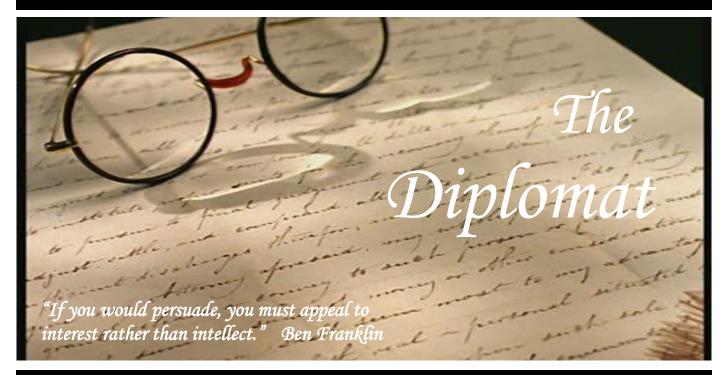
# **November Edition – December 2, 2019**



### A Publication by the deGraffenried and Company



Ryan deGraffenried, III • Johnny Crawford • Susan Hansen • David Rogers 529 South Perry Street, Suite 10, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 • Email: deg@deGlobby.com

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#### SESSIONS IN Takes immediate lead

A poll conducted 3-weeks ago from by the Club for Growth conducted by WPA Intelligence showed Sessions leading the primary field with 36 percent support among GOP voters. An interesting footnote: Club for Growth began running an anti-Bradley Byrne ad this weekend accusing Byrne of putting "special interests" ahead of "Alabama interests."

Jeff Sessions 36% Tommy Tuberville 23% Bradley Byrne 11% Roy Moore 11% John Merrill 6% Arnold Mooney 2% Undecided 12%

#### **GOP CHALLENGE** Ward qualifies for Supreme Court

State Senator Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) announced earlier this month he would challenge incumbent GOP Supreme Court Justice Greg Shaw. Also qualifying for the seat at the last second was former State Senator Bryan Taylor. Taylor recently resigned his position as the Governor's legal advisor because his wife Jessica is running for Congress.

### JONES TO REMAIN IN LEGISLATURE College Presidency Job Falls Through

A few weeks ago it was expected that State Rep. Mike Jones, R-Andalusia, was going to be hired as president of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College. The much-speculated move was expected to cause some interest, especially since Jones chairs the powerful House Rules Committee. The impending appointment was so significant that people were starting to make plans to run for his Covington County legislative seat.

It has now been reported that Rep. Jones is no longer a candidate for the position and will remain in the Legislature. It is unclear exactly why the arrangement fell apart, but those with knowledge of the situation said contract negotiations broke down over "more than one" issue.

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### ETHICS COMMISSION Proposed Rule Change

A proposed administrative rule would prevent Alabama Ethics Commission members from discussing or receiving information about matters before them outside of official settings. The proposed rule states that in the case of ex parte communications, commissioners shall publicly state, for inclusion in the official minutes of the commission, the name of the individual who initiated the communication, the date and time of the communication, the individuals involved and the subject matter discussed. A public comment period on the proposed new rule is open until Dec. 5.

#### MERRILL DROPS OUT Withdraws From U.S. Senate Race

Citing Jeff Sessions' entry in to the race for incumbent Sen. Doug Jones (D) U.S. Senate seat and the crowded Republican primary, Secretary of State John Merrill (R) Tuscaloosa has suspended his campaign. Merrill released a statement Sunday afternoon on his campaign Facebook page announcing his exit. Merrill stated he will not endorse any other candidate in the race due to his position as Secretary of State.



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529 South Perry Street, Suite 10 Montgomery, AL 36104