for another office or re-election. Ron Ramsey is running for the Republican nomination for governor, Senators Diane Black and Jim Tracy are running against each other for the Republican nomination for the United States Congress in the Sixth Congressional District, and Senators Mae Beavers and Lowe Finney are in contested re-election campaigns.

For those political junkies who fight insomnia, the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance released a summary of contribution expenditures in all state races in 2008. [The 82-page document is available here.](#)

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