
THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 44th General Assembly

Today's Schedule

1:30: 6th Legislative Session

2:45-3:15: Polls

3:15: Leg. Session Continues

4:30-5: Run-offs

5:00: Leg. Session Continues

6:00: Adjourn



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Two Candidates Compete for Governor's Seat

Current Secretary of State, Jamie Arnett from the University of Tennessee at Martin, planned to have a smooth sailing ride to becoming governor this year at TISL. However, in an unexpected turn of events, Michael T. Loy from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville decided to join the race for the governorship as well.

In exclusive interviews with each candidate, both revealed why they chose to run for this coveted position. When asked, Arnett replied confidently, "I feel like I'd be the best person for the job." Her running is more for what she can do for the organization rather than what it can do for her. Furthermore, Arnett concluded that the requests from her colleagues to run greatly pushed her forward, and in the end she would not be in this position without her colleagues' nominations.

In his interview, Loy shed some light on why he chose to run in saying that when he discovered that the other candidate from his delegation had dropped, he quickly chose to fill this place for he does not find comfort in unopposed elections for they create a sense of dictatorship. When asked about his rash decision, Loy responded, "There's not a lot of time to think, its time to do."

Both candidates have their own qualifications for this role. Arnett has participated in TISL for four years, beginning with TISL Media and continuing on to the House and then to the esteemed position of Secretary of State. Arnett said, "The year on EC is the biggest thing that can qualify you. Its really hard to walk into an EC hall and know what you're doing the first time and it's a shock for any first time EC member. Its kind of like the shock everyone gets the first time they're at TISL—you don't know what's going on you don't know where you are."

Continued on Page 2

Lobbying Firms Collaborate to Write New Bill

CEO's claim bill will "save Tennessee"

The TISL lobbying program is only in its fourth year of existence, but is already "setting a new precedent," according to Legislative Director Nick Mastron. This year, lobbyists are taking their support for legislation a step further by creating their own. Even more surprising is that 5 of the 6 lobbying firms are united in their support for a bill House sponsor Zac Crawford calls "an act to save Tennessee from the financial insecurities that burden it."

Bill 172 has an ambitious summary: "This act saves Tennessee. This act saves the South. This act saves the United States of America." It proposes to do that by raising the minimum wage, mirroring the federal Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 and adapting it for the state of Tennessee.

This bill creates a distinct state minimum wage of \$10.10 (except tipped workers, who would receive \$7.07) per hour. The minimum wage will be in effect until 2016, by which point an adequate system of indexation will be developed to bind increases in state inflation rates to increases in minimum wage rates. Ten states currently have such index systems in place.

The bill is supported by the Tennessee Labor, the Tennessee Green, the Tennessee Teachers, the Tennessee Guns, and the Tennessee Business lobbying firms. One author, Akvile Zakarauskaite, says the involved lobbying firms are "seeking bipartisan solutions to a very difficult problem."

Prime Senate sponsor Max Burkhardt also supports the collaboration. He states, "We have an opportunity to provide a net benefit to the dreamers, thinkers, and doers of the state of Tennessee."

-Ashley Fritz

Continued from Page 1

Furthermore, she is a Political Science and Public Relations major at UT Martin. Loy has only participated with TISL for the one year, but is by no means limited in his scope of politics. Loy claims to have grown up in the political scene all throughout his life. Having many political connections, Loy plans to use his many resources to aid him in governing TISL.

The goals of each of these candidates do not fall short of expectations. Along with implementing a budget, Arnett plans on working on recruitment and retention of schools.

On the other hand, Loy plans on increasing expansion through National Intercollegiate State Legislatures, the new program by current governor Alex Brown. He wants to relate to everyone by implementing the Volunteer State's Committee as a flagship committee to start implementing and executing plans throughout the country.

Loy continued on to say, "Beyond that, we will have a good border in which we can build a foundation upon and expand outwards."

These two candidates will face off in the polls today at 2:45 p.m., with run-offs beginning at 4:30 p.m. With their respective reasons for running, qualifications, and goals in mind, the race for these two candidates will be a close one.

-Lina Kilani