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To: Lt. Governor's Office LtGov@scstatehouse.gov
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Subject: This Week in RSLC News: 18 in 18 Races to Watch List Released, Date Set for Virginia House of Delegates Special Election, and more

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

The RSLC's Future Majority Project and Right Women, Right Now initiatives released its "18 in '18: Races to Watch" list this morning. The first installment of this year's list includes female and diverse down-ballot candidates from around the country including in key swing states such as Colorado, Maine, and North Carolina. The full release can be found [here](#) and the full document with the candidates' biographies is linked [here](#).

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

RSLC President Matt Walter [released](#) a statement following the Michigan Supreme Court's decision to allow a ballot initiative on the November ballot that would remove the legislature's role in the redistricting process. "We are now seeing in several states an organized, orchestrated effort by Democrats to rig the system to their advantage using frivolous lawsuits and now ballot initiatives," Walter said. He additionally pointed out that the leader of the so-called "nonpartisan" initiative is a supporter of Hillary Clinton and attended her intended presidential victory party.

Virginia Speaker Kirk Cox [called](#) a special election to be held on Election Day this November to fill the vacancy of the 8th House of Delegates district after Republican Delegate Greg Habeeb announced his resignation last week. Habeeb was in the middle of his fourth term and said he would be returning to the private sector to focus on his legal career. The 8th House district is reliably Republican and has had a Republican Delegate for decades but is expected to be contested by the Democrats as Republicans hold a slim 51-49 majority in the chamber.

A poll [from Cygnal](#) shows Alabama Republican Lt. Governor nominee Will Ainsworth and Secretary of State John Merrill in equally strong positions in their campaigns with less than 100 days until Election Day. Ainsworth, a current state representative, is running 12-points ahead of his Democrat opponent while Secretary of State Merrill has a nearly 20-point lead over his Democrat opponent.

Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann [spoke](#) with the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*/this week to highlight his office's efforts to ensure election security ahead of the midterm elections. "I think 2016 just brought to light some of the fears I had," Hosemann said, noting that his office sees "2,000 to 3,000 active penetration attempts a month." Hosemann described how his office has put in place numerous security prevention methods to guard Mississippi's election infrastructure.

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