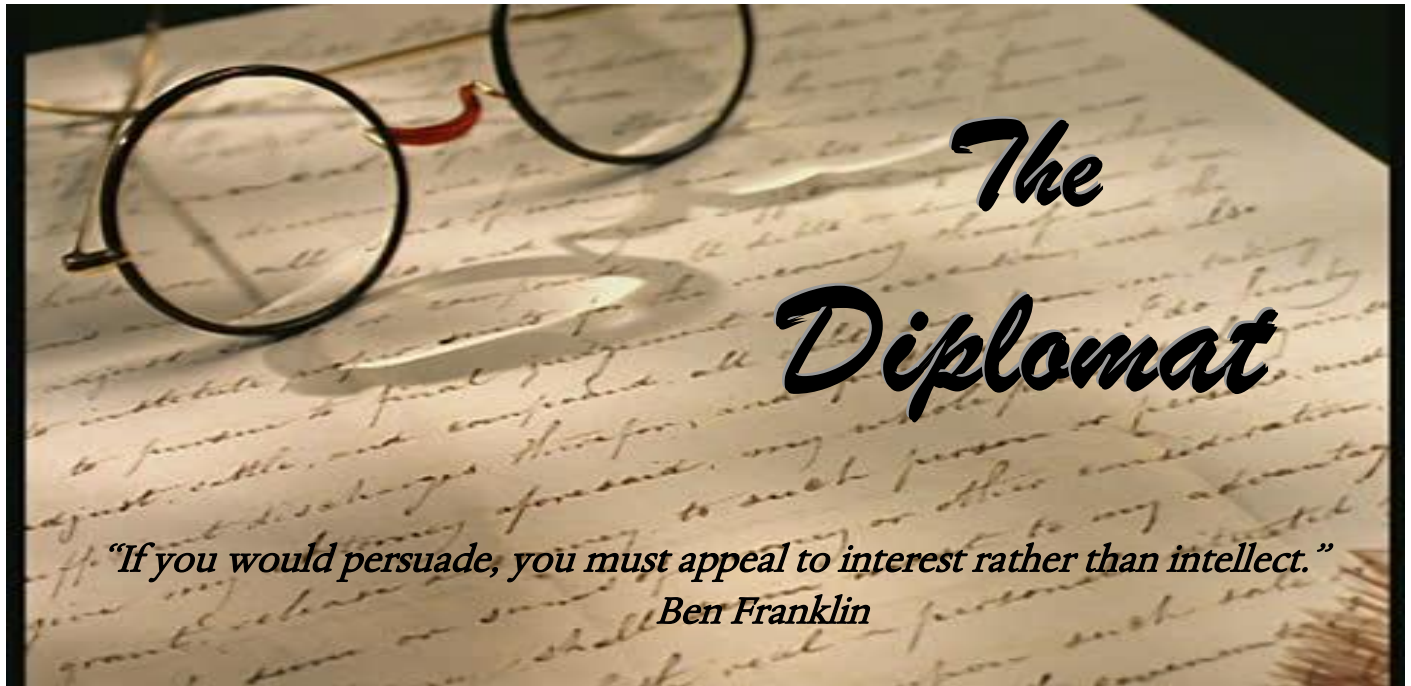


Week 1 - February 7, 2020



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

Ben Franklin

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2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

State of the State

THE LEGISLATURE

Week One

SENATE STAFFING

Will Califf

House Convenes:
02/11/2020 2:00 PM

Senate Convenes:
02/11/2020 2:00 PM

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2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

State of the State

The Speaker of the House and Lt. Governor gaveled in the House and the Senate Tuesday at noon to begin the 2020 legislative session, followed by Governor Kay Ivey's State of the State Tuesday evening.

In her speech, the Governor proposed a 3% teacher pay raise and 2% for state employees, a \$1 billion investment in educational infrastructure and additional dollars for mental and rural health. She also announced she is pursuing plans to build three new prisons. She appeared to punt the prison overcrowding issue to the Legislature.

Gov. Ivey did not expand on the gaming issue other than state she would form a study commission to examine the impact gambling would have on the state.

THE LEGISLATURE

Week One

On the legislative front, it was a relatively slow week, as all first weeks are. Tuesday was limited to the introduction of bills, and only a handful of committees met Wednesday. Lawmakers were able to quickly get out of Montgomery Thursday morning after some housekeeping measures. Expect more action when the Legislature reconvenes next week.

There is some good news. The state's two operating budgets are flush. Lawmakers learned Tuesday that both the General Fund and Education Trust Fund budgets have an additional \$400 million compared to the current budgets. The Governor's General Fund Budget proposal for FY 2021 is to appropriate a little over \$2.5 billion, while she proposes to allocate approximately \$7.5 billion from the Education Trust Fund Budget. But with extra dollars comes pleas from everyone for more money and legislators have been warned to put some aside for rainy days.

SENATE STAFFING

Will Califf

Will Califf has joined the staff of Senate Majority Leader Greg Reed as Senior Adviser. Califf had been running the press shop for Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh for several years and had been part of the team Marsh built while considering runs for the U.S. Senate in 2017 and 2020.

Many speculate that this move is further indication that, as planned, Marsh will pass the baton to Reed after this legislative session by relinquishing the Pro Tem position.