

June 5, 2006

A heated debate



Budget & taxes	
Twins stadium battle finally over	6
Politics & leadership	
Incumbency no great advantage this election year?	7
Governors	
Pawlenty the most polarizing?	11
Bird's eye view	3
Hot issues	13
Once around the statehouse lightly	16

Top Story

Last year's devastating hurricane season has inspired many of the nation's largest insurers to pull out of high-risk coastal states. But lawmakers are also pulling out the stops to keep them there.

SNCJ Spotlight

Insurance industry sweating global warming

Toward the end of last year's devastating hurricane season, the national investment-environmental coalition Ceres released a study warning that Hurricane Katrina might be the start of a new era in which global climate changes bring losses so great, the insurance industry would be unable to cover them, leaving federal, state and local governments to foot the bill. Last month, government environmental scientists said this year's season would not be quite as severe. But that news may not be enough to slow an ongoing exodus of insurers from at-

risk coastal areas — or stop state lawmakers from taking strong countermeasures to protect their constituents.

At the time Ceres issued “Availability and Affordability of Insurance Under Climate Change — A Growing Challenge for the U.S.” last September, much of the reaction from the insurance industry revolved around the issue of whether or not man-made global warming is a legitimate threat. That debate has continued in the months since.

The believers gained a major ally last month when global insurance giant American International Group (AIG) — number nine on Fortune’s list of top 100 companies — joined their ranks. “AIG recognizes the scientific consensus that climate change is a reality and is likely in large part the result of human activities that have led to increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere,” the company said in a statement. It also pledged to develop “products and services to help AIG and its clients respond to the worldwide drive to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.” Foreign-based insurers such as Munich Re and Swiss Re have long supported that effort, but AIG is the first major U.S.-based insurer to do so.

Others in the industry, however, continue to maintain that global warming isn’t the real threat. At an insurance industry conference in April, Karen Clark, president and chief executive officer of the Boston-based risk-modeling firm AIR Worldwide, stated that the main factor driving catastrophe losses is actually exposure growth. Over the past 10 years, aggregated commercial and residential replacement costs have more than doubled in the U.S., she said.

Frank J. Coyne, chairman, president and CEO of AIR’s parent company, Insurance Services Office (ISO), developed that argument further at the 80th annual meeting of the American Association of Managing General Agents, held a couple of weeks later. Coyne pointed out that, based on computer modeling, if the six hurricanes that hit the U.S. in 1926 were to happen today, insured losses would top 2005’s record total, due to the greater concentration of higher-value real estate in vulnerable coastal areas. “The inescapable conclusion is

The Week in Session

States in Regular Session: CA, DC, DE, LA, MA, MI, NC, NJ, NY, PA, RI, US

States in Informal Session: OH

States in Special Session: AK "b", CA "a", OK "b", PA "a", VA "a"

States in Recess: NH

States Projected to Adjourn: AZ

States Adjourned in 2006: AK, AL, CT, CO, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MD, ME, MN, MO, MS, NE, NM, OK, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY

States in Special Session Adjourned in 2006: AR "a", AZ "a", LA "a", OK "a", OR "a", TN "a", TX "c", UT "a", WI "b", WI "c"

Letters indicate special/extraordinary sessions

Source: State Net, 06/02/06

that the effects of exposure growth far outweigh any effects of global warming,” he said.

The issue of global warming aside, AIR’s catastrophe modeling-based projections for the future aren’t entirely encouraging. While the company estimates there is only a 5 percent chance that losses from this year’s storms will exceed the \$38.1 billion total for Hurricane Katrina, it also forecasts that catastrophic losses “will double about every 10 years due to increases in the numbers and values of properties at risk.” The company also said that a \$100-billion event was “not hard to imagine,” citing the possibility that a major hurricane could make a direct hit on Miami, FLORIDA or sweep through NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK and New England.

Those dire predictions apparently had something to do with the recent decision by Allstate Corp., the nation’s second-largest property insurer, to drop 95,000 policies in FLORIDA and 28,000 in NEW YORK — although the \$1.5 billion quarterly loss the company suffered for the first time in a

decade as a result of Hurricane Katrina was undoubtedly a factor as well. Allstate isn’t the only one taking such drastic measures, however. Insurers from Cape Cod, MASSACHUSETTS to the Gulf Coast are canceling homeowners policies to reduce their risk exposure. In FLORIDA alone, insurers have notified the state of their intentions to drop a combined 500,000 policies, further burdening the state’s government-run insurer of last resort, Citizens Property Insurance Corp., which is already facing a \$1.7 billion deficit.

Bird’s eye view



States explore impeachment

With partisan rancor as vitriolic as ever, some Congressional Democrats have called for impeachment proceedings against President George W. Bush should Dems regain control of the House in November. Others are not waiting, as MICHIGAN Rep. John Conyers (D) has already introduced resolutions calling for both Bush (HRES 636) and Vice President Dick Cheney (HRES 637) to be censured for allegedly manipulating military intelligence to prod the country into war in Iraq. But a fairly obscure House rule (Section LIII, sec. 603) that allows state legislatures to call for presidential impeachment has also prompted lawmakers in four states to push resolutions asking the House of Representatives to initiate those proceedings. One, MINNESOTA HR 24, died in committee, but the others are still active. Any official action, however, must begin in the House and be confirmed by a trial in the U.S. Senate. The accompanying map shows all states that have considered impeachment resolutions this year.

of the industry themselves. Among other things, they'd like to see tougher state and local building codes, premiums that are more in line with actual risks and the federal government take a greater role in backing up insurers when losses reach a certain level. Those initiatives don't have the support of the entire industry, however.

"Let the private sector do its job without extraordinarily complex new government programs," says Eric Goldberg of the American Insurance Association, which represents hundreds of property and casualty providers. And Frank Nutter, president of the Reinsurance Association of America, whose members might be replaced by federal reinsurers under the proposed changes, said the industry "has been very profitable and very resilient in the face of the most significant catastrophic losses — both terrorist and natural disasters — ever," adding, "We can't see why there's a case to be made for a government role."

In fact, as a whole, the insurance industry is doing pretty well. Despite last year's record losses, the ISO and the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America say the industry's net profit rose nearly 12 percent in 2005, from \$38.5 billion in 2004 to a record \$43 billion last year.

Amidst all of the industry division and turmoil, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecast a few weeks ago that the presence of cooler waters in the Atlantic Ocean would render the 2006 hurricane season, which began June 1, not quite as bad as last year's. That favorable news may not have much of an impact on either insurers or government officials in at-risk areas, however. After all, NOAA is still predicting a very active hurricane season with up to 16 named tropical storms and eight to 10 hurricanes, four to six of which are expected to be categorized as "major," with winds of 111 mph or more. And as Max Mayfield, director of the NOAA National Hurricane Center, put it, "One hurricane hitting where you live is enough to make it a bad season." Last year demonstrated that the same goes for a hurricane hitting where you govern or insure property.

(SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, INSURANCE JOURNAL, INSURANCE NEWS NET, TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT, WASHINGTON POST, ISO.COM, NYSSENATE34.COM, PROTECTINGAMERICA.ORG, STATE NET)

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

Upcoming Stories

Here are some of the topics you will see covered in upcoming issues of the State Net Capitol Journal:

- Minimum wage
- Plan B
- TABOR

Budget & taxes

TWINS STADIUM BATTLE FINALLY OVER: In the wee hours of the morning last Sunday, MINNESOTA lawmakers finally approved a plan to fund a new open-air ballpark in Minneapolis for the Twins, ending the organization's 11-year fight for the proposal.

About three-quarters of the \$522 million in projected construction costs for the stadium will come from a .15 percent bump in the sales tax (three cents on a \$20 purchase) in the state's most populous county, Hennepin. The levy will take effect without the referendum customarily required for local sales taxes, a provision that riled some lawmakers. Rep. Ron Erhardt (R) deemed it the "most incredible exercise in selfishness" by legislators representing areas outside Hennepin County limits. And Rep. Alice Hausmen (DFL) said the only reason the measure got through this year was because "a whole bunch of people can say I'm not passing a tax on my constituents."

There may be repercussions for that bunch of lawmakers, however, if anti-stadium activists have their way. "Our group is taking down the vote by every legislator...and we are going to publicize these as the election draws near," said Laura Lehmann, spokeswoman for Citizens for a Stadium Tax Referendum.

There was considerably less clamor over the passage of another stadium-funding measure last Sunday, probably owing to the fact that it was for a public institution, the University of MINNESOTA. A third nagging stadium issue, for the Vikings NFL team, went unresolved, despite a preexisting agreement for a sales tax referendum in the county where that stadium would be located. (ASSOCIATED PRESS, GRAND FORKS HERALD, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE)

BUDGETS IN BRIEF: SOUTH DAKOTA Attorney General Larry Long issued an official opinion last Tuesday stating that a pair of measures aimed at repealing the video lottery and cellular phone tax laws passed in 2003 cannot be placed on the state's November ballot. Long said the ballot measures were not filed within 90 days of the legislative session in which the laws they're seeking to overturn were enacted. Moreover, they are both referendums on revenue measures vital for the support of the state government, which are barred by the constitution (ASSOCIATED PRESS, RAPID CITY JOURNAL). • Between 3,000 and 5,000 **OKLAHOMA** residents' tax returns were misplaced in January due to a computer problem at the state Tax Commission, a spokeswoman for the agency said last week.



Evidently, invalid bar codes on returns filed by a tax-preparing company and users of some income tax return software products rendered the returns unreadable by the Tax Commission's computers. The agency said taxpayers affected by the glitch who were due refunds would be receiving them in about three weeks (OKLAHOMAN [OKLAHOMA CITY]).

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

Politics & Leadership

INCUMBENCY NO GREAT ADVANTAGE THIS ELECTION YEAR? The ouster of seventeen sitting legislators — including two top Senate leaders — in PENNSYLVANIA's primary election May 16 may have given political officeholders across the country a case of the jitters. If so, the results from other early primaries aren't likely to have done anything to settle their nerves.

In the nine other states that have held primaries so far this year, eight more incumbents have been shown the statehouse door, including INDIANA Senate President Pro Tem Richard D. Garton (R), NORTH CAROLINA House Speaker Pro Tem Richard Morgan (R) and WEST VIRGINIA House Majority Leader Rick Staton (D).

Some see the results as an indication that voters' disenchantment with their national representatives, which has been reflected in recent polls, is spreading to the state level. "With the country in such an anti-status-quo mood, I think it will affect all levels of government," said J. Michael Bitzer, a political scientist at Catawba College in NORTH CAROLINA.

Tim Storey, an elections expert at the National Conference of State Legislatures agrees that the early results are "certainly a stunning wake-up call that no one is safe." But he believes it is premature to conclude that an anti-incumbent mood is sweeping through the states. "If you look at the places it's happened, they all have their own unique circumstances that don't necessarily carry across state lines," Storey said.

The upheaval in PENNSYLVANIA, for instance, was mainly the result of voter rage over last summer's legislative pay raise scandal, along with political in-fighting among conservative and moderate Republicans in the state. The defeat of Garton in INDIANA appears to have resulted from his support for generous health benefits for legislators and their families — including even ex-spouses — and his votes against tough restrictions on abortion. And Morgan's

demise in NORTH CAROLINA, likewise, stems from his decision in 2003 to accept a power-sharing arrangement with the Democrats when the House was evenly divided.

Furthermore, the actions of the electorate are known to diverge widely between the national and state level. In 2004, for example, the Democrats won majorities in 10 state legislative chambers, netting more than 60 seats overall, but lost the presidency and gave up seats in Congress as well.

At least twice in recent history, though, state and federal results have corresponded. Two years before the 1994 “Republican Revolution” that gave the GOP control of both houses of Congress, Republicans more than doubled the number of statehouses they controlled (from eight to 19). And in 1972, two years before the Democrats netted 49 congressional seats in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, they increased the number of statehouses where they held the majority from 26 to 37. (STATELINE.ORG)

TN LAWMAKERS LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES: It appears TENNESSEE lawmakers may have learned a lesson from their counterparts in PENNSYLVANIA. On the final day of the Lone Star State’s 2006 session last Saturday, House members voted themselves a healthy pension increase. The hike will boost the pension of a House member in his mid-30s, for example, from about \$400 per year to \$800 or \$900 annually.

Lawmakers defended the action as a cost-of-living adjustment similar to what is done with Social Security. “It keeps up with the rate of inflation,” said House Minority Leader Bill Dunn (R). Glenda Chambers, executive director of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, concurred that the move merely brings TENNESSEE more in line with other states.

But within minutes of adopting the pension increase, the chamber passed another bill that will place a significant hurdle before potential challengers for legislative seats this year.

The measure was actually written — and unanimously passed the Senate — as an uncontroversial one extending the deadline for voter registration. But the Democratic House leadership amended a provision of the bill requiring write-in candidates in primary elections to receive 5 percent of the votes cast in order to advance to the general election to instead require them to garner 5 percent of the total number of voters in their legislative district. That change means a write-in candidate in Davidson County, in central TENNESSEE, who needed 1,308 votes in the 2000 primary to get on the November ballot, would have needed 15,000. “It’s almost impossible to do — and, as a matter of fact, it is impossible,” said Rep. Chris Clem (R).

Write-in victories have been possible in the past, however. Rep. Joey Hensley (R), for example, was elected as a write-in candidate in 2002, and Sen. Rusty Crowe (R) came to office the same way in 1990.

Defenders of the measure argued that it ought to be tougher for people to be elected to office. “Why shouldn’t it be a little more difficult? If you make it through the election process, will you make a good representative when you get here?” said Rep. Randy Rinks (D). (TENNESSEAN [NASHVILLE])

REDISTRICTING FAILS TWICE IN OHIO: A couple of weeks ago the Democratic minority in OHIO’s House voted down a Republican plan to change the way legislative and congressional districts are drawn in the Buckeye State. The action wasn’t all that surprising, despite the fact that redistricting reform is something lawmakers on both sides of the isle say is necessary. But then the Democrats proceeded to reject a reform proposal sponsored by one of their own, Rep. Steve Driehaus (D), when the Republicans surprised them by resurrecting the 14-month-old measure. Following the second vote, Scott Borgemenke, chief of staff for House Speaker Jon A. Husted (R), told reporters the Democrats “cannot argue for reform any longer.” They did anyway, after accusing the Republicans of an election-year “gimmick.” And the Dems may, in fact, get their way entirely in the end. They’re believed to have their best chance in decades of taking control of the panel that draws legislative districts. That panel includes the governor, state auditor and secretary of state, all up whom will be selected by voters in November. (CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER)

POLITICS IN BRIEF: The controversial new **SOUTH DAKOTA** law that implemented an almost total ban on abortions in the Coyote State will go before voters in November. Opponents of the law last week filed more than the twice the necessary signatures to put the matter on the fall ballot (WASHINGTON POST). • Almost a third of the nonpartisan election chiefs in **MARYLAND** have quit in the past year, and some of them are saying it’s because of frustration over recent changes to the state’s voting system that jeopardize the integrity of the fall elections. One of the most controversial of those changes allows residents to cast their votes in the five days leading up to Election Day, which critics say is an invitation for fraud in a state that does not require ID to vote (CAPITAL [ANNAPOLIS]). • The **RHODE ISLAND** Senate passed a bill last week that would require individuals or groups that spend \$1,000 or more in support or opposition of a referendum to disclose how the money is spent. A similar measure is pending in the House (PROVIDENCE JOURNAL).

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

Upcoming Elections

(06/05/06 - 06/22/06)

- 06/06/2006 Alabama Primary Election
House (All)
Senate (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries
US House (All)
- 06/06/2006 Alabama Special Election
House (All)
Senate (All)
- 06/06/2006 California Primary Election
Assembly (All)
Senate (Even)
Constitutional Officers: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner
US House (All)
US Senate (1)
- 06/06/2006 California runoff
Senate 035
US House (CA 50)
- 06/06/2006 Iowa Primary Election
House (All)
Senate (Odd)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor
US House (All)
- 06/06/2006 Mississippi Primary Election
US House (All)
US Senate (1)
- 06/06/2006 Montana Primary Election
House (All)
Senate 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 23, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 35, 39, 40, 42, 44, 48, 49
US House (All)
US Senate (1)
- 06/06/2006 New Mexico Primary Election
House (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor
US House (All)
US Senate (1)
- 06/06/2006 South Dakota Primary Election
House (All)
Senate (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor
US House (All)
- 06/13/2006 Arkansas Primary Runoff
House (All)
Senate (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Land Commissioner
US House (All)
- 06/13/2006 Maine Primary Election
House (All)
Senate (All)
Constitutional Officers: Governor
US House (All)
US Senate (Olympia Snowe)
- 06/13/2006 South Carolina Primary Election
House (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Comptroller
US House (All)
- 06/18/2006 Alabama Primary Election
House (All)
- 06/18/2006 Alabama Primary Runoff
Senate (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries
- 06/20/2006 South Dakota second election
House (All)
Senate (All)
Constitutional Officers:
Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, State Auditor
- 06/21/2006 Illinois Primary Election
House (All)

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Governors

PAWLENTY MOST POLAR-
IZING? As long expected,
MINNESOTA Gov. Tim

Pawlenty (R) announced his plans to seek a second term as the Gopher State's chief executive last week. But Pawlenty added an unexpected twist to his announcement

when he vowed that, if re-elected, he would not run for a national office during those four years. Pawlenty has been mentioned frequently as a potential vice-presidential candidate in 2008, but he quashed that idea, saying "If I run for governor and win, I will serve out my term for four years as governor."

The announcement came on the heels of a recent survey by a University of CALIFORNIA San Diego professor that deemed Pawlenty the most polarizing governor in the nation. According to the study, which analyzed the results of Survey USA polls taken in all 50 states between May 2005 and January 2006, more than 80 percent of Gopher State Republicans approved of the job Pawlenty is doing, while only 27 percent of Democrats approved. That 53-point spread is the widest partisan difference in job approval ratings of any governor.

Pawlenty made no mention of the survey in his re-election announcement, but earlier in the week did acknowledge he had made several partisan-fueled mistakes during his first three years in office. His biggest error, he said, was his contentious relationship with the Senate's Democratic Farm Labor majority during the 2003 legislative session. With help from the Republican-controlled House, Pawlenty got almost everything he wanted in that session and gave the Senate DFLers virtually nothing in return. That strategy led to an ongoing battle with the Senate that has effectively stalled much of his current agenda.

State DFL Chairman Brian Melendez said last week that Pawlenty's inability to work with Democrats has made him vulnerable in November. "He's the first governor in MINNESOTA history to shut down state government and who, in three of his first four years in office, wasn't able to deliver a budget that didn't require a special legislative session," he said.

But Pawlenty claims he dumped his winner-take-all approach during the 2006 legislative session, opting instead to "make room for each side to have a partial victory and find common ground and compromise." Whether or not that leads him to another term remains to be seen, but at least one recent in-state poll shows him with an overall 50 percent job approval rating. (MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE, ST. PAUL PIONEER-PRESS)

Quoteable

"I think I'm less of a smart aleck than I used to be."

— **MINNESOTA Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R)**
on how his political style has changed
during his three-plus years in office.
(ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS)

SCHWEITZER SEES LONG-TERM U.S. PRESENCE IN MIDDLE EAST: MONTANA Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D) marked his return from a trip to Iraq last week by calling on President Bush and Congressional leaders to address the American public and tell them that the U.S. will keep troops in the Middle East as long as it depends on foreign oil. Schweitzer said he believes such a speech would bolster the President and his Middle East policy, which most polls indicate is rapidly losing support with the American public. "I think the people would be with him," Schweitzer said, adding that Bush should also work to promote conservation and alternative fuels, while hammering home the message that "as long as you consume oil, you're part of the problem." (MISSOULIAN)

In the Hopper

State Net's database tracks tens of thousands of bills in all 50 states at any given time. Here's a snapshot of what's in the legislative works:

Number of 2006 prefiles last week: 270

Number of 2006 Intros last week: 1,748

Number of bills enacted/adopted last week: 1,198

Number of 2006 prefiles to date: 19,899

Number of 2006 Intros to date: 91,668

Number of enacted/adopted overall in 2006: 22,934

— Compiled By JAMES ROSS
(Measures current as of 06/01/06
Source: State Net)

GOVERNORS IN BRIEF: The judge set to hear the political pandering case against KENTUCKY Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R) removed himself from the proceedings because he said he personally knows people who might testify at the trial. Fletcher is facing three misdemeanor counts that he violated the Bluegrass State law that prohibits state officials from hiring and firing rank-and-file workers on the basis of politics (COURIER-JOURNAL [LOUISVILLE]). • **NEW MEXICO** Gov. Bill Richardson (D) announced last week that he would petition the U.S. Department of Agriculture for protection of all 1.6 million acres of roadless areas within the state's national forests. If granted, it would prevent development like oil and gas drilling, mining and logging. Under the current federal plan, road building would be allowed on about 430,000 acres of the state's national forest land that is now roadless (FARMINGTON DAILY TIMES). • **RHODE ISLAND** Gov. Don Carcieri (R) vetoed a bill that would have taken away his own power to place nonbinding referenda on the ballot. Carcieri said he opposes the bill on principle, noting that such gubernatorial referendums do not enact law but do allow him to "take the pulse of voter sentiment." The legislature, however, is expected to override Carcieri's veto, possibly as early as this week (PROVIDENCE JOURNAL). • The WISCONSIN Assembly last week failed to override Gov. Jim Doyle's (D) veto of

Party will push for, among less mentionable goals, legalization of child pornography. “We are going to shake The Hague awake!” party officials proclaimed last week. The NVD also supports universal public nudity and legalization of all drugs.

Y’ALL HAVE A GOOD TIME, Y’HEAR? In the name of good will and communication, the University of TEXAS will continue the practice of comping tickets to Longhorn football games to a select group of fans. But don’t get giddy thinking that YOU are among that select group, not unless you happen to be a Texas legislator. Over the past five years, reports the *Austin American-Statesman*, UT has dispensed nearly 2,000 free or discounted tickets to Lone Star lawmakers, both state and federal. Recipients feigned innocence, saying that the university makes the rules while they — public servants all — merely take advantage of the rules. Those interviewed say that it offers the chance for electeds and university officials to palaver at pre-game receptions. Meanwhile, legislators are pikers when it comes to this particular bennie. UT Regents get free tickets for life.

PICKING UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF before languishing in prison for seven months, Charles McGee is back at work, helping elect Republicans in NEW HAMPSHIRE. As noted in the *Washington Post*, McGee spent time in the hoosegow after pleading guilty to a conspiracy that sabotaged Democratic and union telephone lines during the 2002 election. At the time, McGee was executive director of the state Republican Party and the conspiracy involved hiring a telemarketing firm to jam the Democrats’ get-out-the-vote effort. After his release from prison, McGee resumed his job as veep of a political marketing firm where, according to the firm president, he will lend his, uh, “experience” to any GOP candidate who wants it.

AND, OH, BY THE WAY: Just before the final gavel thumped down on the TENNESSEE legislative year, legislators dipped into the state trough for a few last-second goodies. They increased their pension benefits, reports the *Tennessean*, and imposed a gigantic impediment for write-in candidates qualifying for the ballot. Both actions were contained in bills amended at the last minute and not subject to the usual legislative review. Critics say the measures passed because legislative leaders played “fast and loose” with voting rules.

Corrections

On page 2 of our May 22 issue, we identified WASHINGTON Senate Bill 5637 as a “fair share” measure that died in committee this session. That bill, however, was from the 2005 session. The 2006 fair share measure that failed in committee was SB 6356. We regret the error.

