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To: Haley, Nikki  
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Subject: State Legislative Race Predictions, a New Voter Registration Rule and Campaign Problems

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## THIS WEEK IN POLITICS

# **[State Legislative Race Predictions, a New Voter Registration Rule and Campaign Problems](#)**

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**By Alan Greenblatt**

### **In Legislatures, Tough to Turn Back the GOP Tide**

Republicans hold big majorities in state legislatures, and that's not likely to change this year. At least according to Shap Smith, who's not only the Democratic speaker of the Vermont House but a board member of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC), an organization whose mission is to elect more Democrats nationwide.

"I don't see any structural change right now that would allow us to take a bunch of houses back," said Smith. "I do think this [Republican] high-water mark is likely to last at least another cycle or two."

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Following the GOP's sweeping success in the 2014 elections, Republicans control 68 of the nation's 99 legislative chambers. They have supermajorities in a substantial number of them.

Democrats clearly want to win back several of the chambers lost in 2014, including the Maine Senate, the Minnesota House and the Washington Senate. One of their best opportunities may be in Nevada, where some Republicans concede that holding onto the two chambers could be a challenge in a presidential year. KEEP READING >>

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Most political polls are still conducted over the phone, but they're becoming more problematic and less accurate. That's why online polls have emerged.

### [Why Iowa Democrats Struggled to Count Caucus Votes](#)

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Once again, the Iowa caucuses were marred by reporting problems, but unlike four years ago, the Democrats were the party struggling.

### [Black Lives Matter Activist Enters Baltimore Mayor's Race](#)

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DeRay Mckesson joins a crowded field at the last minute, but there's no doubt he's a serious contender to replace the outgoing mayor.