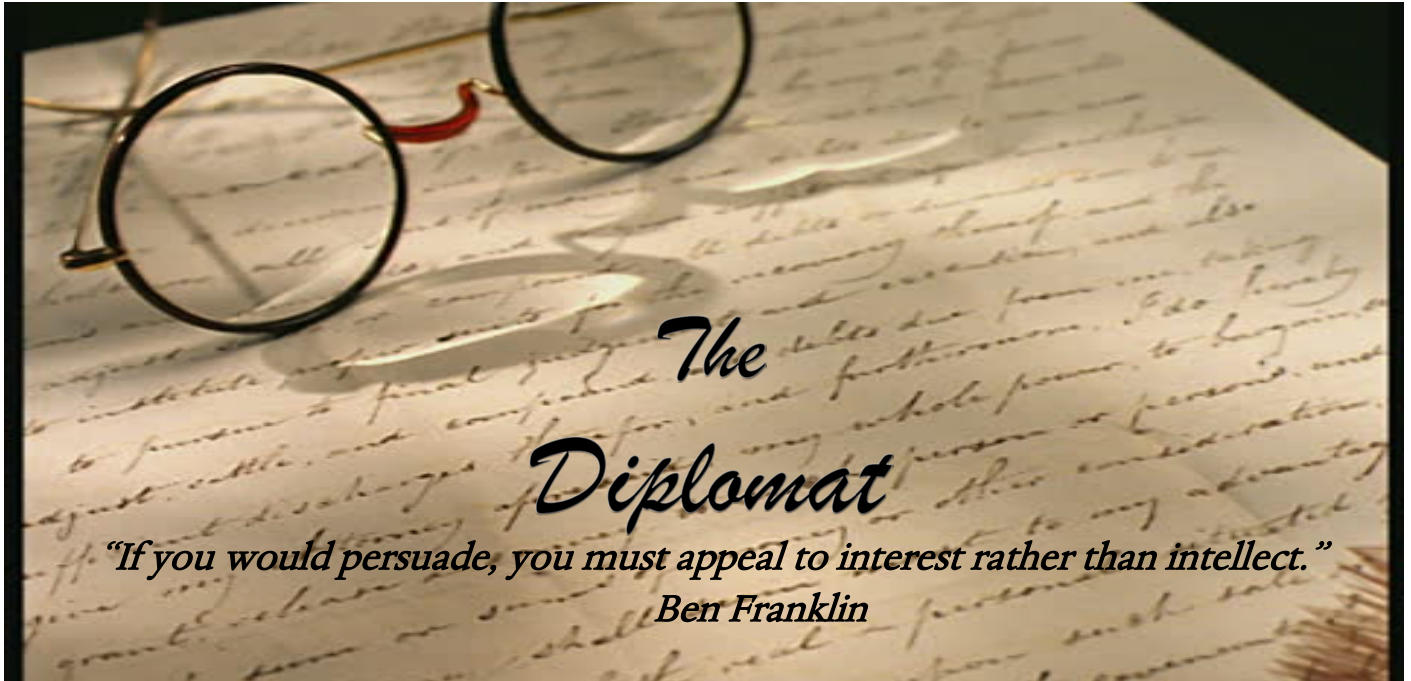


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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Budgets remain healthy

**Our Monthly Newsletter to
keep you informed of the
happenings in the State of
Alabama**

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Budgets remain healthy

Governor Ivey has not given any indication she will call the Legislature to Montgomery for a special session before the end of the year, but she has not closed the door to the idea either. When recently asked about the Growing Alabama Credit and the Alabama Jobs Credit and Investment Credit, one has already expired and the other will expire soon, and any chance of a special session this year, a spokeswoman for Governor Ivey said economic development "remains a top priority for her."

Meanwhile, Sen. Chris Elliott (R-Daphne) has pre-filed SB 7 for the 2021 regular session that would ensure money Alabamians, including businesses, received through the CARES Act is not subject to state income tax.

Alabaster city councilman Russell Bedsole squeaked out a victory against Mimi Penhale to become the GOP nominee to replace former legislator April Weaver in House District 47. Bedsole will face Democrat Cheryl Patton on November 17. A special election was set to fill Weaver's seat after she took a position as a regional director of the Department of Health and Human Services by a Trump Administration appointment.

Wednesday, Governor Ivey extended her public health order requiring faces to be covered in public. Individuals will be required to wear a mask or other facial covering when in public and in close contact with other people as described in the order. This amended order extends until Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Allowed to lapse were some of the restrictions placed on the operating hours of bars and restaurants, which were previously prohibited from selling alcohol after 11 p.m.

The Rolling Reserve Act approved by the Legislature nine years ago, along with the now mandatory online sales tax collection, has been the state's saving grace during the pandemic. The state's 2021 fiscal year begins this week, and the good news is Alabama's gross tax revenue is currently up over 5%.

Earlier this month, Governor Ivey announced three new men's prisons will be built. One Bibb County, one in Elmore County, and one in Escambia County. The facilities will be financed, built, and maintained by private developers and leased to the state to operate. Once up and running, several of the existing prisons will be closed.