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THIS WEEK IN POLITICS

[The GOP Goes for More Legislative Seats, de Blasio's Bad Week and More](#)

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By Alan Greenblatt

With control of 69 of the nation's 99 legislative chambers, Republicans have to be feeling pretty good right about now. But they don't have a lot of room left for growth.

Justin Richards, who is the political director of the Republican State Leadership Committee (RSLC), put out a memo earlier this month outlining the party's political position this year. Naturally, he was optimistic, despite listing only a few opportunities for pickups.

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Richards laid out the potential for victory in the Colorado House, the New Mexico House, the Iowa Senate, and the Washington House -- all chambers where the GOP is within two or three seats of taking control. He also noted that the party hopes to win a few of the Oregon House seats being left open by Democratic retirements.

The RSLC is particularly confident about its chances in the Kentucky House, the last chamber in the South controlled by Democrats. Republicans won't win without a fight, though. KEEP READING >>

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MORE POLITICS NEWS & COMMENTARY

[Bathrooms and the Bible: The Latest Front in States' Culture Wars](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct10_0/1?sid=4EI1wv09Z) <http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct10_0/1?sid=4EI1wv09Z>

Debates over LGBT rights have helped define differences between red and blue states. **Plus:** [States' War on Cities](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct10_0/1?sid=4EI1wv09Z)

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[When Government Oversteps the Advocacy Line](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct12_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z)

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A Seattle area transit agency got into trouble when it tried to gauge voter's attitudes.

[Panama Papers Unlikely to Lead to Reforms in Corporation-Friendly States](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct13_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z) [<http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct13_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z>](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct13_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z)

A recent document leak revealed that four states were targeted by a Panamanian law firm to hide assets.

[Window for Criminal Justice Reform Closing in Congress](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct14_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z) [<http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct14_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z>](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct14_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z)

It's one of the few issues with bipartisan support in Washington. But for several reasons, the chances for change this year are dwindling.

[Poll: Sheila Dixon Loses Lead in Baltimore Mayor's Race](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct15_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z) [<http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct15_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z>](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct15_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z)

The city's former mayor, who was forced to resign a few years ago, is no longer the frontrunner. **Plus:** [Sheila Dixon Seeks a Second Chance](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct16_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z) [<http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct16_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z>](http://marketing.erepublic.com/acton/ct/16245/s-085a-1604/Bct/q-0b40/l-sf-contact-0013:abb4/ct16_0/1?sid=4E11wv09Z)