

June Newsletter - June 28, 2019



"If you would persuade, you must appeal to interest rather than intellect." Ben Franklin

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We will be sending out a new monthly newsletter to keep you informed of the happenings in the State of Alabama.

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THE LEGISLATURE
Special Sessions & Elections

A special session remains likely to tackle prison reform. Initially, Governor Ivey was expected to call the Legislature back sometime in October, but recent reports suggest the Governor will wait until the beginning of 2020, prior to the regular session that begins on February 4th. The reason given for the delay is to allow more time to gather data from the Alabama Sentencing Commission to consider reducing penalties for certain crimes in an attempt to reduce prison overcrowding.

Qualifying has ended for a special election to fill the shoes of Rep. Jimmy Martin (R-Clanton) who passed away on the final day of the legislative session after a brief battle with cancer. GOP candidates include Chilton County Commissioners Allen Caton and Jimmie Hardee; Autauga County Commissioner Van Smith and Jemison Town Administrator Shannon Welch. Jemison resident Kenneth Allison Sr. is the only Democrat to qualify.

The primary for the House District 42 race will be held Tuesday, August 20th.

Meanwhile, there is a runoff for House District 74 to replace Rep. Dimitri Polizos (R-Montgomery) who died suddenly of a heart attack in March. Former Montgomery County School Board member Charlotte Meadows will face attorney Michael Fritz on August 27th. Meadows and Fritz finished one-two in a crowded 6-person GOP primary. The winner will go on to face Democrat Rayford Mack on November 12th.

U.S. SENATE RACE
Shaping Up

Several well-known names have recently announced they will run in the GOP primary in hopes to challenge Senator Doug Jones (D-AL) next year for his U.S. Senate seat. Former Chief Justice Roy Moore, who lost to Jones in the 2017 special election, and Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill (R-AL) will join South Alabama Congressman Bradley Byrne (R-AL), former Auburn Football Coach Tommy Tuberville (R) and State Rep. Arnold Mooney (R-Indian Springs), most likely setting the GOP field for the 2020 election.

Recent polling shows Tuberville leadings with 29.3%, followed by Byrne at 21.4%, Moore lagging behind with 13% and Merrill sitting in fourth with 11.8%. Mooney barely registers with 2.2% with 22.3% undecided.

Questions remain whether former U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, who held the seat before being appointed U.S. Attorney General, will join the crowded Republican primary field.

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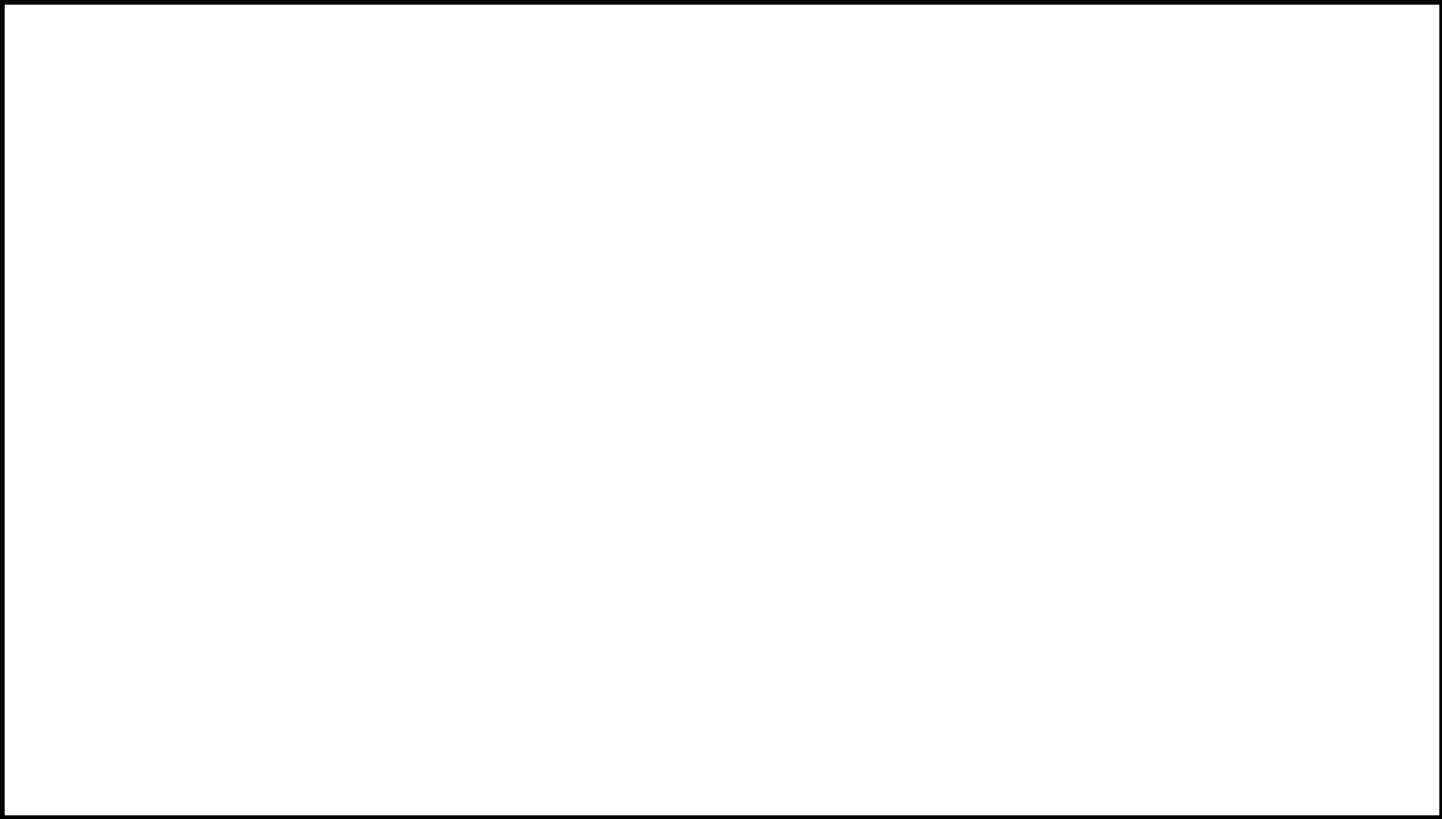
Governor Ivey recently made some additions to her administration. Nathan Lindsay has been hired as Director of Appointments to replace Catherine Gayle Thrash, who is leaving for a position at the Department of Revenue. Lindsay comes from the Business Council of Alabama ("BCA") where he served as VP for Political Affairs.

Also moving from the BCA to become the Governor's new Communications Director is Leah Garner. Garner previously served as Director of Governmental Affairs at the BCA. Gina Maiola will serve as the Governor's Press Secretary.

The Governor also replaced the 3-member ABC Board whose terms had all expired. The new members are Col. Alan Spencer, Melissa Morrissette and Walter Bell.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
Leath Out

Auburn University President Steven Leath has been ousted after only two years at the helm. Former Auburn President Jay Gogue (2007-2017) has been appointed interim president while the Auburn Board of Trustees searches for a successor.



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