

THE FIRST WORD

July, 2018

Cornett/Stitt Advance To Run-Off In Republican Governors Race; Edmonson Captures Democratic Nomination; Surprises in Legislative Races and State Question 788

OK...we're going to resist making any "gone to pot" jokes, but isn't it amazing that one of the country's reddest states and the "buckle" of the bible belt approved the use of Medical Marijuana 57% - 43%.

And, more people voted the SQ788 measure than in the Democrat, Republican, and Libertarian primary for Governor! There were 891,654 SQ 788 ballots cast while 850,781 people voted in the gubernatorial election. That means that almost 41,000 voted on SQ788 but not for Governor! Talk about "single issue" voting!

Speaking of the race for Governor, Drew Edmonson easily outpaced Connie Johnson for the Democratic nomination. The former Attorney General can now sit back during the coming weeks and watch the fireworks as Mick Cornett and Kevin Stitt faceoff in the Republican runoff.

Former Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett lead the crowded Republican field with 29.3% of the vote, and Tulsa businessman Kevin Stitt held on to 2nd place, just outpacing current Lt. Governor Todd Lamb 24.4% to 23.9%.

In legislative races, there were several surprises as five House Republican incumbents and one Senate Republican incumbent lost their bids to retain their seats. Additionally, seven more House Republicans were forced into runoff.

Rep. Steven Vaughan, R-Ponca City, Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, endured defeat at the hands of former Democratic representative Ken Luttrell. Luttrell switched parties and won the House District 37 Republican primary with 57.93 percent of the vote, and is guaranteed his former seat in the Oklahoma House.

The most surprising loss in the House might be Rep. George Babinec, R-Cushing. Babinec only received 28.57 percent of the vote in the House District 33 GOP primary.

Other incumbents who lost their seat in the primary were Rep. Scooter Park, R-Devol, lost House District 65's GOP primary, Rep. Scott McEachin, R-Tulsa, in House District 67, and, Rep. Chuck Strohm, R-Broken Arrow, also lost his seat in House District 69.

Ten House incumbents won primary races, but didn't receive 50% of the vote, so will face runoff in August.

Senate Republican incumbents fared better than their House counterparts. Five of the six who faced primary challengers from within their own party won Tuesday. Only Sen. Ervin Yen, R-Oklahoma City, lost his primary bid to Joe Howell in Senate District 40.

No Democrat incumbents in the Senate faced a primary. Each of the Republican incumbents who won faces a Democrat or Independent challenger in the general election.

No incumbent House Democrats were forced into a runoff, although there are eight runoffs on the "D" side of the August ballot, all in "open" seats.

The runoff primary is August 28th, and will also include Republican races for Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Labor Commissioner, Corporation Commissioner, and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Four sitting Republican Oklahoma Congressmen advanced to the November elections; Mulln, Cole, and Russell, each who easily won their primary, and Lucas who did not draw primary opposition.

The only Congressional nominations to be decided are in the 1st District (Tulsa) where Republicans Kevin Hern and Tim Harris will faceoff, as well as Democrats Tim Gilpin and Amanda Douglas, to determine who is on the November ballot for their respective parties.

ACEC OKLAHOMA Hosting

**PSMJ Project
Managers Bootcamp**

**Thursday-Friday, October 11-12
Oklahoma City**

**Details Coming Soon!
Mark Your Calendar**

Keith Angier Becomes ACEC OKLAHOMA Chairman of the Board

Keith Angier, MacArthur Associated Consultants, Oklahoma City, assumed the duties as Chairman of the Board at the conclusion of the ACEC OKLAHOMA Annual Meeting in Branson, MO, on June 8th.

Angier grew up in Edmond and became a licensed Oklahoma Professional Engineer in 1993. In 1997, Keith joined MacArthur Associated Consultants as a Project Engineer, and in 2001, he became the Vice-President and Co-Owner. His day-to-day activities include business development, client relations, project management, and design oversight.

Keith is actively involved in several organizations and is passionate about legislation to support the need for infrastructure growth and improvements. In his free-time, Keith enjoys spending time with his family and traveling around the world with his wife, Terri.

Also elected to serve on the 2018-2019 ACEC OKLAHOMA Board of Directors were:

- * Chairman-Elect Jim Hemphill, Poe & Associates, Tulsa
- * Vice Chairman of Membership Chad Grinsteiner, White Engineering Associates, Oklahoma City
- * Treasurer Hollis Allen, Walter P Moore, Tulsa/Oklahoma City
- * Vice Chairman of Business Practice Mike Vahabzadegan, EST, Inc., Oklahoma City
- * Vice Chairman of Education/P.R. Adam West, Benham Design, LLC, Tulsa
- * ACEC National Director (3-Year Term) Brent Schniers, Garver, Tulsa.
- * Brandon Claborn will continue on the Board of Directors for another year as Immediate Past Chairman.



Chairman of the Board Keith Angier presents 2017-2018 Chairman Brandon Claborn (l) with Past Chairman's Plaque honoring his leadership of ACEC OKLAHOMA.

New ACEC Newsletter Focuses on Private Client Markets

ACEC's new bi-monthly *Private Industry Briefs* newsletter provides an overview of current trends in a specific private market, descriptions of clients, and information about what makes that market unique.

The June/July 2018 issue focuses on the commercial and residential real estate market, identifying the top development firms in the different sectors; examining the five most significant market trends; highlighting the hottest geographic markets nationwide; and analyzing how current legislation and policies—such as the 179D tax deduction—are influencing the market.

Upcoming issues will focus on intermodal and logistics; energy and utilities; and, health care and science/technology.

To access the current brief, and sign up for future issues, [click here](#).

Congressional Candidate Kevin Hern Meets with ACEC OKLAHOMA

A few days prior to the June primary, 1st Congressional District Republican candidate Kevin Hern met with ACEC OKLAHOMA members to discuss his candidacy.

Hern, a Tulsa businessman, had reached out to ACEC OKLAHOMA in February, and had met with ACEC in Washington, DC in April. Following those meetings, and after submitting a "Candidate Questionnaire" to ACECPAC, the national political action committee, approved a \$1,000 contribution to Hern's campaign.

Hern finished in the top 2 in the June primary, and will be on the 1st District runoff ballot in August.



(Left-Right) ACEC OKLAHOMA President/CEO Jim Sullins; Jason Langhammer, Garver; Brandon Claborn, Meshek & Associates & Immediate Past Chairman ACEC OKLAHOMA; Jim Hemphill, Poe & Associates & Chairman Elect, ACEC OKLAHOMA; Kevin Hern; Kim Reeve, BKL, Inc.; Stacy Loeffler, BKL, Inc.; Mike Homan, Terracon Consultants; and, Karthik Raghakrishnan, Kleinfelder

President's Monthly Update

July, 2018

David Raymond, President & CEO

Our top agenda item this month is, as you know, the Special Meeting of the ACEC Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. on July 10, where you will have a chance to meet and vote on my successor, Linda Bauer Darr. I think very highly of Linda and can't wait for you to meet her – the Search Committee and Executive Committee have done an excellent job. ACEC Chair Manish Kothari is ably steering the process to a successful conclusion. We have been planning a smooth transition with the support of our amazing staff. It is gratifying that the Council is in excellent shape and that the challenges our industry faces – in advocacy, education, and changing demographics – can be successfully addressed by ACEC's wonderful volunteer leadership and staff, now including the highly talented candidate to be my successor. See you in Washington on the 10th!

General

- *Engineering Inc.'s* "Sway Deference" story (November/December 2017) won a Gold Award for best feature story in the 2018 EXCEL Awards, which recognizes excellence in association media, publishing, marketing and communications.
- Our Fall Conference, October 28-31, at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, Nevada, has a great lineup of speakers including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham; technology trailblazer Mick Ebeling; and New York Times best-selling business author Peter Sheahan; brochure will go out in mid-July; website currently active.
- ACEC's Life/Health Trust was protected under the Department of Labor's (DOL) final rule on the regulation of association health plans (AHPs); the final rule responded to concerns raised earlier by ACEC and the ACEC Life/Health Trust that the initial proposed rule would make it difficult for the Trust to serve firms with more than 50 employees.
- ACEC/Connecticut and ACEC/Rhode Island hit their ACEC/PAC goals, joining Indiana, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Georgia, Montana, Tennessee, and Massachusetts as states at goal for 2018.
- ACEC/PAC hosted events for U.S. House Representatives Cheri Bustos (D-IL), Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Katherine Clarke (D-MA), Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Will Hurd (R-TX), Derek Kilmer (D-WA), and Senator Dean Heller (R-NV); ACEC/PAC also supported two open seat candidates: Joe Morelle (D-NY), who won his primary, and Kevin Hern (R-OK), who advanced to the run-off election.

Government Advocacy

- Secured provisions in the House and Senate State Department and foreign assistance spending bills urging federal agencies to increase the participation of U.S. engineering firms in overseas infrastructure projects.
- House passed the \$3.7 billion Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that authorizes nine new Corps of Engineers water projects and modifications to existing projects; a broader bill has been approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, with floor action expected in July.
- Helped to secure funding increases for transportation and water infrastructure programs in annual appropriations bills approved by House and Senate committees.
- ACEC and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) submitted a joint statement at a Congressional subcommittee hearing supporting strong licensing standards for design professionals.

Business Resources

- ACEC's new *Private Industry Briefs* launched with the June/July 2018 issue focused on the commercial and residential real estate market including details on top development firms, significant market trends, and relevant current legislation and policy.

THANKS DAVE!!!!!

On behalf of all ACEC OKLAHOMA Members, our THANKS to ACEC President/CEO Dave Raymond who is retiring after 20 years of leadership and services to the consulting engineer profession.

Congrats on a GREAT JOB, and best wishes to you and Molly in your well-deserved retirement years.

