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March 9, 2018

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## End of the Road

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Remember that one time everyone thought session would be over by March 9? Yeah, they were wrong. The schedule and calendar never really created a practical opportunity for session to end early. With March 14 landing on a Wednesday, the conference committee season would have had to have been unrealistically short or the legislature would have had to work through this weekend, which they opted not to do. The new internal goal in the House and Senate is a March 14, 5pm finish. So... see you at midnight. One great sign that the end is near is our nearby "Important Dates" list is down to one day.

Conference committees began in earnest on Wednesday and by Thursday the schedule was jammed through the early evening. Monday is scheduled to be a full day of conference committees and the House and Senate will be in and out of session throughout the day. We expect a couple long of days leading into Wednesday.

Most issues are on auto-pilot with the exception of the one bill that actual deals with things being on auto-pilot: the autonomous vehicles bill. There is deep (and emotional) disagreement between the House and Senate and the auto manufacturers on how best to protect the public as driverless vehicles come into production and use on state roads. All counted, there are 228 bills still alive, 112 in the House and 116 in the Senate.

Expect a fast pivot into what will be an exceptionally busy election season. The primary election is just 60 days away so legislators will need to turn in their wing-tips for tennis shoes and start campaigning. There are fewer primaries than expected for state legislators, but there are far more general election challenges than we can recall in previous years. Out of 125 legislative seats up for election, 102 of them have a general election challenge.

At the statewide level, the secretary of state, auditor, and treasurer are up for election. These positions are all held by Republicans running for reelection, and the individuals running for those seats are not selected in the primary election but at party conventions held in June.

The Republican primary for U.S. Senate will be the race forcing you to avoid your TV, radio, computer, phone, twitter account, Facebook, Instagram, front door... in fact, if you don't want to hear about this race it's probably best to stay in your house with the lights off for a couple months.

Among the three candidates for the right to take on Senator Joe Donnelly in the fall is a combined \$7.5 million to spend. That's a lot of advertising in



### Important Date

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a short amount of time. The race has been fierce so far and will get more negative as we get closer to primary election day on May 8.

The political fundraising season will begin quickly after session concludes. We will be coordinating with clients in the coming weeks to set budgets and begin that process as we will be asked for commitments very soon through the election. So, if we're calling after Wednesday night it's for money. Have a great weekend!

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## Late Effort Stops Licensing Bill

SB 399 wasn't on many interest group's radar throughout the session. For two months the American Council of Engineering Companies took the lead working against the bill and expressed concern over its impact on licensed professionals, including surveyors. Specifically, the bill would have limited the ability of boards under the Professional Licensing Agency from promulgating rules, enforcing unlicensed practice penalties, and provided legislative oversight on rule-making. The bill was set for final passage in the House when many professions licensed under PLA worked to stop the bill. The House Republican caucus decided Monday not to move the bill further. We believe it is dead for the session.

## Surveying Legislation Set for Final Passage

The ISPLS legislative committee has worked for several months on SB 197. The bill updates and modernizes parts of the law that govern the practice of surveying to incorporate new technologies. It also provides for streamlined notification processes for surveys. One part of the bill that was ultimately removed was an effort to address adverse possession appeals. That will require more discussion this summer for key legislators. The bill was concurred upon by the House and is headed to the governor's desk for his signature.



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