

# TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT

## *Update*

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

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**Friday, October 24, 2008**

### Tennessee Senate

Today, the U.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals denied Senator Rosalind Kurita's emergency motion to intervene in the Democratic primary election dispute that resulted in her loss of the Democratic nomination for the seat she now holds.

With eleven days to Election Day, four complaints have been filed with the Tennessee Ethics Commission and the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance. To add to her burdens, Senator and write-in candidate Kurita has been accused of misusing more than \$25,000 from her leadership PAC to aid her election. Under Tennessee law, PAC's cannot give more than \$7,500 per election to a campaign.

In addition to the complaint made against Kurita, allegations of campaign finance irregularities have been made against House Minority Leader Jason Mumpower (R-Bristol) and State House District 40 candidate Terry Lynn Weaver (R-Lancaster). The complaints will be heard on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Moreover, an ethics complaint has also been filed against Republican Senate candidate Delores Gresham. She is alleged to have voted in favor of a farm-grant bill that favored her husband (and many other Tennessee farmers).

### U.S. Senate

Little has changed in the Alaska U.S. Senate race between Republican incumbent U.S. Senator Ted Stevens and Democratic challenger Mark Begich. Public polling information shows a dead heat despite Stevens' federal corruption trial. The jury began deliberations on Wednesday; as of Friday morning, a verdict has not been reached.

The Georgia U.S. Senate race has been added to our schedule this week. Republican incumbent U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss' lead over Democratic challenger Jim Martin has dropped from twenty-nine points earlier in the election cycle to two percent in public polling data.

Meanwhile, Kentucky's Republican incumbent U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell's lead over Democratic challenger Bruce Lunsford has decreased by two points to seven percent. McConnell has been running campaign ads that show the amount of money he has been able to deliver to the state based on his Senate leadership ([http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/23/us/politics/23mcconnell.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/23/us/politics/23mcconnell.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)).

<b>TENNESSEE STATE SENATE</b>
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State	Candidate	Information of Interest
TN	Kurita (D) (Incumbent)	Kurita accused of misusing funds... <a href="http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20081023/NEWS01/810230324/1002/news01">http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20081023/NEWS01/810230324/1002/news01</a>
	Tim Barnes (D)	


<b>U.S. SENATE</b>
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State	Candidate	Information of Interest
AK	Mark Begich (D)	After fifteen days of testimony, jurors begin deliberations... <a href="http://www.adn.com/news/politics/fbi/stevens/story/565059.html">http://www.adn.com/news/politics/fbi/stevens/story/565059.html</a>
	Ted Stevens (R) (Incumbent)	
CO	Mark Udall (D)	Udall's support exceeds fifty percent... <a href="http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_2008/2008_senate_elections/colorado/election_2008_colorado_senate">http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_2008/2008_senate_elections/colorado/election_2008_colorado_senate</a>
	Bob Schaffer (R)	
GA	Saxby Chambliss (R) (Incumbent)	Chambliss' double digit lead now statistically insignificant... <a href="http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_2008/2008_senate_elections/georgia/election_2008_georgia_senate">http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_2008/2008_senate_elections/georgia/election_2008_georgia_senate</a>
	Jim Martin (D)	
KY	Mitch McConnell (R) (Incumbent)	McConnell up by seven... <a href="http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_2008/2008_senate_elections/kentucky/election_2008_kentucky_senate">http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_2008/2008_senate_elections/kentucky/election_2008_kentucky_senate</a>
	Bruce Lunsford (D)	
ME	Susan Collins (R) (Incumbent)	Collin's numbers down slightly... <a href="http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=d2f4c14c-2374-4e21-a4d5-9964283f3b86">http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=d2f4c14c-2374-4e21-a4d5-9964283f3b86</a>
	Tom Allen (D)	
MN	Norm Coleman (R) (Incumbent)	Gender gap leans in Franken's favor... <a href="http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=54941810-e058-4b37-b945-bfcc89958b95">http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=54941810-e058-4b37-b945-bfcc89958b95</a>
	Al Franken (D)	
MS	Ronnie Musgrove (D)	Race within one point... <a href="http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/10/17/12551/727">http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2008/10/17/12551/727</a>
	Roger Wicker (R) (Incumbent)	
NC	Elizabeth Dole (R) (Incumbent)	Race effectively tied... <a href="http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=73cdcb54-f808-4353-adb7-2fd69b8e66aa">http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=73cdcb54-f808-4353-adb7-2fd69b8e66aa</a>
	Kay Hagan (D)	
NH	Jeanne Shaheen (D)	

	John Sununu (R) (Incumbent)	
OR	Jeff Merkley (D)	Dems' possibilities improve... <a href="http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docID=news-000002974322">http://www.cqpolitics.com/wmspage.cfm?docID=news-000002974322</a>
	Gordon Smith (R) (Incumbent)	
VA	Mark Warner (D)	Can Obama ride Warner's coattails...? <a href="http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/virginia/election_2008_virginia_senate">http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/election_20082/2008_senate_elections/virginia/election_2008_virginia_senate</a>
	Jim Gilmore (R)	

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