



MEMORANDUM

TO: IEDA Board
FROM: Ed Gerak
RE: Federal Legislative Committee Report
DATE: August 9, 2024

Election Issues

Assassination Attempt – On July 13th, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks shot at and injured former President Trump from 150 yards, from an unsecure rooftop. Besides Trump, the shooter killed one and injured 2 others.

Reports since the shooting indicate that the shooter was identified as suspicious 1.5 hours ahead of the attempt because of having a rangefinder. However, the lapse in security allowed for the incident to occur. The Secret Service Director resigned after rare bipartisan calls for her resignation.

Described by some as a “supernova” event, some democratic political strategists speculated that this event might silence the calls for Biden to step down after his debate performance.

Biden Steps Aside – President Biden decides to step aside after increasing pressure from top democrats, fundraising dollars drying up and negative polling numbers.

President Biden endorsed VP Kamala Harris to replace him on the presidential ticket. Despite calls for an open convention, this decision seemed the most prudent for access to the current campaign war chest and not alienating their base.

Sugar High – The euphoric response to Harris replacing Biden has been described as a “sugar high”, resulting in raising \$65M the day Biden dropped out and \$200M over her first week.

Renewed enthusiasm has been sustained by some strong initial showings by candidate Harris. With less than 100 days to the election, it has become a sprint to the finish line with a potential new VP pick to give Harris a boost in the polls.

VP Pick – Arizona Senator Mark Kelly was considered, along with Josh Shapiro (PA Governor), Andy Beshear (KY Governor), Tim Walz (MN Governor), and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg in the final shortlist for VP consideration. Democratic nominee Harris selected MN Governor Tim Walz.

Arizona Primary Results –

Senate Seat – Kari Lake secured the Republican nomination (55.4%) over Mark Lamb (39.2%). Mark's strong showing doesn't bode well for Kari as she heads into the general election against Rueben Gallego.

CD1 – Incumbent Congressman Schweikert secured the nomination but continues to have a tough challenge in the district, with Amish Shah leading in the democratic primary.

CD2 – Incumbent Eli Crane (80%) beat out Kevin Mearthy supported challenger Jack Smith. He will face Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

CD3- Yassamin Ansari is ahead in the democratic secure district.

CD4 – Incumbent Representative Stanton secured the democratic nomination.

CD5 – Incumbent Andy Biggs secured the republican nomination in a secure district.

CD6 – Incumbent Congressman Ciscomani won the republican nomination but will have another challenge in former AZ representative Kristen Engle.

CD7 – Incumbent Raul Grijalva has secured the nomination in the democratic safe district.

CD8 – Abe Hamadah beat out Blake Masters and Ben Toma in this republican safe district.

CD9 – Incumbent Congressman Gosar secured the nomination in this republican safe district.

Hill Update

S. 4753 - Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 – The long-awaited permit reform bill passed out of Senate ENR 15-4. The bill addresses judicial review, onshore energy and minerals permits, offshore energy, transmission, electric reliability, LNG exports, and hydropower.

APPA has concerns that this expands FERC's jurisdiction on interstate transmission and wholesale electrical sales over public power entities, that were previously exempted. An amendment to make hydropower renewable failed in committee.

NEPA Reviews – The Supreme Court opened the door to setting new limits for how agencies account for climate and environmental risks for new projects.

The newly granted petition—*Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Colorado*— challenges the breadth of analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act and is among the first environmental cases the Supreme Court has agreed to hear next term.

S. 4673 - Special District Grant Accessibility Act – This legislation, introduced by Senator Sinema, would make it easier for special districts to obtain federal funds/grants that have been unavailable in the past.

HR 8954 – Congressman Gosar has reintroduced the Public Lands Renewable Energy Act.

HR 6012 - Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2023 - Bill Would Allow Secretary of Ag to Remove Trees on NFS Lands w/o Timber Sale (ROW).