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August 2018 Government Affairs Update

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2018 Elections

2018 Primary Elections:

The 2018 Primary Elections were decided on August 28th. A noteworthy outcome was the continuation of voters favoring outsider, “anti-establishment” candidates over candidates that had worked to build political insider support.

Statewide

Governor

Trump-endorsed Congressman Ron DeSantis beat Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam by around 20 percentage points for the Republican nomination for Governor. Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum pulled off an election day win for the Democratic nomination with 3 points ahead of his closest competitor, former Congresswoman Gwen Graham. Gillum was endorsed by Congressman Bernie Sanders in the primary, setting up a very nationally focused battle for the Governor’s race in November.

Note: The Department of Transportation will potentially see changes in its leadership dependent on the outcome of the Governor’s race in November.

Attorney General

Republican voters nominated Circuit Court Judge Ashley Moody to face off against Democratic State Rep. Shawn Shaw in November.

Commissioner of Agricultural and Consumer Services

Republican voters nominated State Rep. Matt Caldwell and Democrats nominated Fort Lauderdale attorney Nikki Fried.

Legislature

All Broward County incumbents won against their primary challengers (Sen. Gary Farmer, Rep. Jared Moskowitz, Rep. Kristin Jacobs, and Rep. Patricia Williams.) Almost all other incumbents throughout the state with the exception of a Miami-Dade State Senator Daphne

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Campbell, who lost an open primary to former prosecutor Jason Pizzo, and Miami-Dade State Representative Roy Hardemon, who lost a three-way primary to attorney Dotie Joseph.

County

Mayor Beam Furr and Commissioner Mark Bogen both defeated their primary challengers to win re-election.

School Board

All school board incumbents defeated primary challenges. Lori Alhadeff, a mother of a victim of the Parkland shooting, was elected to replace Abby Freedman, who opted not to run for re-election. The school board also won a millage rate increase to fund teacher salary increases and School Resource Officers.

Broward County Transportation Surtax Ballot Initiative

The County Commission passed an interlocal agreement framework for the distribution of funds collected through a local transportation surtax that will be on November's ballot. The agreement provides a minimum of 10% of funds collected minus the amount provided to community bus services be allocated per year of the 30-year surtax to municipal projects. The Broward MPO will rank all municipal project requests submitted by municipalities beginning in 2020 based upon which projects will "alleviate traffic congestion and enhance connectivity." The MPO and enough municipalities that represent a majority of County residents must pass an ordinance agreeing to the interlocal agreement by September 30th. Municipalities that do not pass an ordinance will not be eligible to submit requests for funding. The County is set to vote on the final plan for the surtax on Sept 13th.

Florida League of Cities Conference

Municipal governments from around the state of Florida gathered in Hollywood this month for the annual Florida League of Cities conference. With elections to decide much of the state agenda, topics mostly focused on Federal level issues such as the recent Wayfair decision and Federal exploration of preempting states in implementing "small cell wireless" or 5g technology. The conference also hosted a panel discussion on the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Act and challenges faced by counties, municipalities, school boards and law enforcement in enforcing the act as well as ideas on how to make schools safer.

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