

TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT *Update*

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

Friday, September 12, 2008

The Tennessee Democratic Executive Committee will meet tomorrow, September 13th, to decide whether to affirm or overturn Senator Rosalind Kurita’s (D-Clarksville) 19 vote win over Democratic challenger Tim Barnes. Barnes’ attorneys contend Republicans cast ballots for Kurita during the State’s open primary election. Tennessee does not have party registration. The outcome of tomorrow’s meeting could shift the balance of power in the state Senate next year. Senator Kurita voted for Republican Ron Ramsey for Speaker of the Senate in 2007.

In another development that could affect the state Senate’s partisan balance, the Republican challenger to Independent incumbent Mike Williams was accused by a county Republican official of having an extra-marital affair with her. <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2008/sep/12/affair-allegations-rock-tn-state-senate-race/>

Meanwhile, the composition of the U.S. Senate race in Alaska has changed. Alaska’s incumbent Senator Ted Stevens (R) trails challenger Mark Begich by 2 percent; whereas, in previous polls, Stevens trailed Begich by 13 percent. Stevens’ federal criminal trial is scheduled to begin September 24 in Washington, D.C.

New Mexico’s U.S. Senate Race continues to shift too. The Republican candidate, Steve Pearce, consistently trailed Mark Udall by double digits until a month ago. Within the last month, Pearce’s gains bring him to within seven points of Udall. Udall continues to poll over 50 percent.

TENNESSEE STATE SENATE

State	Candidate	Articles of Interest/ Polling Information	Tidbits
TN	Kurita (D) (Incumbent)	Attorneys claim GOP interference in Senate vote... http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/200809110731/NEWS0206/80911005	The TN Democratic Executive Committee will meet this Saturday, September 13 th to decide whether to affirm or overturn Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Kurita's apparent 19-vote victory over Barnes in the Democratic Primary contest for Senate District 22 held August 4th.
	Tim Barnes (D)		

U.S. SENATE

State	Candidate	Articles of Interest/Polling Information	Tidbits
AK	Mark Begich (D)	New paradigm as Stevens narrows Begich's 13 point lead... http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/alaska/election_2008_a_laska_senate	
	Ted Stevens (R) (Incumbent)		
CO	Mark Udall (D)		
	Bob Schaffer (R)		
LA	Mary Landrieu (D) (Incumbent)	Storm boosts reputations... http://www.theadvocate.com/opinion/28038924.html	
	John Kennedy (R)		
ME	Tom Allen (D)		
	Susan Collins (R) (Incumbent)		
MN	Norm Coleman (R) (Incumbent)		
	Al Franken (D)		
NC	Elizabeth Dole (R) (Incumbent)	Dole receives endorsement from NFIB... http://www.nfib.com/object/IO_38358.html	Polls continue to fluctuate, but the average from 8/14 through 9/9 places Dole 2.5 ahead... http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2008/senate/nc/north_carolina_senate-910.html
	Kay Hagan (D)		
NH	Jeanne Shaheen (D)		
	John Sununu (R) (Incumbent)		
NM	Tom Udall (D)	Udall's lead continues to fall... 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)	Warner leads in all demographic groups throughout state... http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=6ca1688e-186e-4fe6-b3a3-80750285ee8b&c=77	The average from 8/12 through 9/7 places Warner 23.3 ahead... http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/2008/senate/va/virginia_senate-537.html
	Jim Gilmore (R)		

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