

FINE GEDDIE

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

THE FINE GEDDIE REPORT

NOVEMBER 22, 2017

2018 ELECTION OUTLOOK

The 2018 Election Cycle is well underway in Alabama. We have provided the following overview of where things stand currently, based on verifiable information we have at this time. Let us know if you have any questions.

STATE SENATE AND HOUSE VACANCIES PROMPT SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Three special elections, one for the State Senate and two for State House seats, will occur immediately in order to fill current legislative vacancies.

The primary races to fill openings in SD26 and HD4 will be held on Dec. 12 in conjunction with the Special General Election for former United States Senator Jeff Sessions' seat. The seat is presently held by Luther Strange (R), who was appointed by former Governor Robert Bentley but defeated in the Republican Primary held in August. Former Chief Justice Roy Moore (R) faces Former U.S. Attorney Doug Jones (D) in the U.S. Senate race.

SD26 (Montgomery County) - Senate Minority Leader Quinton Ross (D—Montgomery) was recently appointed President of Alabama State University and resigned his Alabama Senate seat. Five Democrats are running for the open seat including: Montgomery City Councilman David Burkette, Councilman Fred Bell, Deborah Anthony, Tony Cobb, and State Rep. John Knight (D—Montgomery), who currently represents HD77. There is one Republican running: D.J. Johnson. If a primary runoff is needed it will be held Feb. 27, with the Special General Election scheduled for May 15.

HD4 (Morgan County) - Former Rep. Micky Hammon (R—Decatur) resigned from his post. Running for the Republican nomination on December 12 for his seat are Tom Fredericks, a local businessman; Tom Willis, a local dentist; and Parker Duncan Moore. If necessary, a runoff will be held on Feb. 27. The Republican nominee will face Democrat, Juanita Allen on May 15.

HD21 (Madison County) - There is a vacancy in HD21 due to the unexpected passing of Rep. Jim Patterson. The primary will be held on January 9. Republican Rex Reynolds, the Huntsville Chief of Police and Democrat Terry Jones, a retired schoolteacher will face off in the Special General Election scheduled for March 26.

REPUBLICANS TO MAINTAIN SUPERMAJORITY IN STATE SENATE; EIGHT SEATS, ALL REPUBLICAN, UP FOR GRABS

The Republicans hold a super-majority in the Alabama Senate, and there is no indication that will change during this election cycle. The body is currently comprised of 26 Republicans, 8 Democrats and 1 Independent. Of the 26 members running for reelection, only two face potentially-serious challengers from another party, with two facing primary challengers. At this time, eight members are not seeking reelection; all

are Republican.

OPEN SEATS IN THE ALABAMA SENATE:

SD2 (Madison County) - Sen. Bill Holtzclaw (R—Madison) is challenging Congressman Mo Brooks (R) for Alabama Congressional District Seat 5. Republican candidates for the vacant seat include Madison City Councilman Steve Smith and former State Senator Tom Butler. There are no other announced candidates at this time.

SD7 (Madison County) - Sen. Paul Sanford (R—Madison) is not seeking reelection. The race for the Republican nomination is already crowded. The field includes State Board of Education Member and former Air Force JAG Officer Mary Scott Hunter; Sam Givhan, a well-known Huntsville attorney; and Jeff Still, a businessman and former Navy SEAL. Johnathan Hard is seeking the Democratic nomination.

SD10 (Etowah County) - Sen. Phil Williams (R—Gadsden) is not seeking reelection. At this time, State Representative Mack Butler (R—Sweet Water) is the only candidate registered to run for the seat.

SD13 (Chambers, Cherokee, Lee, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph Counties) - Sen. Gerald Dial (R—Lineville) is running for State Agriculture Commissioner. Seeking the Republican nomination for the open seat are Randy Price, a businessman and farmer; Mike Sparks, Director of Alabama Forensic Sciences; and Tim Sprayberry.

SD25 (Montgomery, Crenshaw, Elmore Counties) - Sen. Dick Brewbaker (R—Montgomery) is not seeking reelection. Seeking the Republican nomination for the open seat are Montgomery County Commissioner Ronda Walker and attorney Will Barfoot. Others are considering a run.

SD32 (Baldwin County) - Sen. Trip Pittman (R—Fairhope), Chairman of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee on the General Fund, is not seeking reelection. The race for that Republican nomination is crowded. It includes Chris Elliott, President of the Baldwin County Commission; David Northcutt, a local dentist; Bill Roberts, former member of the Alabama House of Representatives for HD13 (Walker and Blount Counties); and Orange Beach City Councilman Jeff Boyd.

SD34 (Mobile County) - Sen. Rusty Glover (R—Semmes) is running for Lieutenant Governor. State Rep. Jack Williams (R—Mobile) is running for the open seat and is unopposed at this time.

SD35 (Mobile County) - Sen. Bill Hightower (R—Mobile) is running for Governor. State Rep. David Sessions (R—Grand Bay) is seeking the Republican nomination and Thomas Holmes is seeking the Democratic nomination for the open Alabama Senate seat.

SENATE INCUMBENTS FACING CHALLENGERS:

After serious consideration of a gubernatorial or U.S. Senate run, Senate President Pro Tempore Del Marsh (R—Anniston) will seek reelection to his state senate seat (SD12 – Calhoun, Clay, and Talladega Counties) and his leadership post within the body. Wayne Willis is challenging Sen. Marsh for the Republican nomination.

Jacob Lane is challenging Sen. Jim McClendon (R—Springville) for the Republican nomination in SD11 (Shelby, St. Clair, and Talladega Counties).

In SD29 (Houston, Dale, and Geneva Counties) Independent Sen. Harri Anne

Smith (I—Samson) is being challenged by Rep. Donnie Chesteen (R—Geneva). Republicans have tried unsuccessfully to win the Independent seat in the past two election cycles. In both instances, Sen. Smith’s opponents were Dothan residents. This time, she will face a fellow Geneva County resident.

Another incumbent facing opposition from a sitting House member is Sen. Larry Stutts (R—Tuscumbia) in SD6 (Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Marion Counties). Long-time State Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow (D—Russellville) is challenging Stutts.

REPUBLICANS EXPECTED TO HOLD MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE DESPITE ONE-FIFTH OF MEMBERSHIP NOT SEEKING REELECTION; SEVERAL INCUMBENTS TO FACE OPPOSITION

Republicans also hold a substantial majority of House seats and could increase their stronghold in 2018. Republicans currently hold 72 of 105 seats, including the two vacant seats, which they are likely to regain in the special elections. Of the 105 members of the Alabama House of Representatives, 21 members (including two open seats with special elections) are not seeking reelection; 15 of those open seats are currently held by Republicans, while 4 are held by Democrats. Republicans believe they can pick up three of those Democratic seats. Should Rep. John Knight (D—Montgomery) prevail in the special election for the open seat in SD26, his House seat HD77 would open. Those members not seeking reelection are as follows:

Marcel Black	- House District 3 (Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence)
Phil Williams	- House District 6 (Limestone, Madison)
Ed Henry	- House District 9 (Cullman, Marshall, Morgan)
Mike Millican	- House District 17 (Lamar, Marion, Winston)
Johnny M. Morrow	- House District 18 (Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale)
Will Ainsworth	- House District 27 (Blount, DeKalb, Marshall)
Mack Butler	- House District 30 (Etowah, St. Clair)
Richard Lindsey	- House District 39 (Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, DeKalb)
Jack D. Williams	- House District 47 (Jefferson)
Alan Harper	- House District 61 (Greene, Tuscaloosa, Pickens)
Mark Tuggle	- House District 81 (Chilton, Coosa, Tallapoosa)
Donnie Chesteen	- House District 87 (Geneva, Houston)
Paul Beckman	- House District 88 (Autauga, Elmore)
Alan Boothe	- House District 89 (Pike, Dale)
Barry Moore	- House District 91 (Coffee)
Randy Davis	- House District 96 (Baldwin, Mobile)
James Buskey	- House District 99 (Mobile)
Jack W. Williams	- House District 102 (Mobile)
David Sessions	- House District 105 (Mobile)

Of those not seeking reelection to the House, five are seeking Senate seats, one is running for local county commission, two for local probate judge, one for lieutenant governor and one for a congressional seat.

Most open seats to be contested are either safe Democratic or Republican seats

and will be primary elections. At this time, incumbents facing opposition from the other party are Rep. Terri Collins (R—Decatur) in HD8 (Morgan County) and Rep. David Faulkner (R—Birmingham) in HD46 (Jefferson County).

OVERVIEW OF STATEWIDE RACES

GOVERNOR

Republican Nomination

The Governor's race is crowded despite **Governor Kay Ivey's** overwhelming popularity and increasing financial resources at her disposal. Her challengers include:

State Senator Bill Hightower, currently representing a portion of Mobile. Sen. Hightower is an independent business consultant.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle was the first to throw his hat in the ring before Gov. Ivey announced that she is running.

Rev. Scott Dawson, serves as an Evangelist for the Scott Dawson Evangelistic Association in Birmingham.

Democratic Nomination

Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox has been Mayor of Tuscaloosa since 2005.

Former Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb began her career as a local court judge and resigned as the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 2011.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Republican Nomination

President of the Public Service Commission, Twinkle Cavanaugh (R) had planned to run for Governor but moved to the Lt. Governor race after Gov. Kay Ivey confirmed she would run.

State Rep. Will Ainsworth (R—Guntersville) - The freshman legislator is the owner of Dream Ranch and his family owns Progress Rail. He chaired U.S. Senator Marco Rubio's presidential campaign in Alabama.

State Sen. Rusty Glover (R—Mobile) - Sen. Glover has previously served in the State House of Representatives and two terms in the State Senate.

OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES

The other constitutional offices with open seats will be State Treasurer, currently held by Young Boozer (R), and Commissioner of Agriculture & Industries, currently held by John McMillan (R). Boozer and McMillan are term-limited. There are no announced candidates for State Treasurer at this time. **State Senator Gerald Dial (R-Lineville)** faces **Rick Pate (R)** from Lowndesboro.

Secretary of State John Merrill plans to seek reelection to a second term and does not have opposition at this time.

State Auditor Jim Zeigler is expected to seek reelection to a second term, as well. Two candidates have registered to challenge Zeigler, **Republican Elliott Lipinsky** of Pike Road and **Democrat Miranda Joseph** of Birmingham.

Several state appellate court seats will be on the 2018 ballot including the Chief Justice position for which sitting **Chief Justice Lyn Stuart** will be challenged by **Associate Justice Tom Parker**.

Two seats on the Alabama Public Service Commission will be up for election

with Republican Commissioners **Jeremy Oden** and **Chip Beeker** seeking reelection.

ELECTION TIMELINE

December 12 - Special General Election for U.S. Senate; Special Primary Election for HD4 (Morgan) and SD26 (Montgomery)

January 9 - 2018 Regular Legislative Session Begins

January 9 - Special Primary Election for HD21, as needed

January 9 through February 4
- Legislative Fundraising Blackout

February 9 - Qualifying Deadline for Major Party Ballots

February 27 - Special Primary Runoff for SD26 and HD4, as needed

March 26 - Special General Election for HD21

May 15 - Special General Election for SD26 and HD4

June 5 - Primary Elections (Legislative and Statewide Offices)

July 17 - Primary Runoff Elections (where needed)

November 6 - General Election