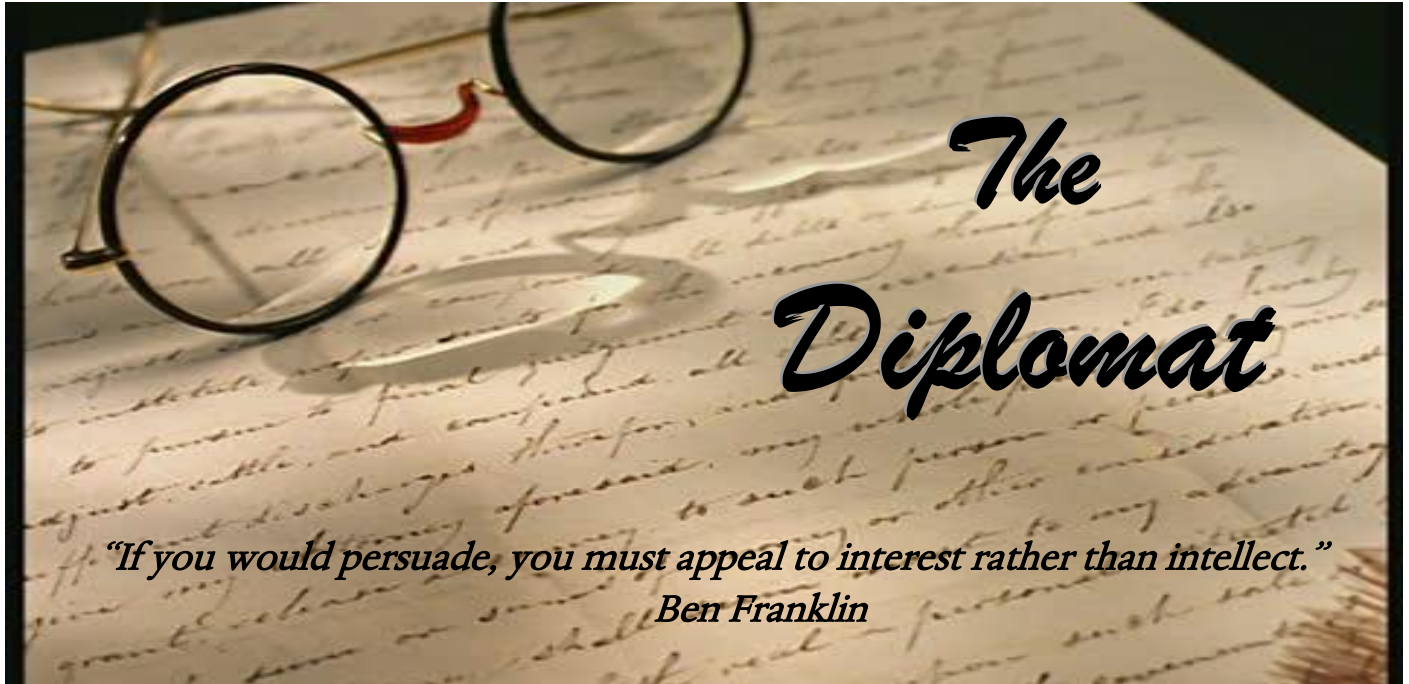


Week 5 - March 6, 2020



The Diplomat

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

Ben Franklin

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THE LEGISLATURE

Week 5

ELECTION RESULTS

Run-offs

House Convenes
3/10/2020 at 1:00 pm

Senate Convenes
3/10/2020 at 2:00 pm

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THE LEGISLATURE**Week 5**

Thursday was the 10th legislative day, marking the one-third point of this legislative session.

Sen. Waggoner (R-Vestavia Hills), the Senate Rules Chairman, had ambitious plans for Tuesday having prepared a several page Special Order Calendar to work from, but things didn't go as planned, and the only thing accomplished was the approval of a few confirmations and resolutions.

Thursday morning, the Legislature convened for a joint session honoring the Tuskegee Airmen. By early afternoon the kinks from Tuesday's unproductivity got worked out, and the Senate worked from a 26-bill Special Order Calendar, including HB140. HB140 would allow for the use of alternative covers at landfills that meet federal guidelines at landfills instead of the required 6 inches of earth. It goes to the Governor for her signature. Also passing was SB172 by Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) that would set a statewide standard for deploying 5G cellular infrastructure, including how much money cities can charge providers for access to existing utility structures.

Sen. Vivian Figures (D-Mobile) slowed down the momentum over SB219 by Sen. Shay Shelnett (R-Trussville) that would prohibit gender change therapy for minors. She began the filibuster saying she didn't see anything in the bill she could agree to. The bill eventually passed 22-3.

The Senate also took time to pass a resolution encouraging the "fist bump" instead of shaking hands to avoid spreading germs.

SB57 by Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster), known as "The Open Records Act", will have another public hearing in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee next Tuesday.

The dam burst in the House Tuesday, passing more than a dozen bills in quick fashion. Thursday was another productive day as both houses worked late into the afternoon before adjourning for the week.

ELECTION RESULTS**Run-offs**

Primary election results yielded some close races and intriguing run-offs on March 31st. Tommy Tuberville (33.41%) and Jeff Sessions (31.61%) finished one-two in the GOP for U.S. Senate nomination and will face each other in a run-off. Jeff Coleman and former legislator Barry Moore are in a run-off for the District 2 U.S. House nomination. In the District 1 race, Mobile County Commissioner Jerry Carl (38.71%) faces former State Sen. Bill Hightower (37.47%) in a run-off.

Amendment One was defeated soundly with three-fourths of the votes being "no."