

Week of April 14, 2017

Draft Hawley

While some Republicans were waiting for the entry of Congresswoman **Ann Wagner** into the 2018 US Senate race, others unveiled a “Draft Hawley” movement to unseat her as the presumptive front-runner. Being about 90 days since he was sworn into this office, the letter offers some cover to suddenly leap for higher office. And one MOScouter says the Hawley feels an urgency to do it now **because he can still run as an outsider if he does it now, and couldn’t if he spend any amount of time actually holding office.**

Excerpt from the Please Run Letter

Dear Josh:

This letter is to urge you to become a candidate for United States Senate in 2018. Noting that you led the ticket in the last election, we are convinced that you would be the strongest candidate for Missouri’s Senate seat. You have exceptional qualities of character and intellect that would bring honor to our state and leadership to our nation...

You are off to an impressive start as Missouri’s Attorney General, and you have made clear your commitment to excellent service in that important office. Ordinarily we would not suggest that you take any other course. But these are not ordinary times. The federal government is clearly broken and the Senate is the place to begin fixing it.

For these reasons we respectfully urge you to become a candidate for the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

Jane Cunningham

Jack Danforth

Neal Ethridge

Peter Herschend

David Humphreys

Peter Kinder

Doug Russell

US Senate Bits

Congresswoman **Ann Wagner** shows a very healthy war-chest of \$2.7 million. Although Attorney General **Josh Hawley** has national contributors he tapped in his statewide run, that's a lot of checks he'd have to collect to get anywhere close to Wagner. Others dismiss that as a problem because SuperPACs could make up the difference. We'll see....

Peter Kinder – who signed the “draft Hawley” letter – is making the rounds to tout Hawley. He was on **Mark Reardon**'s show yesterday and is on **Jamie Allman** this morning.

And – if you're getting in the mind of **John Brunner** and why he might run again, consider: his supporters believe that he would be a senator today if Senator **Claire McCaskill** hadn't jumped into the fray with her “too conservative” ads about **Todd Akin**.

Who is McCaskill's dream match-up this cycle? Probably **Ed Martin**....

Silvey: Ellebracht's Charge “Worthy of Investigation”

In an interview on Statehouse blend Sen. **Ryan Silvey** doesn't back away from a recent assertion made by Rep. **Mark Ellebracht** that Pro Tem **Ron Richard** has “been bought by campaign contributions.”

Silvey says “[The charges are] worthy of some consideration and investigation. I mean the facts are what they are. I'm not willing to go so far as to say that Senator Richard violated the law, but I'm also not a law enforcement agency.... The facts are: he received large contributions, he filed legislation that would dismiss a lawsuit against the people who made those large contributions. Now, it's not for me to determine motive, it's not for me to determine if that was a quid pro quo. If someone wanted to look into it, I don't think anyone would be surprised... There's been a pattern of behavior with this leadership team that certainly would lead you to conclude that people who made significant contributions got their legislation put to front of the line of consideration when you look at how the calendar was ordered this year, when you look at how certain bills have been handled...”

Silvey and Richard have been on the outs since Silvey voted against for labor reform bills. Things got worse after Richard chose Sen. **Dan Brown** to chair the Appropriations Committee over Silvey. Still this is a remarkable statement from any legislator about another legislator, even more so to be aimed at one's own party.

Emery Bill Would Loosen Restrictions on Taxation by Fees

Better Together decries Sen. **Ed Emery**'s SB520 as "gutting" the reforms in municipal courts which were passed after the Ferguson unrest.

According to the bill summary, Emery's bill would bump up (more than double) the cap in fines for minor traffic violations, and repeal various provisions like: exemptions from paying court costs in minor traffic violations and municipal ordinance violations for defendants who are indigent; the requirement that the court establish procedures to allow indigent defendants to present evidence of their financial condition; the requirements that community service alternatives are offered; that no additional charge shall be issued for the failure to appear for a minor traffic violation; and that municipal government may be dissolved when it fails to remit excess revenue collected to the Department of Revenue. It also repeals the lowered threshold for how much of a municipalities income can come from fees.

On the Move

After 27 years **Cindi Keele** is retiring as executive director from NAMI Missouri.

Jason Klindt deregistered for KCP&L. Klindt is said to be moving up into a marketing role with the utility. KCP&L will continue to be represented in the hallways by **Cara Hoover**, Patek and Associates and the Catalyst Group.

Former Rep. **John Bowman** registered for UAW. He's been in the building here and there throughout session.

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