

Capitol LINK

CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS

October 1, 2010

PDPW Dairy Policy Summit is scheduled for October 27-28 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison

This two-day conference is for dairy producers, researchers, industry partners, policy makers agency officials and local elected officials and will get you “in the know” about important issues that are taking shape and effecting today’s dairy producers. Milk price reform, air and water quality regulations, livestock siting rules, immigration & rural labor issues, animal well being and consumer perception will be the topics discussed. You need to attend this summit so you can listen, learn and then lead, shape and guide the future impact these issues will have on your dairy. To get more information and register online visit http://www.pdpw.org/programs_events.php?id=16 or call 800-947-7379.

PARTISAN PRIMARY HIGHLIGHTS REEL

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

The partisan primary elections are over and we are now speeding toward the general elections on November 2, 2010. Going into Wisconsin general elections, we have an open seat in the Governor’s chair making that race a “race to the end.” The Democrats currently control the State Senate by an 18-15 margin and also control the State Assembly by a margin of 52-46 (with one independent). That means that the balance of power could shift in the Senate if the Republicans take 2 seats and in the Assembly if the Republicans take 4 seats. The races are on!

Walker and Barrett Face Off in Governor’s Race

Although statewide voter turnout appears to have been lower than expected in the gubernatorial primary, there were over 500,000 votes cast in the Republican primary for Governor leaving Scott Walker as the GOP nominee. Walker will face Democratic nominee, Tom Barrett, in the general election making this race for governor an “all Milwaukee” race. Walker is the current Milwaukee County Executive and Barrett is the Mayor of Milwaukee.

Ron Johnson Sweeps GOP Nomination for U.S. Senate - Challenges Feingold in November

Oshkosh businessman, Ron Johnson, easily took the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate. Johnson will challenge Democratic Incumbent, Russ Feingold in what is expected to be a very hotly contested race that the nation is watching closely. Some recently published polls suggest that Johnson may be currently leading Feingold by as much as 10%.

Reid Ribble Takes GOP Nomination in the 8th Congressional District—Faces Kagen

Political newcomer, Republican Reid Ribble, defeated his two Republican primary rivals, Terri McCormick, a former state representative from Appleton, and Roger Roth, a state representative from Grand Chute, in the primary race for the 8th Congressional District. Ribble will challenge Democratic incumbent Steve Kagen in the general election.

Lassa and Duffy Will Battle for Obey's 7th Congressional District Seat

Democrat Dave Obey held the 7th Congressional District seat for more than 40 years before he announced his retirement this spring. The Chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee has left a battle in his district between Republican Ashland County District Attorney, Sean Duffy, and current Democratic State Senator, Julie Lassa. The Duffy-Lassa race is, according to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, "a top-tier race nationally." Based on recent presidential voting records from this district, the 7th Congressional District is very balanced in partisan terms. In the 2004 presidential election the Democrats carried this district by only 1.4%.

Democrat Tom Nelson Faces Republican Rebecca Kleefisch for Lt. Governor

Conservative Republican Rebecca Kleefisch from Oconomowoc and Assembly Democratic Majority Leader Tom Nelson from Kaukauna received their parties' nominations for lieutenant governor in the primary election. Kleefisch is a former TV reporter and anchorwoman. She is married to Joel Kleefisch, a state representative from Oconomowoc and she ran a much more right-leaning campaign than her main Republican challenger, state Rep. Brett Davis (R-Oregon). The winner of the Governor's race will carry the Lt. Governor candidate of his party into office.

Hot Seats

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

The following are some of the State Senate and State Assembly races that are being watched closely because changes in these seats could tilt the balance of power in either house:

- Open seats: 1st Senate District (vacated by Sen. Alan Lasee-DePere), 35th Assembly District (vacated by Don Friske-Merrill), 67th Assembly District (vacated by Jeff Wood-Chippewa Falls), 75th Assembly District (vacated by Mary Hubler-Rice Lake) and 80th Assembly District (vacated by Brett Davis-Oregon).
- 5th Senate District currently held by Sen. Jim Sullivan (D-Wauwatosa)
- 21st Senate District currently held by Sen. John Lehman (D-Racine)
- 1st Assembly District currently held by Rep. Garey Bies (R-Sister Bay)
- 28th Assembly District currently held by Rep. Ann Hraychuck (D-Balsam Lake)
- 42nd Assembly District currently held by Rep. Fred Clark (D-Baraboo)
- 49th Assembly District currently held by Rep. Phil Garthwaite (D-Dickeyville)
- 87th Assembly District currently held by Rep. Mary Williams (R-Medford)
- 88th Assembly District currently held by Rep. Jim Soletski (D-Green Bay)
- 92nd Assembly District currently held by Rep. Mark Radcliffe (D-Black River Falls)

Capitol Link Details

The PDPW *Capitol Link* monthly e-newsletter is sponsored by DeWitt Ross & Stevens law firm. DeWitt Ross & Stevens is a Wisconsin law firm whose members are leaders in their areas of practice and in their communities. Founded in 1903, today there are more than 80 attorneys in their Madison and Milwaukee offices. Nominated by peers as top lawyers nationally and locally, DeWitt's attorneys offer numerous services including strategic counseling, advocacy, collaboration, alternative dispute resolution, negotiation, mediation, lobbying, and litigation.

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