

**FIRST ISSUE
FOR THE 2007
REGULAR SESSION**

LRC Contact Numbers

Mtg info	800/633-9650
Legislators msg	800/372-7181
TTY msg	800/896-0305
En Espanola	866/840-6574
LRC web	www.lrc.ky.gov

Key Session Dates

Jan 8	Session Convenes
Feb 25	Last day to have a new bill drafted
Mar 3	Last day to file House bills
Mar 5	Last day to file Senate bills
Mar 28 & 31	Concurrence days
Apr 1 - 11	Veto days (GA not in session)
Apr 1	Session Adjourns

The 2008 General Assembly convenes tomorrow in regular session in Frankfort with a new governor, budget woes and political wrangling. Many of the issues, however, remain the same.

Governor Steve Beshear (D) defeated incumbent Gov. Ernie Fletcher (R) last November. Since being sworn into office on Dec 11, Gov. Beshear has been busy with the expected administration changes and working on legislative issues, primarily the budget. With any change in administrations, new faces are appearing in Frankfort and will have an impact on the way state government runs. Getting to know the new administration officials is an ongoing process. Although several democratic pols are now back in Frankfort, many new persons will be serving for the first time. New cabinet secretaries have been named but many of their senior staffs have yet to be appointed.

Some of these appointments will be made after the current officeholders are let go in a normal changing of the guard process that occurs with each new administration, especially if it is a different political party. *Look for changes, for example, in the senior staff at the PSC soon.*

Gov. Beshear faces budget problems in this fiscal year and in the upcoming budget cycle. He has already announced immediate budget cuts and directed agencies to prepare leaner budget proposals. He claims no new money will be available for growth and many of his campaign proposals will be postponed for lack of funding. *Look for big budget fights, especially in education and social services, and a more serious push for a casino gambling amendment to be on the ballot this fall. Other issues such as illegal immigration, health care and state employee pensions will also be on the forefront.*

There were no legislative elections last fall and the only changes are due to resignations from those elected to or seeking other offices. Four House and 1 Senate seats are open with elections to fill them scheduled over the next month. *Currently, the House makeup is 60 Democrats and 36 Republicans; the Senate makeup is 21 Republicans, 15 Democrats and 1 Independent.* Leadership has not changed – Rep. Jody Richards (D-Bowling Green) is the Speaker of the House and Sen. David Williams (R-Burkesville) is the President of the Senate.

The *GA e-news* will be published weekly during the session. A listing of filed bills and their status will be included in future editions. Contact the KTA office with feedback, for additional information or copies of bills.

Editors Note. This news bulletin is published weekly via email during sessions of the General Assembly for the benefit and information to KTA members and friends. Special issues and Member Alerts will also be published as needed to notify members of significant action or bills affecting members. Contact the KTA office to be added or deleted from the distribution list, or to receive it in a different medium. Each edition will also be available on the KTA web site at www.ktaoffice.org. Questions and comments should be directed to Forest M. Skaggs at 859/223-9001 or forest@ktaoffice.org.