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 **Advocacy Digest | September 2019**

 **Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**Link and Stafshold Announce Runs for the 10th Senate District**

Recently, Cherie Link, a member of the St. Croix Valley Home Builders Association, announced her intention to run for the 10th Senate District seat in northwestern Wisconsin. Currently, this seat is held by Senator Patty Schachtner who was elected in a special election in January 2018 to fill out the term of former State Senator Shelia Harsdorf.

Link’s family has been a longtime member via their ownership of Indianhead Glass in Hudson.

In a press release announcing her campaign Link stated, “as a small business owner and growing up in a family-owned business, I have experienced how the private sector is the lifeblood of our economy, the largest provider of jobs, and I understand the hard work and dedication it takes to have a successful business.” She further mention “I will advocate for pro-growth tax policies to achieve economic success while working to provide relief to all taxpayers.”

The election in the 10th Senate District in the fall of 2020 will be a targeted race for both parties with the democrats working hard to keep the seat and the republicans looking to take the seat back to add to their majority.

Finally, State Representative Rob Stafshold (R-New Richmond) is also exploring a run for the 10th Senate District seat as well. Stafsholt was first elected to the state assembly in 2016 and was a lead author of legislation last session to reform and streamline the process to build and develop in areas containing wetlands. If Stafsholt decides to run for the state senate, it would trigger a GOP primary which would be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

**Special Election Dates Announced to Elect New Member of Congress**

With the early retirement of Congressman Sean Duffy in Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional District, Governor Evers recently announced a special election to choose a replacement to fill out Duffy’s term in congress. The 7th Congressional District covers a large number of counties in the northeastern part of the state.

The primary election for the seat will be held on Monday, December 30, 2019 with the general election to follow on Monday, January 27, 2020.

State Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) was the first candidate to announce his intention to run for the seat this winter. Most recently Jason Church, who currently works as an aide to U.S. Senator Ron Johnson and is also a retired Army captain, also announced his intention to run for the 7th congressional seat as a republican.

There are a number of democrats also mulling a run for the seat but none have formally announced their intention. According to wispolitics.com, that list includes: state Sen. Janet Bewley; Mason, Wausau attorney Christine Bremer, Margaret Engebretson, who challenged Duffy in 2018, former state Sen. Pat Kreitlow of Chippewa Falls, and state Rep. Nick Milroy, of South Range.

**Congressman Sensenbrenner Announces Retirement**

In early September, Wisconsin’s longest-serving member of congress announced that he would not seek reelection in 2020. Sensenbrenner has represented the 5th congressional district metro Milwaukee district since 1979.

This is a traditionally strong GOP district which generated a number of current and former legislators exploring a run for the seat. To date there is only one officially announced candidate to replace Sensenbrenner, current State Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald of Juneau.

A number of individuals who were rumored to be considering a run have announced they will not run for the open seat including former State Senator Leah Vukmir, current State Senator Dale Kooyenga, and Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow.

Other rumored to be considering a run include State Senator Chris Kapenga, Matt Neumann of the Neumann Companies, and Matt Walker, the son of former Governor Scott Walker.

Tom Palzewicz, who ran against Sensenbrenner as a democrat in 2018, has indicated he will again seek the now open seat in November 2020.

**Building permit streamlining bill passes state senate committee**

Our efforts to streamline the application process for a one/two family building permit took another big step forward recently.

[Assembly Bill 117](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/related/proposals/ab117.pdf) (AB 117) was recently passed by the Senate Committee on Utilities and Housing on a bipartisan and unanimous vote of 5-0. The bill earlier this year was passed out of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate on a 9-0 vote and received a voice vote in the state assembly on June 18.

The next step in the process will be to have AB 117 voted on by the full state senate this fall. We have asked for and are hoping that the bill is voted on by the state senate during one of their floor periods in October or November.

If we are successful in the state senate this fall the bill would then be ready for Governor Evers to sign in late 2019.

**Call to Action from NAHB: Stop DOE from hijacking building codes!**

Members are urged to call or write their Senator and urge them to oppose S. 2137, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act. This legislation would allow the Department of Energy (DOE) to hijack the ICC's consensus-based code development process.

Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) have introduced legislation that would result in costly and aggressive energy efficiency requirements. This legislation would expand the role of the DOE in the code development process, thereby denying the code consensus bodies freedom in decision-making. Learn more about the bill [here](http://nahbnow.com/2019/07/nahb-opposes-portman-shaheen-energy-bill/).

This legislation represents an unprecedented power grab by the federal government in the building code development arena and we need your help now!

[Click here](http://www.capitolconnect.com/builderlink/) to make your voice heard today.

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