



ALLIANCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT (94-77)

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS IN

With most of the 2006 General Election results tabulated, it looks like a major change of direction in political power at the national level and a staying of the course at the state level. In Washington, D.C., Democrats took over the majority in Congress. In Illinois, Democrat Governor Rod Blagojevich was re-elected and Democrats swept all statewide Constitutional Offices. Democrats also retained control of the Senate and House of Representatives. Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan will remain in power with about the same number of members in his caucus (votes are still being counted in a couple of close races). Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. saw his majority grow as a number of open Senate seats were won by the Democrats. A further breakdown of legislative races can be found at the end of this report.

LEGISLATORS RETURN TO SPRINGFIELD NEXT WEEK

The Illinois General Assembly will return to Springfield next Tuesday for the first three days of the veto override session. Only 11 bills were vetoed during the spring legislative session, however other matters may be considered if the leadership of both chambers move bills through the proper parliamentary hoops. The utility companies' "electric rate freeze" is an issue that could well be discussed; the Governor has vowed to discuss legislation to increase the minimum wage this fall. The only scheduled days for the veto session are November 14-16 and 28-30. Days could be added if needed for the legislature to complete its work.

The House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, November 15, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 118 of the State Capitol. School mandate waivers will be discussed. If your school district has a mandate waiver request pending before the General Assembly, you are strongly encouraged to attend the hearing and testify on behalf of your request.

SB 380 (Cronin, R-Elmhurst) and SB 1856 (Lightford, D-Maywood) are also posted for a hearing. It is expected that the bills will be amended with new language in committee.

There is no word yet about a meeting of the Senate Education Committee.

LEGISLATIVE PANELS AT CONFERENCE

The upcoming Joint Annual Conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators, and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials will feature several informative panels on legislative issues. The conference will be held November 17-19 in Chicago.

- Former Governor of Illinois, **Jim Edgar**, will be a panelist to discuss "An Overview of the 2006 General Election". Governor Edgar will share his keen insight into what will happen the next four years with the new General Assembly and the re-election of the Governor. The panel is set for: **Friday, November 17, 1:30-3:00, Regency D, Hyatt Regency West Tower**
- State Superintendent **Randy Dunn**, State Senator **Kimberly Lightford**, and State Representative **Roger Eddy** will be presenting "Legislative Issues Impacting School Districts". The panel is set for: **Saturday, November 18, 10:30-12:00, Regency C, Hyatt West Tower**

- State Senator **Don Harmon** and State Representative **Michael Tryon** will join other experts on a panel to discuss the latest Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) changes. “PTELL District Referenda – Clearer or Muddier” is set for:

Saturday, November 18, 1:30-3:00, Regency B, Hyatt Regency West Tower

- State Representative **Roger Eddy** will join others on a panel titled “The New District Reorganization Law”. Panelists will discuss the new changes to school consolidation in Illinois. The panel is set for: **Saturday, November 18, 1:30-3:00, Crvstal A, Hyatt West Tower**
- State Senator **Brad Burzynski**, State Senator **James Meeks** (*invited*), State Representative **Roger Eddy**, and **Ginger Ostro** (Governor’s Office of Management and Budget) will be panelists to discuss “The Latest on the Governor’s Education Plan”. The panel is set for:

Saturday, November 18, 3:30-5:00, Regency B, Hyatt Regency West Tower

IASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY ITEMS

The IASB will conduct its Delegate Assembly at the annual conference in Chicago and many important issues will be discussed. Resolutions regarding school construction funding, school finance, and mandated consolidation into unit school districts are on the agenda. Resolutions adopted at the meeting become position statements which direct the lobbyists as they take positions on legislation in the Capitol.

Also on the agenda is a proposal to amend the IASB constitution. The change would implement a “weighted voting” process at future delegate assemblies – giving school districts with larger enrollments up to five votes on the assembly floor. Smaller school districts would still have one vote.

Each school board should designate a delegate to attend the assembly and participate in this important function of the IASB. The assembly will be held on Saturday, November 18, at 10:30 a.m. Delegates may register for the assembly when they arrive in Chicago.

ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- In the 22nd Senate District where Billie Diane Roth (R) challenged **Michael Noland (D)** to replace Senator Steve Rauschenberger, Michael Noland won.
- In the 31st Senate District where Suzanne Simpson (R) challenged **Michael Bond (D)** to replace Senator Adeline Geo-Karis, Michael Bond won.
- In the 42nd Senate District where Terri Ann Wintermute (R) challenged **Linda Holmes (D)** to replace Senator Ed Petka, Linda Holmes won.
- In the 52nd District where **Michael Frerichs (D)** challenged former Senator Judy Myers (R) to replace Senator Rick Winkel, Michael Frerichs won.
- Still to be determined at the time of this report is the 33rd District where votes from the Cook County suburbs are still being tallied. Appointed incumbent **Cheryl Axley (R)** was trying to win her first election to the seat (she was appointed when Dave Sullivan resigned). Challenger **Dan Kotowski (D)**, if he is the winner, would give Senate President Jones 37 members in the Democrat caucus – one more than is necessary for a “super majority” in the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, legislative seats did not turn over to change majorities or strengthen them, though there were a few hotly contested races and one close upset. Even though there were eight races with no incumbent running – those areas maintained party loyalty as voters elected the candidate from the same party as the previous legislator. Coming into the election, Speaker Madigan’s Democrat caucus held a 65-53 advantage.

➤ In the 107th District where long-time incumbent **Representative Kurt Granberg (D)** was challenged by John Cavaletto (R), it appears that Representative Granberg has retained his seat by a mere 101 votes.

➤ In the 44th District, long-time incumbent Terry Parke (R) was challenged by **Fred Crespo (D)**. Though final numbers were still being tallied today, it appears that Crespo defeated Parke.

NEW FACES

Constituents will have a new challenge in getting to know all the new legislators to be sworn in next January. Below is a list of those newly elected members including the area they represent. If you live in the district of a new member to the General Assembly, there is no better time to reach out and congratulate them on their success and to offer to become a local resource to your new legislator. Please consider setting up a meeting to discuss the issues of Illinois’ public education policy, whether you have a new member to the General Assembly or if your long-time legislator was re-elected.

House District

8 – LaShawn Ford (Chicago/Oak Park)
13 – Gregory Harris (Chicago)
24 – Lisa Hernandez (Cicero)
26 – Elga Jeffries (Chicago)
44 – Fred Crespo (Schaumburg)
45 – Franco Coladipietro (Roselle)
46 – Dennis Reboletti (Elmhurst)
62 – Sandy Cole (Lake Villa)
93 – Jil Tracy (Quincy)
95 – Mike Fortner (Wheaton)

Senate District

22 – Michael Noland (Elgin)
27 – Matt Murphy (Palatine)
31 – Michael Bond (Zion)
33 – Dan Kotowski (Park Ridge)
42 – Linda Holmes (Plainfield)
46 – David Koehler (Peoria)
52 – Michael Frerichs (Danville)

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

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