Capitol View: from Haynie and Associates

October 2019

Election season, much like football season, is a contact sport in Louisiana. On October 12th Louisiana had its primary elections for its 144 legislative seats as well as all statewide offices (not to mention countless sheriff, judges, school boards, mayors, councils and police juries). The October 12th election result greatly favored Republican candidates with both the House and the Senate swinging towards historic Republican super majorities.

At the top of the ticket, incumbent Democratic Governor John Bel Edwards was pushed into a runoff against Republican candidate Eddie Rispone. Governor Edwards received 46.6% of the vote, to win outright he needed 50%. Eddie Rispone (received 27.4% of the vote) after self-funded his primary race with over $10M of his own money. North Louisiana Congressman Ralph Abramson finished 3rd, failing to make the runoff with 23.6%, but did quickly endorse fellow Republican Rispone. Both Governor John Bel Edwards and Eddie Rispone envision a path to victory on Nov. 16th and are enthusiastically fundraising and campaigning over the 5-week raise and spend-a-thon, with the result possibly coming down to whom best turns out their base.

Republican incumbents won all other statewide offices, with the exception of Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin whom is headed to a runoff that he should easily win. Also of note, Jefferson/St. Tammany conservative Supreme Court race goes to runoff Will Crain (R) 37% against Hans Liljeberg (R) 33%. If you are interested in Sheriff, Parish President or other local races you can find results by parish here: https://voterportal.sos.la.gov/Graphical.

On the Legislative front, Republican candidates picked up 5 houses seats from Democrats, and also beat out 2 independents, and have two additional swing races with Republican hopefuls in St. Mary and the Feliciana’s. Victories across the board for Republicans on Nov. 16 would give Republicans in the House a 70 seat Supermajority with Democrats around 34 seats. In the Senate, there were two Republican pickups, and following the runoffs, the Senate could be as Republican dominate as 27R-12D. On top of the sheer numbers of GOP legislative seats won, often the inter-party races went to the more conservative candidate. In addition to one of the largest freshman classes in our state’s history, you will see a far more conservative legislature this next four year term, regardless of whom wins the Governor’s race.

On January 16, the newly elected officials will be sworn in, immediately followed by each chambers secret ballot selection of leadership, for which the jockeying has already began. As early as February we will see the appointment of committee chairs and membership prior to the March 9th session which will run through June 1st. 2020 is a non-fiscal session, which allows for unlimited bill filing, so we will be on high alert for legislation that can affect the Engineering profession and ready to champion your cause.
Capitol View: from Haynie and Associates

(Pictured Ryan Haynie and Randy Haynie)